



Organization: Muonde Trust

Location: Zvishavane, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe

Solution: Climate livelihood resilience through rainwater harvesting and women empowerment in Zimbabwe

Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months)



Water harvesting training workshop in community in Mazviha, Zimbabwe @Muonde Trust

With only 67% of rural households in Zimbabwe having access to safe water sources ([Government of Zimbabwe, 2021](#)), rainwater harvesting is essential for securing water for agriculture, domestic use and livestock. Muonde Trust is driving locally led solutions to address rainfall variability in the Indigenous Vangowa community in Mazviha. Founded by local farmers, the initiative is refining traditional water harvesting techniques and strengthening agroecological practices to enhance resource management. The initiative is expanding through a peer-to-peer community mobilization approach, strengthening local governance and creating shared spaces for managing restored catchments. Beyond improving water access, this initiative provides a range of benefits, including sustainable resource management, enhanced agricultural productivity and improved health and economic outcomes for the community.



Key achievements

- Trained five lead farmers in water harvesting and dry stone walling, who trained ten more farmers, expanding skills and supporting forestry regeneration
- Trained 80 farmers (63% women) in water harvesting techniques, improving women participation, knowledge and interest in climate resilience agriculture
- Enhanced collaboration with government and local stakeholders, engaging with ministries, rural councils and community-led environmental and savings groups
- Increased participation of women and youth across all activities, with women making up 54% of those in water harvesting and 37% in dry stone walling—traditionally male-dominated work—while youth actively participate through sports, arts and community initiatives





Adaptation benefits

- Rebuilds landscape resilience to withstand droughts and other climate impacts
- Reduces flood risks by conserving soil and water and preserving natural resources



Innovation

- Refines and disseminates water harvesting techniques through a peer-to-peer community mobilization approach, leveraging Indigenous knowledge and community strengths.



Social impact

- Strengthens livelihoods, food sovereignty, income and dignity at the individual household level
- Rebuilds community integrity and resilience, enabling the capacity to withstand droughts and other impacts



Replication potential

- Scaling up catchment restoration by engaging more farmers to restore catchment management across larger land blocks
- Expanding peer-to-peer community mobilization to implement soil and water management practices, fostering self-sufficiency and reducing dependence on remittances and food aid



Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$125,000 (initial grant)

