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**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WORLD VISION'S ENSURE
PROGRAMME IN PROMOTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF
WARD 19 IN BUHERA DISTRICT FROM 2013-2016**

By

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my innermost Vincent Usavi who has been there for me and has supported me financially and emotionally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly I would want to thank God Almighty for He has taken me this far. Also I would want to extend my gratitude to my parents for their emotional, moral and financial support. I would want to thank my supervisor Professor Mapuva for his patience and commitment to see me through. A great big thank you to Bindura University of Science Education for the good road they have lead me and also for equipping me with knowledge and skills to articulate my education. A special mention to Vincent Usavi who always took an extra mile to ensure that I succeed. I dedicate my success to you, may you live long to witness my success.

ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the effectiveness of World Vision's ENSURE programme on rural development. A case in point was of ward 19 in Buhera district. It also sought to investigate whether the preferred and adopted strategies were effective in combating food insecurity and vulnerability to hunger among the beneficiaries. The target population included programme beneficiaries from the three randomly selected villages in ward 19 namely (Mukorera, Chakanaka and Tarwira), representatives from World Vision, Ward councillor as well as a representative from the Ministry of Women's Affairs. A descriptive case study design which is a non-experimental research approach was used in this study. Data collection was mainly through semi-structured questionnaire complimented by interviews to beneficiaries and officials. Stratified random sampling was used on the three selected villages from which randomly selected beneficiaries participated. Findings of the study revealed that the ENSURE programme activities have an impact on both job creation and income generation. The study revealed that the NGOs involved in rural community projects should keep on training the beneficiaries, exposing the participants to improved technologies in agriculture to ensure mass production which will increase their income. Results indicated a positive relationship between ENSURE programme activities and the selected facets of rural development with 75% of the beneficiaries indicating to have attested to having confidence in the established projects. Cronbach's Alpha indicated a strong correlation (0.777) between ENSURE programme and food security. Conclusions drawn indicated that inconsistent participation by some group members limited the success of community projects. Based on the conclusions drawn, the study recommends that NGOs involved in rural development projects to promote technologies that enhance income generation and projects sustainability. The study also recommends that rural communities based producers should be allowed access to adequate markets for their products to ensure sustainability of such strategies.

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ACRONYMS

BVIP	Blair Ventilated Improved Pit latrines
DA	District Administrator
ENSURE	Enhancing Nutrition Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been involved in development projects. World Vision Zimbabwe is one such NGO which is playing a predominantly developmental role in Buhera District. The organisation is contributing to the development of both economic and social conditions of Buhera District in particular and also in the country at large. World Vision's Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) is a five year programme which was designed to improve the nutrition of women of reproductive age and children under the age of five, increase and improving agricultural production, marketing and increase communities' resilience and response to disasters and shocks. In this chapter there will be an assessment on the impact of this ENSURE programme to rural development in Buhera. De Haas (2005) observes that development generally means the improvement of people's lifestyles through improved education, incomes, skills development and employment.

1.2 Background

In the past decade from 2006 to 2016, Zimbabwe's domestic food supply has failed to meet the requirement of the country's citizens (Moyo, 2012). Zimbabwe's economy is mainly agro-based with more than 75% of the population relying on agriculture for a living (World Food Programme, 2012). However, in the past decade the agricultural sector has suffered from technological backwardness, droughts, lack of funding among other things which has seen a decline in agricultural production. Consequently about 1.6 million people (out of a total population of 13 million people (ZIMSTATS, 2013) require food-aid in Zimbabwe (FAO, 2015). Predictions are that food security may continue to deteriorate, coping strategies will be eroded and livelihoods threatened thereby exacerbating the population's vulnerability to the scourge of hunger.

The objectives of most rural development programmes are to improve income-generating capacity and reduce poverty in the focus communities. The primary and defining distinctiveness of this programmes are for that reason promoting dynamic activities, although programme often include investments in non-productive activities that provide necessary infrastructure for economic activity and provision of services (Chazovachii and Mutami, 2013). Rural development programme need to be sufficiently flexible to

ensure that funds can be allocated to sectors with the potential to spur economic growth and raise the incomes of poor and vulnerable households.

Food insecurity is the greatest problem in managing disasters and it requires proper intervention strategies which will help in building resilience to other incidents of shocks so as to save lives (Winser et al, 2004). NGO has initiated rural development programmes and projects as a strategy of solving the challenge of food insecurity on which is not a new phenomena and particular to Buhera District or World Vision only. Projects like Community gardens establishments and food security enhancement strategies were initiated in many rural Districts in Zimbabwe such as Mberengwa and Mutoko. Vulnerable people of the targeted rural communities derived income and support to engage on the initiated projects from NGOs (Chazovachii and Mutami, 2013). Activities like all year-round production of crops, intensiveness of the activity, monitoring and evaluation by extension workers, field days in all seasons were conducted to enhance the effectiveness of the projects.

In several of the studies in Sub-Saharan Africa, conclusions drawn indicate that the impact of NGOs has been negligible in most rural communities. Several factors came out as hindrances to the poverty reduction campaign and reasons for continued increase in poverty levels (Chazovachii and Mutami, 2013; Mulenga, 2002). Problems often highlighted include but are not limited to low levels of education (Zambia), large family households, high levels of unemployment and insufficient support given to the beneficiaries by the NGOs. In the context of Zimbabwe, common challenges persisted on beneficiaries due to their seclusion from credit facilities, lack of irrigation equipment, unstable power relations among leaders and with some projects being associated with the weak in society.

The USAID funded Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) programme, being implemented by World Vision Zimbabwe in Buhera District was launched in 2013 in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces (World Vision, 2014). The main focus of the programme is on improving nutrition, agriculture, enhancing resilience, advocating for gender equality and restoring environmental integrity. The programme involves the training and coaching of hundreds of communities to increase their absorptive and adaptive capacities in the face of natural and other disasters that cause setbacks in a community's food security.

ENSURE programme helps communities to practically improve their resilience capacity through a food for assets component that assists communities in constructing dams, irrigation schemes, wells and nutrition gardens. By the end of the programme in 2018, more than 7,000 beneficiaries and their immediate families are envisaged to make significant improvements in their household resilience to food insecurity and poor nutrition (World Vision, 2013). Asset management committees are also formed to train communities to manage their public assets and foster sustainability of the developmental gains of the ENSURE programme. By undertaking this study, the researcher seeks to explore the effectiveness of the ENSURE programme in rural development with focus being on ward 19 of Buhera District.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Several NGOs have initiated rural development projects in Rural communities in a bid to enhance food security and improve livelihoods. However, development efforts that are done in rural areas have mostly not changed the living standards of the people there (Madi, 2007; Nyathi, 2012). The Enhancing Nutrition Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) programme is one such programme initiated by World Vision whose effectiveness on improving livelihoods through enhancing food security and improving nutrition is yet to be examined. This study intends to assess the effectiveness of the ENSURE programme in promoting rural development of ward 19 in Buhera District, Zimbabwe. Literature gaps still exists to critically examine the degree to which the NGO initiated projects have improved rural livelihoods.

1.4 Aim

The aim of the research is to assess the effectiveness of the World Vision initiated ENSURE programme in promoting rural development in ward 19, Buhera District.

1.5 Objectives

- To explore ENSURE programme strategies in ward 19 of Buhera District.
- To assess people's access to livelihood assets through ENSURE Programme.
- To examine the effectiveness of the programme in reducing vulnerability in ward 19 of Buhera.

1.6 Research questions

- What are the ENSURE programme strategies initiated in ward 19 of Buhera District?

- Do people have full access to livelihood assets availed through the ENSURE programme activities?
- How effective has been the programme in reducing vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity in Ward 19 of Buhera District?

1.7 The significance of the study

The importance of the current study stems from the fact that if the effectiveness of NGO initiated projects in rural communities are illuminated, solutions to challenges that are encountered will be proffered. Although this study is not envisaged to generate new theories, findings from this report will add significantly to the locally available literature on NGO initiatives towards rural development. When the findings are published in local research journal, the contents of the report will become freely available to the academia especially researcher. BUSE would benefit from the recommendations and findings from this study in establishing proactive measures that seek to enhance sustainability of the rural development strategies employed by NGO in curbing food insecurity in rural communities. As a learning hub, the research findings will provide scope for further studies on the nexus between NGO activities and rural development in Zimbabwe.

The communities in which the study is conducted will benefit from the recommendations of the study that are built on the challenges encountered to avoid recurrence of such challenges. The project beneficiaries will also be able to work on areas that need serious and immediate attention. The study will provide feedback regarding the significance, application and effectiveness of NGO initiated strategies towards rural development. The study also contributes to the existing body of knowledge regarding the nexus between vulnerability to food insecurity and the NGO initiated coping and adaptation strategies. Moreover, it will provide constructive feedback about the efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes by NGOs that are employed in rural communities such as Buhera District. For those who are interested in making further studies on the related issue, findings from this study may be used as an indication.

1.8 Definition of key terms

Rural Development

Rural development is a term covering the economic betterment, education upgrading and industrial modernization of the rural population (Servaes, 1999). Others also see it as the improvement in the real incomes and the provision of basic social facilities such as

health, potable water, electricity, housing, and job opportunities for the rural dwellers (Ferraro, 1996).

Food security

According to World Bank (2002) food security define as people's access to sufficient food for an active healthy life. In practical terms this encompasses the physiological needs of people and other basic necessities especially health care, education and others as well. Food insecurity changes over time due to people's livelihood strategies and assets to which they have access to and their vulnerability.

Vulnerability

World Bank (2002) defines vulnerability as the inability to withstand the effects of harsh environment. It also refers to factors that put people's livelihoods strategies, property and other assets at risk by identifiable and discrete in both nature and society.

ENSURE Programme

Enhancing Nutrition Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) is a five year programme which was launched in 2013. The five-year ENSURE programme is designed to improve the nutrition of women of reproductive age and children under the age of five, increase and improve agricultural production and marketing, and increase communities' resilience and response to disasters and shocks. Over 215,000 vulnerable Zimbabweans will be positively impacted by 2018.

Resilience

The capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. Determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organising itself to increase this capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures

1.9 Organisation of the study

Chapter one covers a number of issues and how they are going to be executed during the study. This is followed by chapter two which focuses on literature review thus what other researchers found and documented about the similar issues. Chapter three discusses the methodology, which incorporates the research design, data collection, delimitations and the data analysis techniques adopted for the study. The findings and analysis of research

data are presented in Chapter four. The fifth chapter contains the conclusion and recommendations where the findings are summarized and conclusions drawn. References and appendices then form the last part of the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This part of the research presents a review of scholarly work that has been done in the global, regional and local context regarding the role and impact of NGOs in rural development through various intervention strategies. This chapter explores the findings from similar and related researches that look at the reasons for the success and failure of NGO initiated rural development programme. The chapter also examines the harmful impact of the practice. The report will also explore details of various programmes in rural areas and developing nations and their success or failure rate as well as challenges faced both in establishment and implementation of such programmes.

2.2 Contextualizing Poverty: A General Perspective

Poverty is a state of human suffering which results from the inability of a person or a group to meet needs that other people in a society have come to take for granted (Moyo, 2012). On the other hand, Ahmed (2009) sees poverty as an interlocking and multi-dimensional phenomenon caused by lack of multiple resources such as employment, food, assets (housing, land) basic infrastructure, healthcare and literacy. The researcher perceives poverty as the lack of basic needs necessary for survival such as food, shelter and clothing. Consistent with national trends, the communal areas are characterised by marked differentiation in living standards and poverty both within different communal areas and between communal areas across different regions of the country (AL-Amin, 2008). Among a host of causes of poverty in communal areas, a prominent root is inadequate land (poor soils in low-rainfall areas) and shortage of livestock. A study by Moyo (2012) confirms those of others, that nearly 40% of communal farmers have no draught power at all or just have access to insufficient for a two-animal ploughing team.

The major factors that exacerbate poverty in rural areas include but are not limited to the overall shortage of productive farming land for the number of households dependent upon agriculture. According to Moyo (2011) this is made worse for low-income households by disproportionate access to the land that is available for both cultivation and for livestock. Another cause is the variability of rainfall which when compounded by inadequacy of inputs would culminate into significantly poor yields. The 2002 Commission of Inquiry into the Agricultural Industry showed that in relation to

land/farming population ratios, only 23% of the land in the communal areas could be considered in balance or under no pressure and 47% was defined variously as under great pressure under excessive pressure and under intolerable pressure (Moyo, 2011: 65). Another indication of the persistence of poverty across the communal lands comes from data on the distribution of drought relief support. For instance Moyo (2012) notes that in the better agro-ecological regions, around 12% of households failed to produce enough maize for their subsistence needs in good years, with the figure rising to almost half of households in the more widespread poorer regions.

The concept of poverty takes its origin in societal moral values, which can be seen as a vital part of opinionated viewpoint, itself that domain of philosophical thinking looking for a theory of social arrangement (Mudimu and Bernisten, 2011). Social ethics is also deeply rooted in the more global subject of moral philosophy. The roots of rural poverty are premised on the deficiency of productive assets which further constrain the raising of incomes of rural households in developing countries. What is nonetheless ambiguous are the forms of assets important for rural households in Africa. Classification of crucial rural assets is envisaged to enable policy makers to invest in the suitable assets and capabilities, and thus avoid targeting chattels that are ineffective in alleviating poverty.

Mariwo (2008: 61) argues that, in rural communities with excess labour supply, land is a major asset that determines household incomes. Thus, land ownership, as well as the quality of land owned is a chief source of disparity in rural communities of developing countries. The authors attribute the high rates of rural poverty in parts of east and southern Africa (including Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe) to skewed distribution and concentration of landholdings among the landowners (Kwaw, 2006).

Three forms of concentration of landholdings can be observed in African rural communities, with different connotation for rural income and poverty (Moyo, 2011). First, colonial expropriation of land ownership rights from native Africans led to a concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few commercial farmers, especially in southern Africa particularly Zimbabwe and South Africa. Second, recent trends toward commercial farming in Africa have resulted in farmers selling their land to rich commercial farmers, many of whom are absentee landlords (Kwaw, 2006). According to Moyo (2011) This has resulted in income insecurity amongst landless farmers, who now must depend on salaried work or non-farm sources of income. Third, population

explosion in African rural communities has resulted in the sub division of land into very small holdings, making it difficult for households to achieve scale economies. One of the consequences has been declining productivity, falling incomes and rising poverty.

2.3 Unpacking the Sustainable Livelihood Approach: Theoretical Framework

This research is motivated by the sustainable livelihoods approach to rural development as propounded by Chambers in the mid-1980s. The term sustainable livelihoods relate to a wide set of issues which encompass much of the broader debate about the relationship between poverty and environment (Scoones, 1998). According to Carney (1999) the sustainable livelihood approach has been used to find out what projects are implemented and initiated by NGOs in the rural areas, in this case, in Buhera District. Additionally the approach helps in understanding of how communities can improve their livelihoods through raising income and enhancing food security. Implementation of strategies within the ambit of sustainable livelihoods framework could be beneficial in alleviating poverty. Scoones (1998) stated that dependency syndrome; unsustainable projects can be mitigated if the government and NGOs can use the SLA, because they use available resources to alleviate poverty.

Carney (1999) denotes that SLA was developed to address the failure of previous approaches to community development. Its principles are holistic, people-centred and sustainable development working with people's strength and establishing macro-micro links. Central to this approach is treating communities (in this case rural dwellers) as subjects and objects of change and has much knowledge on their situation. Therefore those in need must participate when dealing with their situation because they understand it better. The approach has been used to identify the livelihoods that ENSURE programme beneficiaries in Ward 19, Buhera District use for them to earn a living. In addition this approach help people to realize and develop their coping strategies.

The SLA is being used as the framework for the study because it considers assets and activities that people depend on to produce a viable livelihood strategy for the family in rural areas (Chambers, 1983) (figure 2.1).

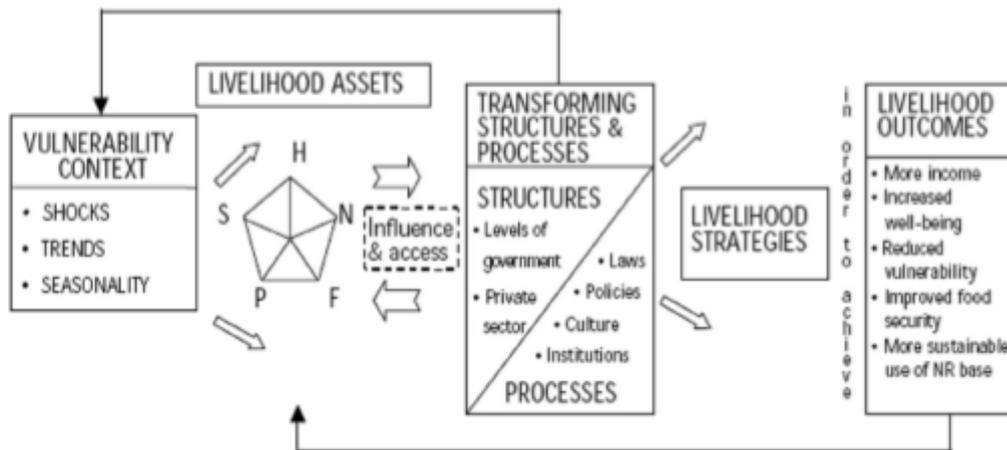


Figure 2.1: Sustainable Livelihoods Framework by Chambers (1989)

Key: H = human capital N = Natural capital F = Financial capital S = Social capital P = Physical capital

2.4 A Global Perspective of the involvement of NGOs in Promoting Rural Development

For rural communities, in Asian countries such as India and Malaysia same as in Africa, self-activities are synonymous with income-generating projects in that self-help is one of the methods used by women in providing income or food needed to sustain a basic individual and community life (Nyathi, 2007; Madi, 2007; Kgadima, 2009). They see income-generating projects as self-help because a group of people with common needs or problems such as unemployment come together and engage in activities that can contribute towards the improvement of their quality of life especially in countries like Bangladesh and Malaysia. Verhagen (in Mavalela, 1999:23) sees self-help as any voluntary action undertaken by an individual or group of people which aims at the satisfaction of individual or collective needs or aspirations. According to Chigudi (Mavalela, 1999:23) income generating projects are small initiatives, utilizing limited financial and technical resources.

Credit programmes for income generating projects that target women in Bangladesh and in India successfully shifted productive resources into poor women's hands and they in turn were demonstrating how women's enhanced incomes were applied to raise household nutrition levels and improve the health and education status of their children. The borrowers from these organisations were mostly elderly women (Kgadima, 2009).

According to Al-Amin (2008) rural dwellers practice non-agricultural activities such as dressmaking, weaving, embroidery, cigarette making and household accessories. A lot of women operate grocery shops or travelling from village to village selling clothes, mops and other items (Fakir, 2008). FARID et al (2009) denotes that women whom are regarded as poor will find work such as gathering firewood, molding bricks and rural industries. Furthermore women are also engaged in rice trading, studio business and fishing.

Rural development programmes that target the vulnerable in communities such as Nepal, India and Bangladesh usually uses the top-down approach from the regional or local authorities, regional development agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations, national government to communities (Tsheola, 2010). However, through research it has been established that indigenous initiatives for development can be brought about by indigenous initiatives. Rural development seeks to explore and find ways to improve living standards of women in rural areas in order to meet the standards of the areas (Carney, 1999).

Rural poverty and food insecurity is concentrated amongst natives, particularly women. Developmental projects are concentrated more on agriculture and during the offseason there is a subsequent shift to Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP). According to Francis (2000) rural economies especially those which depend on agriculture have been affected by the issues of globalization. This has led to the restructuring and the declining of agricultural sector, also the declining of the service sector and increased emphasis on technology.

At global perspectives there is also principles of community involvement which clearly stated that projects should not simply focus on people as objects of change but rather as subjects of development. This is because as objects of change the local people remains passive because they would only do what they were told to do on which they should initiate themselves for change (Oakley, 2001). Another important thing is that indigenous knowledge, equal rights and capacity of everyone who participates should be recognized without considering their social backgrounds. This will help the projects to explore and fully utilize local resources (Borda, 2007).

2.5 Roles of NGOs in Rural Development in Africa

The major poverty-alleviation programme in Africa is the social security system embedded in food supply, shelter and sanitation (Moyo, 2011). According to the report on the Social and Economic Impact of Africa's Social Security System, it successfully reduces poverty, regardless of which methodology is used to quantify the impact measures (Economic Policy Research Institute, 2004). For example, Community-based poverty alleviation programmes have been established by various government departments and civil society organizations in South Africa and Zimbabwe alike (Gathiram, 2005:123). However, the women are also victims of loan failures used by their husbands and groups created for the purposes of accessing the loan facilities (Busiinge, 2010). In many instances NGOs are used to recover the loans and this sometimes results in selling of property or any other valuable item of the family.

NGOs in the sense of non-profit, voluntary, state-independent groups functioning for the universal welfare are a relatively recent phenomenon in Sub-Saharan Africa (Gabella, 2009; Chitongo, 2013). At first, their impression did not fit well into the traditional societal structure which was dominated and marked by strong family and clan solidarity and dependencies in circumstances of great material scarcity which left no space for unselfish engagement (Mercer, 2002; Sedemann, 2011). The colonial state was neither supportive nor favourable to the emergence of independent organisations with a prospective to create social instability, and a class of well-situated, common welfare-minded citizens who typically are the basis for NGO development. However, the whole framework changed after many Sub-Saharan Africa states gained independence. Most Sub-Saharan Africa countries quickly became non-democratic and suppressed (the emergence of) non-state actors, not only in the economic realm, but, also in the civil realm. Nonetheless, there still occurred certain exceptions; particularly in the establishment of some branches of northern international charities.

The NGO sector is, however, generally characterised by limited political perspective, issues of power and control have been less prominent than attempting to address the symptoms of poverty. In part this mirrors a situation where social differentiation in most parts of Uganda is still considered embryonic. While areas of activity have tended to follow development fashion (with increased recent interest in environmental issues, for instance), they encompass a wide range of relief, welfare, rehabilitation and development work. NGOs have recently placed more emphasis on income-generating activities

(including credit), research (landlessness, AIDS, the financing of Primary Health Care), with women's activities now at attention (womens' groups, womens' legal education and networking).

NGOs have tended to move away from programme geared to the provision of inputs and increasingly to engage in programme stressing community participation and the training of change agents, as is the case with the Action Aid Mityana Programme. Although they have been active in a wide variety of domains, die efforts of NGOs have been most prominent in the two areas of health services delivery and disaster relief (Harvey 2005) .

2.6 Food Security in Rural Areas of Zimbabwe

The food security issue is highly controlled by the government of the vulnerable citizens yet the government may be faced with the challenge of resource inadequacy (Chitongo, 2013). Affected governments hence need to work in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or monitor their work in order to ensure that food security is restored (Chazovachii and Mutami, 2012). The organisations (NGOs) have a reputation for facilitating development in rural areas albeit sometimes leaving some programmes midway at the mercy of the intended beneficiaries. In developing countries, there is a general belief that the rural populations will benefit from NGO initiated projects if resources are channelled through projects (Bird et al., 2002).

One of the greatest challenges to aid agencies and governments in developing countries is food insecurity particularly in those areas which are agriculturally marginalized (Moyo, 2011). NGOs of various types and sizes emerging throughout Zimbabwe with a concern of food security now constitute a promising third sector. Over the last two decade the NGO movement has matured and gained momentum albeit with mixed support from government. NGOs have quickly moved to centre stage in food security circles.

According to Moyo (2011; 2012) agriculture is the dominant sector in Zimbabwe contributing 40% of exports, 50% of manufacturing and 70% of employment. This sector therefore carries a heavy burden for food security for the whole nation. The performance of the Zimbabwean economy is directly related to the performance of the agricultural sector.

However, most problems of social and economic development in Zimbabwe occur in the subsistence communal farming areas. These areas directly support the majority of the national population, yet they are characterized by low levels of agricultural productivity. According to Moyo (2012) agriculture's contribution to rural development is compromised by rainfall invariability and the unpredictable nature of climate. Chitongo (2013) agrees with Moyo (2011) that natural calamities such as the El Nino induced droughts affecting most of Southern Africa have led to low agricultural productivity thus increasing food insecurity in Zimbabwe. The eventual elimination of food insecurity is a crucial objective of rural development. Food insecurity remains a pervasive problem in agriculturally marginal areas of Zimbabwe (Chitongo, 2013). Levels of food insecurity continue to worsen for urban and rural people in Zimbabwe due to reduced availability of staple cereals and the ever rising cost of living which is further compounded by poor rainfall patterns.

According to Chitongo (2013) there has been an increase in the number of NGOs active in relief and development in several countries considered to be in crisis since the 1990s. The rise of NGOs on the international scene is an important phenomenon which has inferences for the development prospect for the poor marginalized rural households, for the future of these organisations themselves as well as for the wider political economy (Gabella, 2009).

Chitongo (2013) further posits that NGOs have been conceptualized as somewhat of a solution for rural household food insecurity problems, as well as rural development. Gabella also states that official agencies habitually perceive NGOs as a thrilling projectile which can be fired in any direction and nonetheless often without very much evidence, will still find its target. The success of NGOs in food security related programmes have been attributed to their ability to engage and enable programme recipients the chance to be fully involved in project implementation.

2.7 NGOs Promoting Rural Development in Buhera

While the idea and practice of community development by NGOs existed within the colonial period, voluntary bodies did not present themselves or their work in terms of development until much later when Zimbabwe was distinguished as being in crisis especially after the 1990 drought and when development was described as a universal goal (Mariwo, 2008). The post-independence Zimbabwe economy did at least sustain a

social infrastructure that, while not as good as to the conditions in the west nevertheless served a wide population including to a great extent, those in the rural areas. The impact of these interventions was reflected in the consequent dramatic changes in average life expectancy, infant and child mortality rates, improvements in nutritional status of the young through various intervention strategies (Busiinge, 2008).

Consequently, the role of NGOs in rural communities such as Buhera remained marginal as the state provided most of the social services mainly through the established local authorities. However, natural phenomenon such as climate change and global warming which prompted rainfall variability compromised the government's effective role in ensuring food security for the marginalized (Busiinge, 2008). To this effect NGOs came to the rescue with various adaptation strategies meant to enhance food security and self-sustenance of households in rural communities such as Buhera.

Efforts being put by NGOs in the development of rural Buhera cannot be overemphasized. Of particular note is the role that World Vision has been playing through programme like ENSURE which seeks to enhance food security and self-sustenance. There are 3 NGOs operating in the constituency which are, Swedish International Individual Relief (SOIR), World Vision and Youth Programme. World Vision is facilitating water and sanitation projects in wards 11 and 12 and also conducts ENSURE Programme in 8 wards of Buhera.

In this study will focus on ENSURE Programme, the ENSURE Food Security Programme is a World Vision-led, USAID-funded, five-year intervention designed to profoundly and sustainably impact 215,000 vulnerable and food-insecure Zimbabweans in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. The programme is a shared commitment by four partners and one service provider World Vision, CARE, SNV, SAFIRE and ICRISAT who work together to mainstream gender equity and natural resource management in the three key areas of maternal and child nutrition and health, agricultural production and marketing, and community resilience (World Vision, 2014).

ENSURE focuses primarily on empowering and capacitating poor, rural households to become more food secure by way of the following three strategic objectives which are to improve nutrition among women of reproductive age and children under the age of five, increasing household income via improved agricultural production and marketing and

increasing resilience to food insecurity of communities via improved disaster risk reduction and natural resource management (World Vision, 2014).

Time sharing is one of the behaviours being promoted by the ENSURE project under the Gender Division of Labour domain. Adult household members were encouraged to help women of reproductive age with fetching water during Social Analysis and Action, Male Advocates, Water Point Management Committee and Care Group Leaders trainings and it was observed during the supportive monitoring exercise for Care Groups after these trainings that roughly 70% of men are supporting their spouses in household chores such as fetching drinking water (World Vision Zimbabwe, 2014).

2.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the related literature pertaining to this current study, the theoretical model followed in this study as well as the empirical evidence that supports the review of literature. The theoretical model of Livelihood approach highlighted what determines coping and adaptive strategies as well as nature of such strategies. The following chapter describes how the research will be conducted.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology used to collect data for the research. It describes the research design, population, sample and sampling technique, instruments to be used, validity and reliability of the instruments. Data collection procedures and presentation and analytic techniques adopted for the study are also outlined. A summary will conclude the chapter three.

3.2 Description of the study area

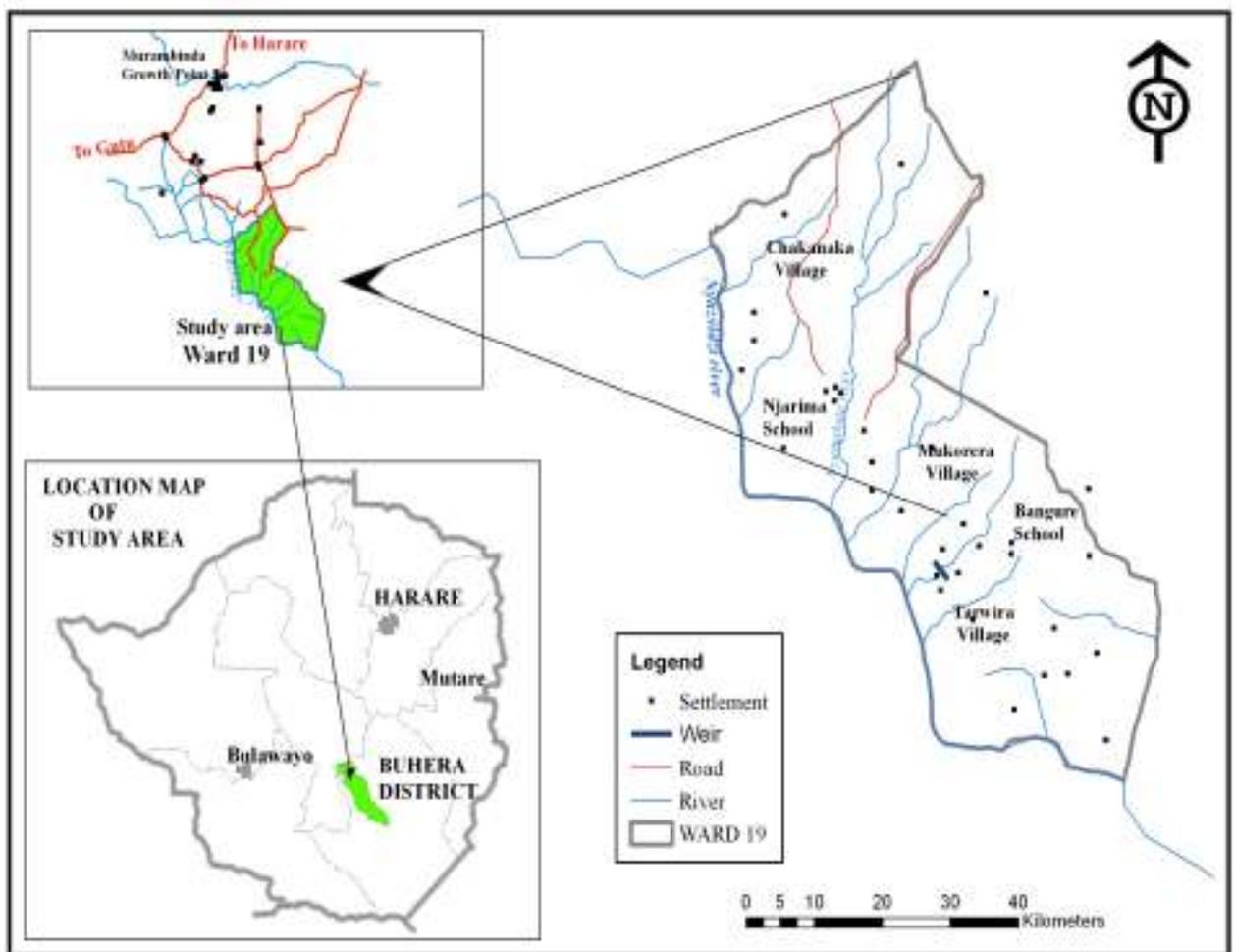


Figure 3.1: Map of the Study Area

Buhera District is found in the eastern part of Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe. The District covers an area of approximately 5364 km². The District comprises 33 administrative wards all run by the District Council. It cuts across agro-ecological regions three (32%), four (34%), five (34%). In summer its temperatures range from 30-40 degrees Celsius and in winter the temperature ranges from 6-25 degrees Celsius with

a mean temperature of 22 degrees Celsius. The annual rainfall ranges from 450mm to 800 mm. The GPS coordinates of Buhera District are 19° 19' 57.00"S, 31° 26' 6.00"E. The District sits at an altitude of 3,904 feet (1,190 m), above sea level (Mvumi, 2005). The soils are predominantly granite sands, dolerite red clays and reddish clay are found near Birchnough bridge area natural region five. Maize, sorghum, rapoko, groundnuts, sunflowers are the main crops grown in the District (Moyo 2012).

3.3 Research Design

The design adopted for this study was a descriptive case study approach. A qualitative methodological approach was used to gather relevant information on the effectiveness of ENSURE programme towards rural development. The approach was envisaged to provide in-depth data that describes existing phenomena in order to identify factors contributing to the success or failure of the rural development programmes in ward 19 in Buhera District. This design was used because it described opinions, attitudes, and behaviours that exist among the study participants. According to Bryman (2008), Qualitative research tends to be an involved and flexible paradigm, which generates answers to questions by examining social settings and the individuals living in these settings. It also enables the research to gather data from a variety of sources and to converge the data to illuminate the case while giving the research answers to how and why type questions, and takes into consideration how a phenomenon is influenced by the context within which it is situated (Cooper, 2006).

The design presents information on the effectiveness of the ENSURE programme in promoting rural development. The information was obtained from the four sub-groups in Ward 19 of Buhera District. The research also followed a stratified random sampling approach to select study participants which is whereby the population was divided into subgroups known as strata and a selection of these are randomly selected to be included in the study (Cooper, 2006). These sub-groups (strata) were determined by the randomly selected village. Each strata had its sample size which was determined by the number of elements in it.

3.4 Target population

Research population refers to the total set of the individuals that are chosen for the study (de Vos, 2005). The research population sets boundaries on the study units. For the purpose of this study, the target population comprised 442 households in the seven

villages found in Ward 19 of Buhera District. The other target groups consisted of key informants from World Vision, Ward Councillor, Village Health workers and Ministry of Women`s Affairs.

3.5 Sampling

3.5.1 Sample Size

A sample size is defined as a smaller (but hopefully representative) collection of units from a population used to determine truths about that population, (Kothari, 2004; Field, 2005). The study sample comprised three randomly selected villages (Tarwira, Mukorera and Chakanaka) from the seven villages in Ward 19. From the villages, a total of 37 households were randomly selected as a 20% representative of the stratum (Table 3.1). The sample size was obtained by calculating 20% of the population following a method by Saunders *et al.* (2006). According to Saunders *et al.* (2006) a 20% sampling frame is ideal for a population larger than 200. Representatives from World Vision, and Ministry of Women`s Affairs as well as the ward councilor constituted the key informants for the study who were purposively selected to participate in the study.

Table 3.1: Sample size determination

Village Name	Number of Households	Selected households
Tarwira	65	13
Chakanaka	58	12
Mukorera	62	12
Total	185	37

3.5.2 Sampling Technique

Kothari (2004) defines sampling techniques as techniques used in the selection of cases to be considered for the research and are divided into two classes namely probability and non-probability sampling. Saunders *et al.*, (2009) refers probability sampling as a sampling technique where the samples are gathered in a process that gives all individuals the chances of being selected. Random selection of the sample enables the researcher to generalize results from a sample to a larger population.

The researcher employed both judgmental sampling technique and stratified random sampling technique in choosing the participants in the study. According to Leedy (1997) judgmental sampling technique is a technique where participants who are viewed as the best source of information are chosen by the researcher. Stratified random sampling made data gathering faster as the researcher will be aware of what to include in the sample. A simple random sampling technique was used by the researcher to select respondents from the defined stratum. The use of simple random sampling implies that every member in the stratum have got an equal chance of being selected (Leedy, 1997).

In Stratified Random Sampling the population was divided strata (villages) namely, Tarwira, Chanaka and Mukorera from which study participants were randomly selected. The inclusion criteria to participate in the study was that, the participant had to be a representative of a household having benefited from the ENSURE programme.

Judgmental Sampling was a deliberate and explicit selection of respondents into the sample. The researcher identified and questioned informants because of interest in their individual positions, roles or background experience on the problem under study. Judgemental sampling limitations were overcome by ensuring that every key stakeholder was represented in the interviewing process. Purposive sampling technique was used on key informants since the participants were considered rich in relevant information needed for the study (Neville, 2005).

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The research instruments are tools used to gather data during a research process. These tools are questionnaires, interviews, observation and document analysis, (Dawson, 2009). The primary data was collected from the field using questionnaire and interviews and analytical observation. Consistency was the guiding principles so as to get results which connect, (Kothari, 2004). Interview guides were prepared as compliments to the questionnaires circulated. Secondary data has helped on the achievements, and contributions towards the rural development of Buhera.

3.6.1 Questionnaire Guide

According to Kothari, (2004) a questionnaire is an essential instrument in collecting data for this study. Questionnaires are a set of questions printed in a definite order on a set of forms, which the respondent are expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space provided (Kothari, 2004). The use of questionnaire is

quite popular whenever there are big enquiries being made. In this study, the researcher used both closed and unstructured open-ended questions because of the explorative nature of the study. This was to give enough room for respondents to open up on all issues, which would have been probed if it were under face-to-face interview.

The questionnaire was organised into four sections. The first section contained demographic questions which enabled the researcher to categorise independent variables such as gender, age, marital status, employment status. The simplicity of the question was intentionally made to motivate the respondents to cooperate as the questions were general.

The second section explains the activities that are being done by ENSURE in ward 19, Buhera. The third section was after how people get access to livelihood asset. The third section was probing on the outcomes of the ENSURE programme to the community with the last part allowing participants to make recommendations that are meant to fill gaps and shortcomings of the programme. The questionnaire guide was made to correspond to the research objectives of the study.

3.6.2 Interview Guide

The interview method of collecting data involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses, (Kothari, 2004). The interview method of data collection is a more flexible form than questionnaires and if intelligently used, can gather information of great depth and can be more sensitive to contextual variations in meaning..

Three interview sessions were conducted on representatives from key informants for the study which are World Vision, Ward councillor and a member from the Ministry of Women`s Affairs. Each interview session was envisaged to last between 10 and 15 minutes. The selection of respondents, opinion leaders was done via purposive sampling; a non-probability sampling technique. This is based on the assumption that these respondents possess information that is relevant to the study.

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion

Acknowledging that the approaches of interviews hinges upon the people who participates and willing to give accurate answers thus according to Breakwell (2005) this is because in some cases some respondents might be unable to give accurate answers (Rasli, 2005). To overcome these challenges, the researcher constructed a systematic series of questions which were envisaged provide evidence of consistency across responses. These questions were discussed by a group of people where all stakeholders were represented. Three focus group discussions were held with the representatives from World Vision, ENSURE programme beneficiaries, community leaders in Ward 19 of Buhera District.

Having a pattern of questions which allows for internal consistency checking will present the researcher with a way of assessing the validity of the data. Furthermore, strategies such as Triangulation of data collection methods will be applied to strengthen the “dependability” and “consistency” while ensuring validity of the results obtained.

3.7 Data Collection Procedures

Primary data was collected by the researcher over a period of a month from 08th August to 1st September 2016. The researcher used questionnaire and interview guides on beneficiaries of the ENSURE programme in the three villages under study in ward 19 of Buhera District. The interview questions were pre tested at World Vision on the District coordinator after which some modifications were made before the actual survey. Whilst questions have been designed in English they were asked in Shona which is the common language used in Buhera. In addition, an interview schedule for key informants was administered in English since they understand the language.

In this study selected sample, elements were approached physically by the researcher seeking their participation in survey. The interviews were conducted a week after the completion of the questionnaires and were meant to focus the researcher in pertinent discussions so that respondents did not go off topic.

Appointments were being made five days before the day of the interview to accommodate for cancellations and other unforeseeable eventualities and to instil confidence in the prospective interviewees.

3.8 Data Processing, Presentation and Analysis

Data analysis is an integral part of research. It involves reducing accumulated data to a manageable size and applying statistical techniques. In this study, data analysis was performed using the Microsoft Excel Package and the Statistical Package for Social Scientists, (version 20). The process began by coding responses. Data was captured from various questionnaires onto an excel spread sheet and the statistical package for social scientists. The Statistical Package for Social Scientists was used to present demographic and other simplified data captured from both open-ended and closed questions.

The analysis of data closely followed the research objectives, highlighting the type of structural damage suffered by different houses, the state of the entire building structure and the council's assessment position and reports concerning such houses. Descriptive statistics, (that is, frequencies and percentages) were used to analyse data, establishing the relationships between and among certain sets of data. The quantified data were described and presented in form of tables, pie charts, and bar graphs. Responses from interviews open-ended questions were summarised and were used to explain the responses in the closed ended questions or as justification for some questions or state of art at the ground. Cross tabulations of variables were done so as to establish the relationships between variables.

3.9 Validity and reliability

According to Punch, (2010), validity and reliability are called psychometric characteristics types of instruments. He went on to say that reliability is a central concept of measurement and basically means consistency. Kirk and Miller (1986) refer to reliability as an attempt to specify the extent to which a particular method can continuously lead to the same measurement or results. Punch (2010) defines validity as the extent to which an instrument measures what it is claimed to measure.

3.10 Ethical considerations

Firstly, the researcher seeks the consent and permission from the DA to undertake the research in Buhera District. Respondents were not forced to respond to the survey and individual's desire to participate was respected as they were given the room to step down if they do not want to avail of the opportunity to participate. She highlighted that the research is only for academic purposes only.

3.11 Chapter Summary

The chapter has given a description of how the study was conducted and procedures that were taken during the research are outlined. It explains about research design, research population, research sample, data collection techniques and plan for data presentation analysis. The following chapter which is chapter four presents and analyse the data collected.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter data findings are presented, analysed and interpreted as they relate to the theory that underlies the study. Data is analysed from the findings obtained through self-administered questionnaires. These findings will be linked to those of literature review and to the research objectives. For the analysis, tables, bar charts, pie charts and simple percentage will be used to present data. Furthermore, in order to reduce the bulkiness of data, the data presented and analysed are those that are considered relevant to the problems, objectives and the hypothesis of this research study. Analysis of data presented was made and responses from a selected sample are quantified as follows:

4.2 Sample Composition

Following a demographic assessment of the respondents, the majority of the sample population (54%) was male with the rest being female (46%) (Table 4.1a and b).

Table 4.1 Sample Composition

	Tarwira Village	Chakanaka Village	Mukorera Village	Total	Frequency
Male	6	8	6	20	54.1%
Female	6	4	7	17	45.9%
Total	12	12	13	37	100%

n = 37

Source: Research data

Research findings indicate that overly, the majority of participants (54%) who benefit from the ENSURE programme are male. Village 3 however have more female beneficiaries compared to their male counterparts. Male participation in the community projects was understandably big due to their increased and more pronounced engagement in these projects. The skew in gender are supported by Fibiya *et al.* (1991) who indicate that in Southwest Nigeria failure of men to pursue different interests would make them stay and undertake projects in communal areas. From the look of things the same applies in Buhera district.

Table 4:2 Questionnaire response rate

Village	Questionnaires administered	Questionnaires returned	Response rate (%)
Tarwira	13	13	100
Mukorera	12	12	100
Chakanaka	12	12	100
Total	37	37	100

Source: Research data

Table 4.2 indicates the response rate for the research instruments which were chosen for the study. Results indicate a 100% instrument response rate which gives positive results. The findings are supported by Kothari (2004) who attested that at least 76% response rate reflects a success of a research undertaken and a true representative of the study participants' views and opinions.

4.3 Presentation of findings

This section outlines the responses from the study participants

4.3.1 Strategies initiated by NGOs through the ENSURE programme in ward 19 of Buhera District

Various programmes have been put forward with varying objectives in a bid to initiate developmental changes within ward 19 of Buhera District (Table 4.3). The livelihood development strategies towards rural development of the NGOs focus on the provision of the basic resources for the poor to either engage in or expand their economic activities. These interventions include but are not limited to the ones outlined in this section (Table 4.3). Through these strategies, the NGOs facilitate increased production and expansion of income generating opportunities thereby enhancing food security and effectively combat vulnerability to the scourge of drought.

Table 4.3 ENSURE programme activities in Buhera District

ENSURE ACTIVITY	Tarwira	Mukorera	Chakanaka	Total	Percentage
Development in agriculture	6	7	8	21	16%
Micro-finance schemes	9	7	9	25	18%
Self-help groups	8	9	6	23	17%
Income generating schemes	5	8	5	18	13%
Financing of primary health care	4	2	2	8	6%
Women's empowerment activities	3	2	3	8	6%
Others	2	1	2	5	4%
Food security and resilience	10	9	8	27	20%

n= 37**Source: Research data**

The effectiveness of the NGOs' strategies are linked to their capacity to locate closer to the problem area, human development strategies, mobilization of essential human and financial resources and proper socialization and amalgamation within the project environment with its concomitant inadequacies. The research findings follows that the most dominant activities are the ones that deal with food security and resilience to disasters such as drought, rainfall invariability as well as water scarcity (20%) with women empowerment activities only constituting 6% of the programme undertaken which is not good. It clearly shows that the issue women empowerment is not important to them most probably because they are still in the patriatical society.

Financing of primary health care constitute (6%) of the activities which is a significant contribution to the welfare of the rural development strategies under study. These findings are consistent with findings by Adjei *et al.* (2012) who indicated in a similar study in Ghana that, regarding the provision of affordable health care for the poor, NGOs provide about 14 to 50 percent of both curative and preventive health and medical services in most developing countries, especially in Ghana and Kenya. In both the health and educational sectors, NGOs such as World Vision and Plan International continue to receive recognition through the application of complementary systems to sustain the efforts of the government in reaching the underserved in rural marginalized communities (Farrel and Hartwell, 2008).

From the study findings, indications are that a section of the ward under study (17%) formulated self-help groups that are directly funded under the ENSURE programme. These vary from market gardening. These findings agree with Moyo (2011) who indicates that self-help are an essential instrument to curb rural poverty.

Indications from the study follows that 19% of the beneficiaries of ENSURE programme had access to micro-finance schemes. These schemes enabled them to fund various projects they were undertaking to sustain their livelihoods. Zur (2012) concurs with these findings and attest that access to social capital allows rural women to secure resources and prospects in Bangladesh. Results on micro-finance projects also concurs with similar findings by Adjel et al., (2012) whose findings indicate that, the introduction of Village Loans and Savings Associations (VLSA) and the Savings and Loans Solutions (SALSO) by RAAP to train women to save and acquire credit when necessary, has made it possible for a significant number of rural women in the study villages to obtain funds. These funds enabled the beneficiaries to engage in shear butter extraction and sometimes purchase shear nuts and cereals during bumper harvest for storage to be sold later for higher earnings. NGOs livelihood strategies in the studied villages have made vulnerable women the principal beneficiaries in the rural areas under study and lifted them out of the trap of endemic poverty.

4.4 Financing of primary health care activities

To promote primary health care in the ward ENSURE sought to improve the community's access to clean and safe water and modern sanitation system for the villagers.

4.4.1 Initiatives to provide clean and safe water

ENSURE engaged the community through self-help projects and local development initiatives to sink protected wells and boreholes (Fig 4.2).

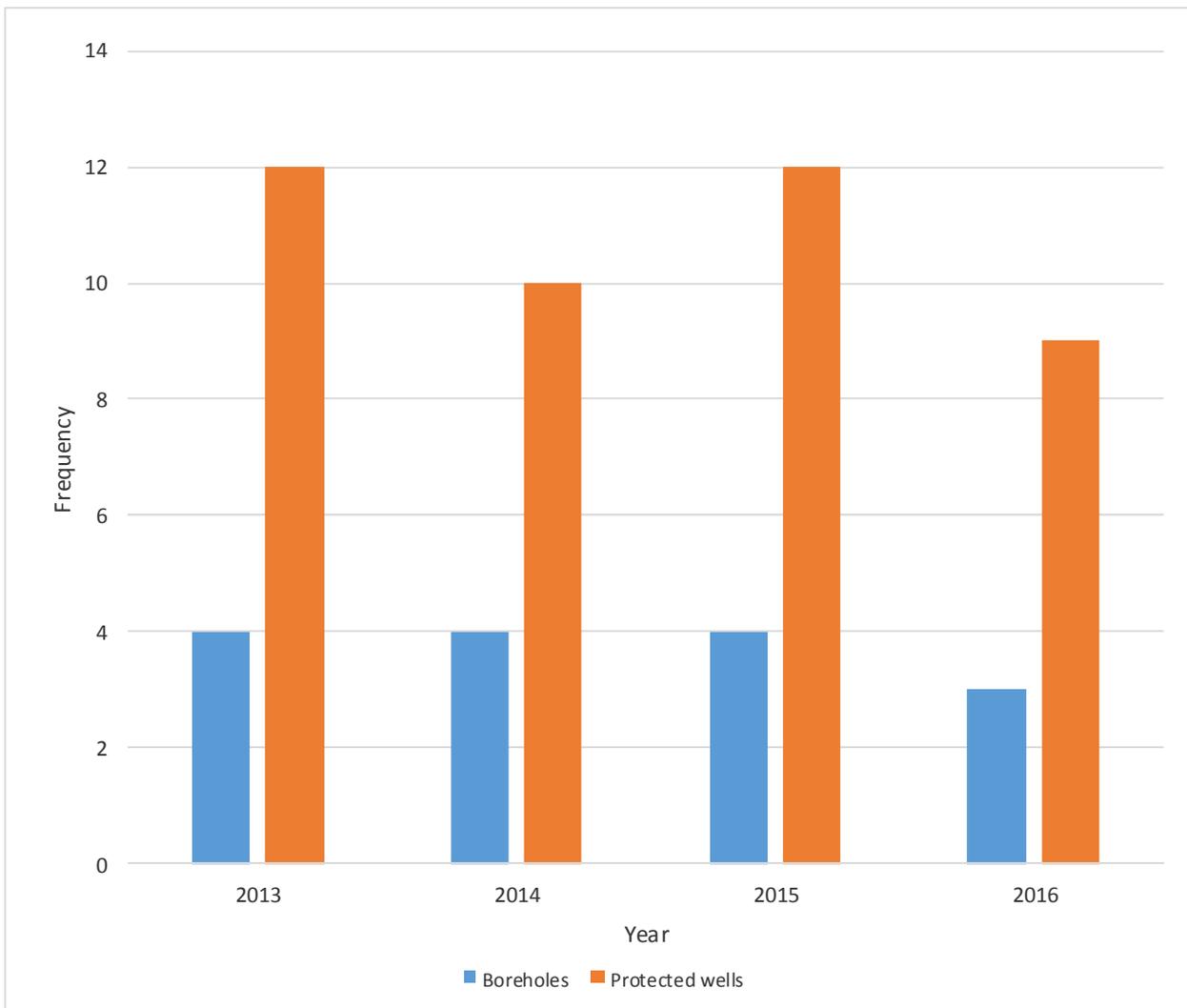


Fig 4.1 ENSURE programme initiatives to provide clean and safe water

Source: World Vision report (2016), Manicaland

The results obtained are consistent with similar findings by Okyere (2010) in Kenya, Adjei *et al.* (2012) in Ghana where, the Safe Water Network (SWN) and Water Health International (WHI), community based NGOs have, in conjunction with local authorities, provided safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to help reduce water scarcity among rural households. The findings also agree with Adjei *et al.* (2012) who observe that through the Smart Water for Green School Project, Green Cross International organisations, a number of basic schools in the Volta Region of Ghana were able to access improved water and sanitation facilities.

As a consequence of the move to sink boreholes and protected wells by the NGO, the community now accesses water from various sources as shown below.

4.4.2 Access to clean water

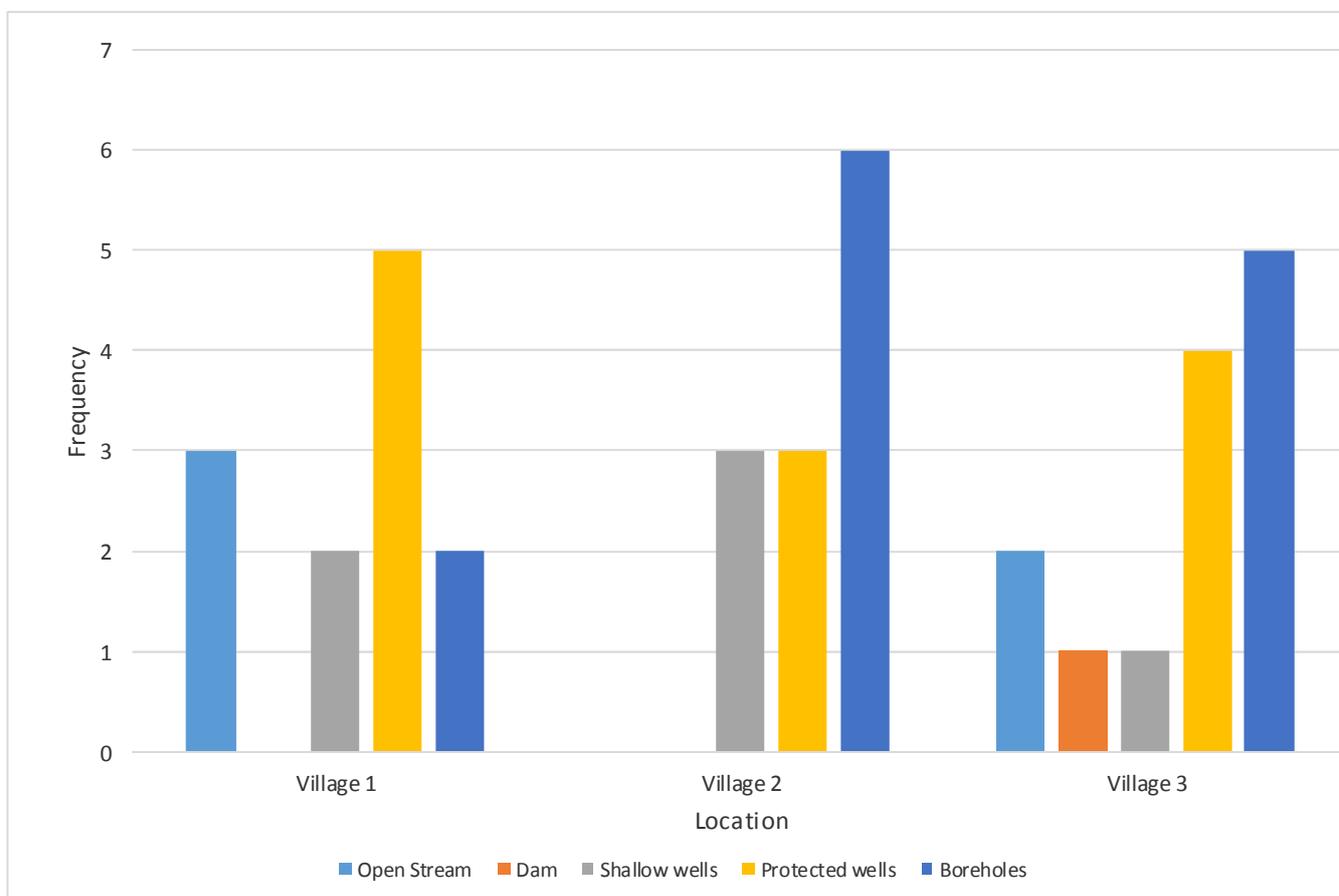


Fig 4.2 Project Beneficiaries access to clean water

N = 37

Source: Primary data

4.5 Initiatives to enhance the community's access to improved sanitation

Under ENSURE, World vision internal sources, to be more specific the WASH facilitator said, *'The NGO provides materials to the community to build modern Blair toilet system through self- help development initiatives'* (Table 4.4).

Plate 4.1 shows pit latrine built in Mukorera (Ward 19) Buhera



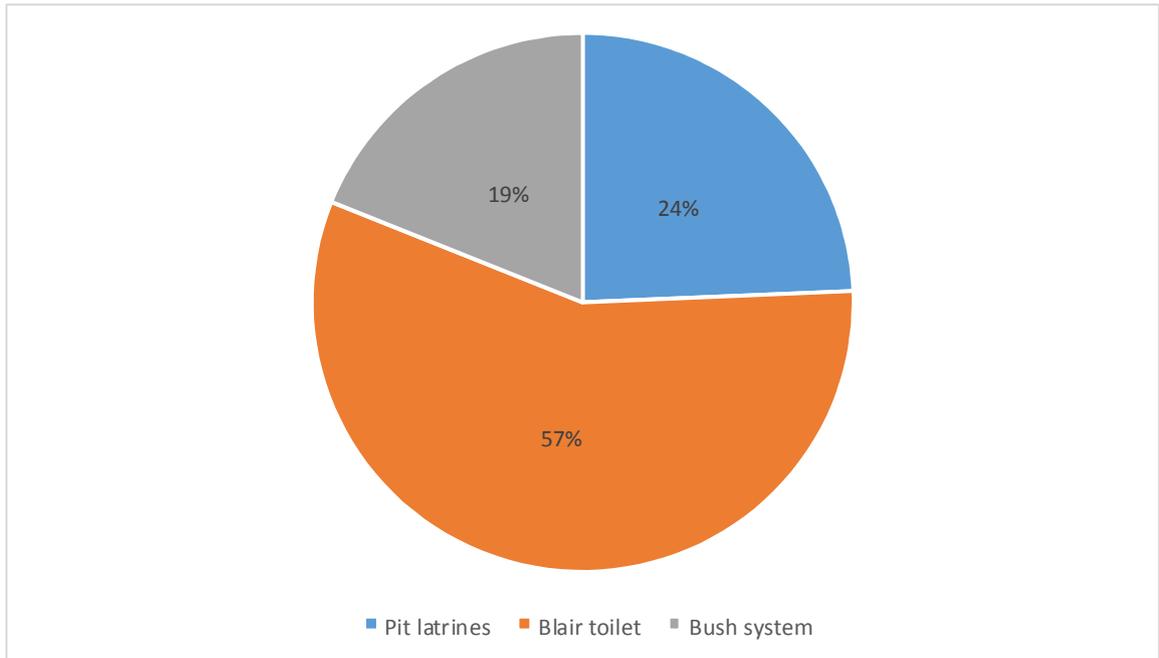
Source: Primary data (15/9/16)

Table 4.4 Initiatives to enhance access to improved sanitation

Year	2013	2104	2015	2016	Total
Frequency of Blair toilets	40	45	25	35	145

Source: World Vision report (2016), Manicaland

The trend implies that the NGO helped in the erection of at least 36 Blair toilets per year, which is a commendable initiation. The consequence of this initiation is shown in how the community uses different common sanitation system as shown below.



Source: Primary data

N=37

Fig 4.4 NGO's sanitation initiatives

The figure 4.4 shows that the direct implication of the NGO's sanitation initiatives is shown in the great increase in the use of Blair toilet systems and the least use of bush system (open defecation) as expressed by study participants. Findings from this current study agree with similar findings by Zimbizi (2001) who indicated that the state of dilapidation of toilet structures compelled some residents (mainly children and the elderly) (16%) to prefer the bush system.

4.6 Improving Household Incomes

To improve household incomes the ENSURE programme initiated Village Savings Schemes (VSCs) which were targeted at mobilizing human, financial and cultural resources as a direct means to ensure self-help projects. To complement the resources raised through VSCs the NGO created and fostered villagers' and self-help groups' access to and utilization of credit lines from selected micro-financing schemes.

One of the respondents who is a beneficiary of ENSURE Programme said, "*Chirongwa che ENSURE chirikubatsira zvikuru nekuti chakatidzidzisa zvemukando izvi zvinova zvakuuta kuti tiwanewo mari yekutangawo tumaprojects twedu uyewo hatichafi nenzara, muraramiro wedu wavavo nepundutso (Implications of such empowerment activities witnessed the growth of various income generating activities and has improved their living standards)*" (Respondent 5: 15/12/15).

Table 4.5 Income Generating Projects promoted in Ward 19

IGP Initiative	Chakanaka	Mukorera	Tarwira	Total	Frequency (%)
Market gardening	6	8	13	27	41
Poultry	6	4	4	14	22
Goat rearing	4	3	5	12	18
Piggery	2	1	2	5	8
Others	2	2	3	7	11

n = 37**Source World Vision Report (2016)****4.7 Agriculture initiatives**

The initiatives are meant to enhance nutrition and food security among the beneficiaries in the ward. ENSURE has introduced various farming techniques which were meant to increase output from the communal farming system adopted by villagers in Buhera District (table 4.5).

Table 4.6 Agricultural development initiatives

Measure	Chakanaka	Mukorera	Tarwira	Total	Frequency
Early maturity varieties	10	9	8	27	24%
Drought resistant crops	8	12	10	30	27%
Animal Husbandry	5	4	6	15	13%
Income Generating Projects	9	7	5	21	19%
Dry planting	4	5	4	13	12%
Irrigation schemes	2	1	3	6	5%

n = 37**Source: Research data**

The data shows that respondents participate in at least one of the measures put forward by the ENSURE programme. The initiatives range from seed varieties, farming methods to be adopted and other supplementary farming activities such as income generating projects.

“Tinopiwa mbeu dzakasiyana-siyana dzemhanho yepamusoro dzinozotipawo goho rakanaka. Mbeu zhinji dzakaita sana mapfunde, zviyo nekuti ndizvo zvinoenderana nekupisa kwekuno kuBuhera, asiwo takagadzirirwa madiridziro anotibatsirawo kurima muriwo nechimwe chibage chinoda mvura yakati wandei (we have been given early

maturity varieties and drought resistance crops so that we can have improved yields. The ENSURE Programme have also introduced irrigation schemes”, said another respondent from the agricultural sector (Respondent 14: 17/12/15).

Plate 4.2 shows Tarwira irrigation project



Source: primary data (15/9/16)

Early maturity varieties were introduced across all common crops in the ward, including maize seeds, rapoko, sorghum, millet, and cow peas with adoption frequency of 24%. World Vision avails seeds and fertilizers to villagers and participants acknowledged that World Vision also provides training workshops on how to engage in sustainable communal farming with a view to enhance productivity. Findings concurs with Turner (2014) who suggests that if properly done and managed well, communal and subsistence agriculture may lead to food self-sufficiency and thus improved livelihoods of the poor. The finding also showed that programme beneficiaries employed multi-strategies and do not rely one approach. This agrees with findings following a study by Hossain (2005) in Bangladesh who attests that other than agriculture, the rural poor are mostly employed in self-managed low paid but sustainable tasks such as income generating projects like vending and selling, and personal servicing.

These results are also consistent with findings by Miller (1986) who notes that participation in non-farm income generating activities has the potential to reduce poverty in most rural communities in Mozambique. This result has long been acknowledged by other studies on Mozambique (for example, Walker *et al.*, 2004; Benfica, 2006). The results also show that the poorest households are more likely to engage in the nonfarm employment sector (Miller, 1986). Following a similar study in the Kenyan rural

communities of Kitwe, findings indicated that Kitwe rural women engage in a wide range of other rural non-farming economic activities ranging from petty trade to casual employment and small-to-medium-sized businesses to sustain their livelihoods (Owuor, 2006).

4.8 Implications of nutrition and food security measures

Adopting ENSURE’s agricultural development initiatives has had an influence on the yields. This is shown by the yearly crop yields estimates compiled by World Vision from 2013 to 2016 reports.

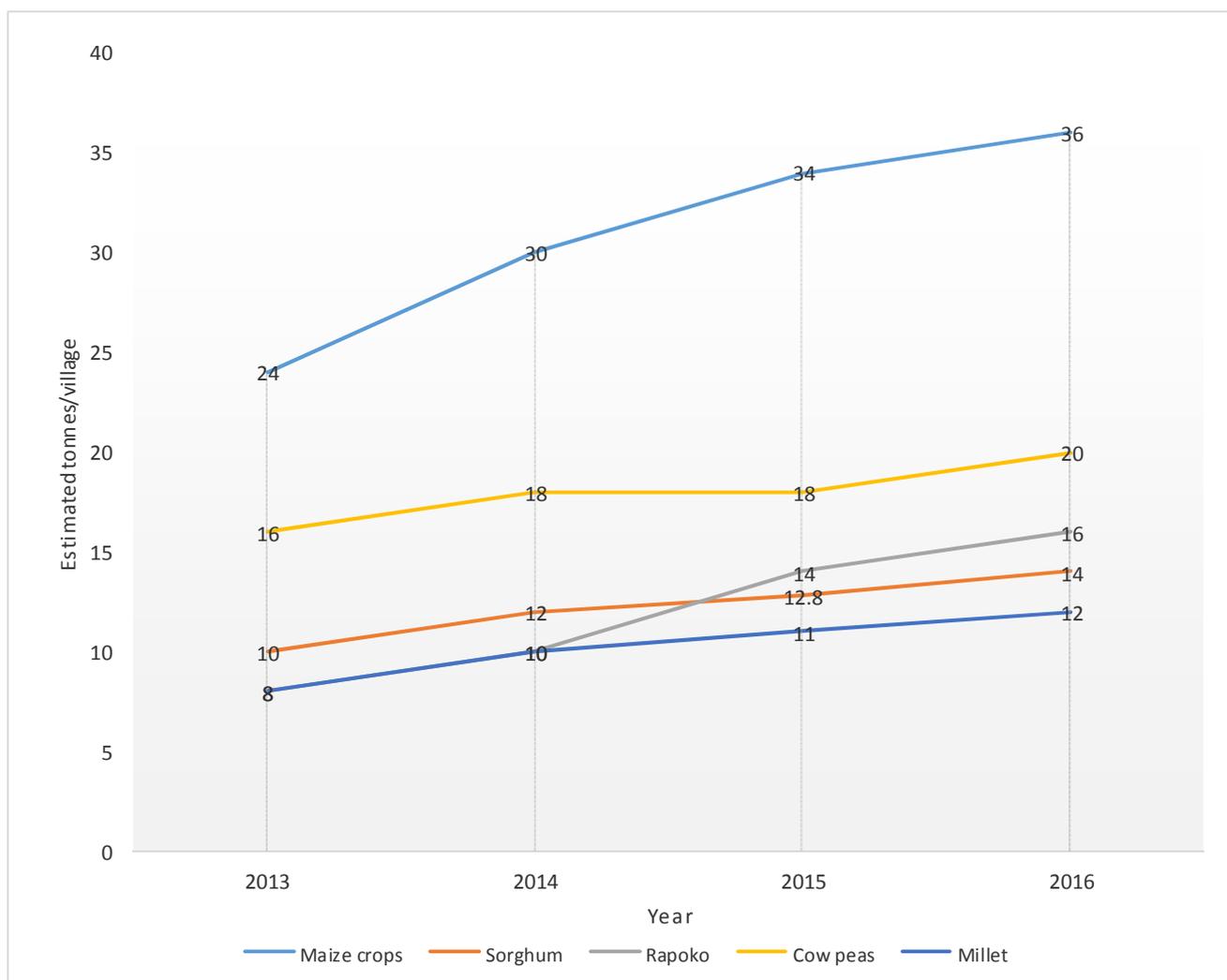


Figure 4.5 Food security measures implemented in Ward 19

Source: World Vision Reports (2016)

The results indicated in (Figure 4.5) show that considering the productivity levels of beneficiary villages in terms of agricultural output as of the time of this study when they

were benefitting from the interventions of the ENSURE programme, a significant number of the target group had experienced improvement in their agricultural yields especially in small grains like millet which rose from 24 tonnes in 2013 to 36 tonnes in 2016 cropping season comparing the situation before the interventions of the NGOs. There was noted increase albeit gradual, in the production of all common crops grown in Buhera as financed through the ENSURE programme. Maize yields also experienced significant increase from eight tonnes in 2013 to 12 tonnes in 2016. All other crops; sorghum, rapoko and cow peas encountered a yield growth of four tonnes from 2013 to 2016. The notable low tonnage in maize yields is attributed to erratic rainfall patterns experienced in Buhera which are compounded by the soil type that seldom supports a high maize production.

The findings concurs with (Mutati, 2002) who indicates that the capacity to increase productivity in the rural communities, where the majority of people engage in farming, has a direct effect on enhancing food security and combating absolute poverty. Rural households' capacity to boost their crop yield entails food security within that household and beyond. Adjel *et al.* (2012) further concurs that even when there is little or no surplus produce to offer for sale for additional income, the ability to augment household agricultural output holds hopes for reducing absolute poverty where the food and survival needs of people become the priority. The results also concur with studies of Muyatwa (2006) and Ansoglenang (2006) on the effects of NGOs on food security and income of rural residents in the northern regions of Ghana. Mutati, (2002) however, reported low yields experienced after NGO intervention in agricultural activities in Zambia.

4.9 Reliability of ENSURE programme activities on enhancing food security

Table 4.7 Link between ENSURE programme activities and food security

Variables	Cronbach's Alpha
ENSURE programme activities with food security	0.777

Source: Research data

Cronbach's Alpha being a reliability coefficient and indicates how positively items are correlated was used to determine the relationship between ENSURE programme activities and food security. A value close to one (1) indicates the strength of reliability

in this test. Cronbach`s alpha 0.777 indicates that there is higher internal consistency reliability of food security. This is supported by Casado Diaz *et al.*, (2014) who state that rural communities prefer NGOs that promote activities linked to reducing vulnerability to hunger. When rural communities perceive an Organisation as socially and economically responsible, they will be positively influenced to adopt their projects and programme.

4.10 Chapter Summary

The chapter presented results of various initiatives and strategies funded under the ENSURE programme in an attempt to curb vulnerability among rural dwellers. Results obtained indicate a positive relationship between the initiated projects and attainment of the intended objectives. The next chapter presents conclusion and recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness of poverty coping strategies in the area.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study aimed at accessing the impact of the ENSURE programme in promoting rural development on the livelihoods of the community of ward 19 in Buhera District. The objectives of the study was to identify and assess the effectiveness of the ENSURE programme strategies towards rural development. Major focus was however on food security, vulnerability, water and sanitation supply, incomes as well as living standards.

Based on the present study, conclusions can hence be drawn that the ENSURE programme activities initiated by World Vision on the rural communities of Buhera District should not be undermined. Where it is proven that such strategies steer rural development and are morally and economically sound, socially acceptable and sustainable, they should be buttressed by policy positions that support their existence. Moreover, the contributions made by rural development and livelihood strategies that are not agriculture based should be probed further as they too have a significant contribution to the livelihoods of proponents of such initiatives. For example access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities as well as the nutritional programme do significantly impact on the productivity of project beneficiaries. The results of the study revealed that at the time of the study the most common and preferred strategies among people ward 19 in Buhera District were food security and resilience projects (21%). This was closely followed by development in agriculture (13%) and Income generating schemes (11%). Other strategies like women empowerment schemes (6%) and Self-help groups benefited mostly women.

Although market gardening (41%) was cited as the most common and consistently adopted income generating project promoted through the ENSURE programme among participants, interviewed participants also spoke highly of strategies like poultry production and piggery as providing greater returns. Those also successful showed their achievements by having access to proper sanitation facilities such as Blair Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (BVIP).

5.2 Conclusions

It was indicated in the findings of study that diversification of income sources help households to solve the problem of income instability and thereby increases food security, reduces vulnerability especially the poor and the overwhelming experience of diversification as a strategy for the vulnerable members of the society. Sticking to the findings of this study, the contribution made by funding and strategies from the ENSURE programme activities were found significant and substantial in achieving food security and improving livelihoods. This shows that the efforts have to be made to improve income from cash crops production (market gardening) to ensure food security and meeting of other needs such as school fees and basics like clothing and sanitary.

The major weakness though lies in the incapability of the current status of projects that generates income which leads to the sustainable funding to cater for the unsustainable projects, some of the projects are about to collapse due to poor monitoring and coordination among beneficiaries. . There still exist gaps in terms of published research concerning NGO initiated rural community development projects and their impact participants in terms of income generating and creation of jobs. The available literature on the NGO initiated rural development approach to the income poverty alleviation, with the greatest deal of available literature being publications and project status reports from the NGOs themselves.

Therefore, little is known about the programme sustainability, project design, and their possible effects on the livelihoods of beneficiaries in the long run. The findings however revealed some degree of positivity these ENSURE programme strategies have made in terms of income generation, job creation and food security, even though the incomes received is still very low. From the study the researcher captured lack of participation by members in the rural development projects, limited access to markets as well as high costs of input supplies.

Many of the respondents have spent more than three years on the projects. Major cited motivation factors were involvement from project initiation stage and training by World Vision. The research also showed poor funding arrangements once project has started operating despite invariability of rainfall from the NGO involved. All projects assessed were funded by the World Vision organisation. The growth constraints found by the

researcher were: - lack of funds, high cost of input supplies and transport problems to markets. Other limitations seldom depict a major effect.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the literature and the current research findings, the following recommendations are made on rural development projects initiated through the ENSURE programme in Buhera District;

- ENSURE Programme activities should promote technologies not only focusing on increased production.
- It is recommended that rural communities based producers should be allowed access to lucrative and adequate markets for their products to ensure sustainability of such strategies. In the wake of economic downturn, agricultural input prices are beyond the reach for many hence there should be training on conservation agriculture to enhance soil nutrient retention.
- It is also recommended that women be trained and equipped with adequate information to successfully run the IGAs. This enables them to make more informed business decisions. The substantial effect of education on household livelihood strategy choice for each type of livelihood strategies have been long proven to contribute a significant role in the betterment of living conditions and operations of women involved in IGAs.
- The local government, together with the NGOs should provide more training on community mobilisation, participatory approach to rural society development, and project management.
- The Department of Agriculture Extension services should assist in the training of beneficiaries on the new technologies in agriculture, value adding, organic farming as well as intensive farming systems where beneficiaries can generate remarkable income from a small-sized area.

5.4 Future research gap

From the results of the study, the researcher considers it prudent to recommend the carrying out of further studies to determine the feasibility of recommendations such as physical structures and group based funding to establish their sustainability. The study has not covered stakeholders' such as local authority and their involvement in the rural

development strategies in the area which in itself is vital in ensuring the viability of most of the economically sound strategies. Researches can also be conducted to assess the sustainability of these projects once control and operations have been wholly handed over to the community by the NGO as initiators.

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APPENDIX 1

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

ENSURE PROGRAMME AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN WARD 19 OF BUHERA DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE.

In response to the many development challenges facing the District of Buhera, World Vision initiated the ENSURE programme. However, it is not clear what effect this programme has had on the livelihoods of beneficiaries and how sustainable they are. The aim of this study is to assess the effectiveness of the ENSURE programme towards development in the community of ward 19 in Buhera District.

You are hereby kindly requested to complete this questionnaire. Please take time to read through this questionnaire and respond to questions that are given. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to participate. You are also free to withdraw from the study at any point even if you agree to take part. Please NOTE that the purpose of this research is entirely academic and under no circumstances shall your responses be pointed to you. You are not supposed to write your name or any personal identification information on this questionnaire.

Project Name: _____

A. Demography

1. Sex

Male Female

2. Age (Years)

≤20 years 21 – 30 Years 31 – 40 Years 41 – 50 years

≥51 years

3. Marital Status

Single Married Widow Widower Divorced

4. What is the highest standard you have passed at school?

Never attended school Primary Secondary Degree

5. How long have you been involved in ENSURE programme?

1. < 2 years 2- 3 years 3- 4 years

B. Establishment of the project.

6. Was the whole community involved in the establishment of the project?

Yes No.

7. Why are you participating in the project?

Employment

Income

Poverty reduction

Food security

All of the above

8. Type of project activity

Poultry Production

Crop Production

Other

(Specify)

9. What is the current status of the project?

Active Not active

10. If not active, Why?

None

Members not participating inclusively

Financial challenges

Lack of equipment to operate

Other (specify) _____

C. Economic aspects

11. Do you benefit from the Project?

Yes No

12. If yes, how do you benefit?

Employment

Income

Poverty reduction

Food security

All of the above

13. What do you do with the income generated from the project?

Buy food for the family

Buy clothes for the family

Send children to school

Provide shelter for the family

All of the above

Other (specify) _____

14. Do you think the project has solved some of the problems in the community?

Yes No

15. If yes, in which way?

Employment

Income

Food security

Poverty reduced

All of the above

Other (specify) _____

D. Social aspects

Please put a tick \checkmark in the applicable box. Very poor (VP), Poor (P), Satisfactory (S)
Good (G) Excellent (E)

Question	Response				
	VP	P	S	G	E
16. What is your family members` attitude towards ENSURE programme in your area?					
17. What is the perception of the community towards the project?					

E. Status of development

Question	Response				
	VP	P	S	G	E
18. How do you rate the living standard since engagement in the ENSURE programme					
19. How do you rate the community development since introduction of ENSURE programme?					

20. What are the main challenges of the project?

Lack of participation by members

Theft

Limited Market access

Demand of equal share by lazy partners

High cost of input supplies

Other (Specify)

21. What suggestions would you make to improve matters for the project beneficiaries?

Increased access to markets

Training

Increased access to credit

Other (specify)

Thank you for your responses and participation

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. For how long has ENSURE Programme operating in ward 19 of Buhera District?
2. What are the activities which are initiated by ENSURE Programme?
3. Whom are the targets of ENSURE Programme in terms of the provision of development projects?
4. Do people have full access to livelihood assets availed through the ENSURE programme activities?
5. How does ENSURE contribute to preservation of environment so as to make it healthier?
6. At what stage do the beneficiaries being consulted in drawing projects?
7. What do you think in your opinion serves as the barrier to the sustainability of the Projects?
8. How effective has been the programme in reducing vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity in Ward 19 of Buhera district?

APENDIX 3

Focus Group Discussion Guide

Consent Process

Thank you for agreeing to participate. We are very interested to hear your valuable opinion on how the ENSURE programme activities initiated and supervised by the World Vision, Zimbabwe has helped in ensuring food security and promoting rural development in Ward 19, Buhera district.

- The purpose of this study is to assess how ENSURE programme beneficiaries view their benefits from the programme activities how satisfied you are with the conditions for accessing the resources availed to you. We hope to learn things that World Vision and the government can use to improve these and other future projects meant to enhance food security and reduce poverty in the area.
- The information you give us is completely confidential, and we will not associate your name with anything you say in the focus group.
- You may refuse to answer any question or withdraw from the study at anytime.
- We understand how important it is that this information is kept private and confidential. We will ask participants to respect each other's confidentiality.
- Please check the boxes on provided sheet and sign to show you agree to participate in this focus group.

Introduction:

1. Welcome

Self introduction by the researcher and the note taker, and send the Sign-In Sheet with a few quick demographic questions (age, gender, cadre, yrs at this facility) around to the group while you are introducing the focus group.

2. Explanation of the process

Ask the group if anyone has participated in a focus group before. Explain that focus groups are being used more and more often in health and human services research.

About focus groups

- We learn from you (positive and negative)
- Not trying to achieve consensus, we're gathering information
- No virtue in long lists: we're looking for priorities
- In this project, we are doing focus group discussions. The reason for using both of these tools is that we can get more in-depth information from a smaller group of people in focus groups. This allows us to understand the context behind the answers given in the written survey and helps us explore topics in more detail than we can do in a written survey.

Logistics

- Focus group will last about one hour
- Feel free to move around
- Where is the bathroom? Exit?
- Help yourself to refreshments

3. Ground Rules

- Everyone should participate.
- Information provided in the focus group must be kept confidential
- Stay with the group and please don't have side conversations
- Turn off cell phones if possible
- Have fun

Questions:

1. Let's start the discussion by the ENSURE programme strategies initiated in ward 19 of Buhera district that you can participate in.
2. What makes these activities acceptable in this area?
3. Do people have full access to livelihood assets availed through the ENSURE programme activities?
4. What are some of the positive aspects of working here at this facility?
5. How effective has been the programme in reducing vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity in Ward 19 of Buhera district?
6. What are some things that aren't so good about any particular project in your area?
7. Have you considered leaving your project for another project? If so, why? What factors contributed to your decision to want to leave and to your decision to stay?
8. What would keep this project sustainable? What suggestions do you have to improve the working environment here so that you would want to stay in your project area?

Probes for Discussion:

- Benefits
- Culture
 - Relationships
- Working conditions
 - Access to supplies, equipment, inputs
- Respect/recognition from World Vision, community leaders or others
- Opportunity, achievement, growth
 - Advancement, further training, responsibility
- Management and supervision
- Is there a sense of ownership of the outcomes here?
 - Work content, responsibility
- Standards of living
 - Housing
 - Sanitation
 - Water
 - Markets
- Education for children
- Work/home balance

That concludes our focus group. Thank you so much for coming and sharing your thoughts and opinions with us. We have a short evaluation form that we would like you to fill out if you time. If you have additional information that you did not get to say in the focus group, please feel free to write it on this evaluation form.

Materials and supplies for focus groups

- Sign-in sheet
- Consent forms (one copy for participants, one copy for the team)
- Evaluation sheets, one for each participant
- Name tents
- Pads & Pencils for each participant
- Focus Group Discussion Guide for Facilitator
- Notebook for note-taking
- Refreshments