

# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT



**Caritas**

**ZIMBABWE**

**BULAWAYO**

# HIGHLIGHTS

---

	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Seed Bank .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Innovative Approaches under Covid-19.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Building Flourishing Communities.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>The Ambassador Programme.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Care for Creation.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Food Distribution under the context of Covid-19.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Creation of Production Assets.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>E voucher food assistance .....</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>31</b>

## Foreword for year 2020

The year 2020 was characterised by an unforeseen pandemic of the COVID 19 across the globe. CARITAS Bulawayo played a pivotal frontline role in reaching out all those in need despite the health threats that could affect the front-line staff. Innovative ways in combating COVID -19 were championed through sanitization kiosks designs, printed banners, flyers and bulk messages in various languages to ensure that the message reaches a broader base. Through its commitment Caritas received a Matabeleland Provincial Environmental, Responsible Business and CSR Award for being the, "**Top COVID 19 Supporting Organisation.**"

The organization strengthened its Theory of change through the Pathway model guided by the Strategic plan 2020-2024. Community preparedness, Human Integral development and community voice were strengthened through implementation of both Emergency and livelihoods programmes.

The overall strategic goal under the pillar ONE Human Family Food for All was partially achieved through implementation of Lean Season, FFA and Cash transfer programmes in Matabeleland North and South. At total of 108000 people assisted were reached by in-kind food support under the context of COVID 19.

The support and guidance received from the Director Archbishop Alex Thomas, CARITAS Bulawayo Staff, Caritas National Office and Caritas Diocesan Board is indeed appreciated. The unwavering support from the stakeholders, community and the funding partners who contributed materially and in kind is ever appreciated in particular the CARITAS Internationalis Member organisations, Catholic Relief Services, Trocaire, Co-ordaid and the World Food Programme through CARITAS Zimbabwe National Office

**Welcome Sibanda – Development Co-ordinator - Year 2020**

“Appropriate weather patterns, correct seed variety and adequate agricultural inputs are all very essential in achieving food security.”

“The availability of quality seed is the foundation for food production and productivity and a precursor to crop and food diversification “



## ***ST Joseph's seed bank bears fruits***

Climate change is affecting agricultural productivity and food security in Matabeleland. Global warming resulting in increased temperatures, erratic rainfall, leading to severe droughts and floods pose a serious threat to food production. In response to the above calamities, Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo in 2019 launched a model project on foundation to seed sovereignty. Built on the foundation of the 5S model, the project has empowered the communities in seed production, seed multiplication, seed preservation and seed banking.

Community trainings that have been conducted in Caritas operational areas have strengthened the inner voice of seed as part of integral cultural value. St Joseph community in Matobo has championed the implementation of the model giving birth to community seed bank. Seed diversity has been enhanced and additional income generated by seeds exchanged and sold to neighbouring communities.



Seed packs preserved and sold in the seed bank

100 farmers from Umzingwane district have benefited from the seed bank. This came after it was noted that most farmers were still growing highbred seed that is not suitable for the climatic conditions of the district. Provision of seed varieties which are adaptive and resilient to the adverse climatic change has strengthened farmer's production levels. Farmers

“Seed is viewed by small scale farmer’s world over as the back bone of culture and life “

who received small grain seed will in future be the lead farmers on Agro ecology. Despite the continuous rains that resulted in water logging, some farmers who benefited seed from St Joseph seed bank will have a better harvest due to appropriate seed variety supplied to them.

Caritas Bulawayo through its ambassador program is promoting the use of local seed varieties as a way of improving access to seed by most small holder farmers in Matobo and Umzingwane Joseph seed bank has enhanced availability of appropriate seed varieties to farmers in Matobo and neighboring districts



Sorghum produced in Umzingwane

“Farmers in Umzingwane are expecting a bumper harvest from the seed exchanged by St Joseph seed bank.”



Pearl millet produced in Umzingwane

# Innovative approaches under COVID 19 in year 2020



Part of Caritas Team in year 2020

### LAUNCH OF SANITAZATION KIOSK

The sanitization kiosks were customized to provide hand washing facilities to four people per time of which pumping system is pedal driven. Official *Handover of the Sanitization Kiosk at Matobo RDC*



#### *Sanitisation Kiosk at Matobo RDC*

During the year 2020 Caritas Bulawayo partnered with Matobo RDC, Maphisa Hospital, St Joseph Clinic, Minda Primary and Secondary, Esigodini Hospital and Esigodini Mshleni Market Centre in the design and installation of **Water Sanitisation Kiosks** for handwashing purposes in the context of COVID 19.

at a given time. In order to ensure that safety and hygiene the kiosk uses foot power in order to produce water while washing hands which eliminates the touching of surfaces.



### *Sanitisation Kiosk in use*

The water kiosks were set up at Caritas Bulawayo Offices, Minda Mission, Maphisa Hospital, Rural District Council, St Joseph Hospital, Agro Ecological Learning Centre and Seed bank, Mahlasela Community Garden, Beula and Magdalena Garden.

## COVID 19 FLYERS AND BANNERS

### CAPACITATION

#### COVID AWARENESS

Covid 19 awareness was broadcasted through trainings, printed banners, flyers and bulk messages in various languages to ensure that the message reaches a broader base.

**“A safe environment is a productive work environment, practice safety by washing your hands and wearing your mask, it starts with you.”**

Communities were capacitated on the symptoms of Covid 19, how it is transmitted, and how they can minimize the transmission of Covid 19 transmission in their communities.



### AMBASSADORS COVID 19 PROTECTIVE MATERIAL



Caritas Ambassadors in Mangwe, Bulawayo, Matobo, Umzingwane, Nkayi and Bubi District received each, 1 (20 litre bucket), 2 (250g) bathing soap and 2 (1kg) laundry soap as part of health and hygiene under the context of COVID 19



## COVID 19 AWARD

Caritas, Bulawayo has over the year been an active partner in ensuring the safety of its employees and project participants in the COVID 19 context. Through its commitment Caritas received a Matabeleland Provincial Environmental, Responsible Business and CSR Award for being the, “**Top COVID 19 Supporting Organisation**”



## Staff capacity building under the context of COVID 19

During the year 2020 CARITAS Bulawayo Staff participated in a workshop on capacity strengthening on financial sustainability under the context of COVID 19



### 3

"Having access to clean water and appropriate ablution facilities was like a dream to us in Nkayi Mdlawuzweni village."

"We used to wake up very early in the morning to go fetch water,"

"I am proud of having a modern toilet, it has improved our health."



## BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A Dream of Safe Water supply and proper sanitation



The state of water and sanitation in Nkayi ward 19, Bubi ward 11 and 22 was dire. 875 households could walk two hours each day for water. The sanitation situation was just as bad. 95% of the household in Nkayi had no ablution facilities, while 42% in Bubi practiced open defaecation.

Through its WASH activities, Caritas managed to enhance access to safe and adequate water for 3750 individuals, particularly addressing the needs of women and girls who had to travel long distances previously to collect water for their household needs and their related protection concerns. It completed the rehabilitation of 10 boreholes, completed installation of 2 solar powered boreholes (one in each district) and protection of 9 open wells to curb unforeseen hazards in the four districts. Training of 15 WASH committees' members on community water management and 5 pump minders were also completed to support sustainable community managed water supply.

The completion of 400 Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP) household latrines also benefited 1200 individuals from vulnerable households.



**Blair ventilated improved pit (BVIP) in Nkayi**

The overall vision of Caritas is that of one human family with food for all. As the development arm of the Catholic church the organization is guided by Faith in Action, expression of faith and service of charity.

enabled us to safeguard Its modus operandi strives to eradicate all forms of poverty by promoting sustainable integral development at community level. In Nkayi and Bubi food security activities managed to reach 3027 vulnerable individuals through five cycles of in-kind food distribution.

“Food handling tips amplified by the programme has enabled us to safeguard entitlements we received from the programme.”



**Part of the PAs entitlement**

During the implementation of the emergencies programme, Caritas recognized that humanitarian action must consider the livelihoods of the affected population.

“ The emergency programme is not just about saving human lives but protecting and strengthening livelihoods.

The emergency programme is not just about saving human live but protecting and strengthening livelihoods.

Water troughs were established in the two districts to enhance access to clean water for livestock. Over 2000 livestock benefit from the water points established by the programme.



## CATTLE AT BUBI DISTRICT



**Take action! Be the ambassador of what you stand for.**

## INSIDE This REPORT

PG.2

The role of communities in championing community participation through the ambassador program.

PG.4

Ambassador program in action through the year 2020

PG.5-6

Preparedness for agriculture through the year 2020/2021



**Water troughs established in Bubi District**



“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”

### The role of communities in championing community participation through the ambassador program.

The core humanitarian **standard number 4** that of (**Promoting Inclusive participation**) is being amplified through the Ambassador Program. During the year 2020 a total of 2000 Ambassadors were reached in the following districts, Bulawayo metropolitan province, Matobo, Bubi, Nkayi, Mangwe and Umzingwane District through the following capacity building and participation in the following initiatives:

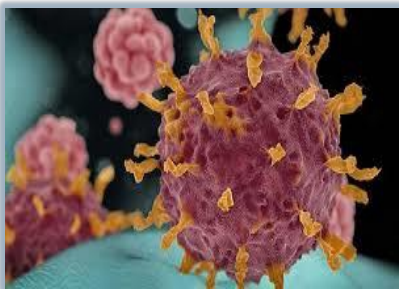
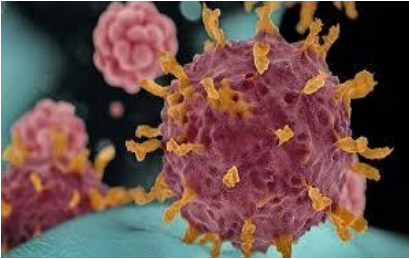
- Community Led Disaster Risk Management
  - Agro ecology
  - Small Grain and Fodder Production
  - Care for creation
- Savings and Internal lending Communities

Through these capacity building initiatives, the community ambassadors were able to generate their own contribution through a social fund concept that enables them to replicate the activities on their own through existing local capacity.

- Through agro ecology a total of 200 Ambassadors – with 100 of these ambassadors being from Umzingwane District - were able to receive small grain seed varieties through local seed generated at St Joseph’s seed bank in Matobo district.
- A total of 1700 ambassadors are actively participating in Community LED DRM with the capacity to participatory hazard mapping. Key to the achievements have been the construction of silt traps in St Joseph’s ahead of the rain season, establishment of dead level contours as part of water harvesting, dip tank repairs.
- Equally 500 ambassadors are actively participating in the care for creation program through the Go green campaign through which a total of 1000 fruit trees have been planted in Matobo. Gwanda, Umzingwane, Nkayi and Bubi districts under the Laudato Si on Care for creation (On Care for our Common Home) through his Holiness Pope Francis.

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

**Ambassador program in action during the year 2020 in pictures**



**COVID 19 action Ambassadors ready to fight COVID with all the hygiene materials.**



Preparedness for the agricultural season for year  
2020/2021



Small grain ambassadors from Umzingwane District receive packed local seed generated by Ambassadors in Matobo district.

Below; Locally packaged seed produced by St Joseph's ambassadors in year 2020.



**Community LED DRM ambassadors take an initiative of community works at a dip tank in Umzingwane District**



**Small grain ambassadors learn more on small grain varieties in Madabe area ward 3 Mangwe District**



Local generated seed by ambassadors in ward 3 Madabe Mangwe



## 5 “Care for creation is everyone’s responsibility”

As one enters Caritas Archdioceses of Bulawayo offices, he or she is greeted by a portrait inscribed with commitment to Laudato Si. Caritas commits to the Laudato Si on Care for our common home in partnership with the local communities, schools, parishes and all stakeholders in development fraternity. This is in response to Pope Francis call on everyone to be good stewards of creation. Pope Francis in his encyclical “Laudato Si” has called the whole world to take good care of creation. It is everyone’s duty to take good care of environment surrounding him or her.



Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo has adopted the Go green campaign to embrace Laudato Si on care for our common home in all its operational areas. Going green is a personal choice that is embraced by individuals to contribute towards the betterment of this planet and make the world a better place to live for the generations to come. Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo is using the Go green campaign to expose the environmental issues to people assisted and at the same time to inculcate the awareness of green behaviour on the environment. Go Green campaigns is becoming very important to keep our environment clean and healthy from any disease as well as free pollutions.

The Go green campaign was initiated by His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo on 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. The event marked the establishment of a

botanical garden at the Caritas Centre situated 90km from Bulawayo Halale village ward 17 Matobo.



His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo planting a Poma grenade tree at the Caritas Centre

*Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si has called on the world to take good care of creation. He calls the earth as "our common home." When God created the universe, everything was in order and found it "very good". Therefore, it is our duty to take good care of the earth and all that is in it like a responsible steward.*  
***His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.***

The 12 hectors Caritas centre boasts of a diverse natural resource ranging from indigenous trees, reptiles and a dam. His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas challenged Caritas staff to be innovative as they encounter with natural resources within the centre. *Matobo has beautiful natural resources which need to be protected before it faces extinction. We need to document every tree within our premises for the present and future generations to know their local / botanical names and uses.* ***His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.*** *"The ecological crisis shows the urgency of a solidarity which embraces time and space. A greater sense of intergenerational solidarity is urgently needed. Future generations cannot be saddled with the cost of our use of common environmental resources."* ***Pope Benedict XVI, World Peace Day Message 2010.*** As bearers of God's image, all people have the responsibility and privilege of caring for God's creation.

*As Caritas we ought to love and care for the Earth because it is God's very good creation, and because we must care for the most vulnerable people in communities we save. Due to our self-centeredness, we see effects like species extinction and climate change. Christian motivations to care for the natural world are clear and strong in Scripture.* ***His Grace Archbishop Alex Thomas of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.*** *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).* It is clear that we are only stewards or trustees of God's creation, we need not to abuse or neglect it. Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo family have managed to plant 49 citrus trees at the centre in their quest to promote food security and nutrition.



Caritas staff planting citrus trees at the centre

People assisted in all Caritas operational areas have also endorsed the Go Green campaign. A total of 1319 trees have been planted at community level in Matobo district. Rural populace has noted the benefits of the Go Green campaign. Mr Federation Ncube from ward 10 Matobo is one of Caritas Go Green campaign focal person who has amplified the planting of trees in and around ward 10. Mr Ncube has propagated diverse species of both indigenous and exotic fruit trees in his back-yard orchard. *“I have grown a variety of trees in my orchard. To date I have 35 guava trees, 43 pawpaw, 16 orange trees, 7 peaches, 27 lemon trees, 29 Umnyi, 6 natchie trees, 1 Apple tree and 15 snot apple trees.”* The go green campaign has created a livelihood for many households in all Caritas operational areas. *“Selling of trees has boosted my household income, I can afford to procure basics from local shops.”* ***Mr Federation Ncube***



Mr Federation Ncube's orchard

People assisted in Matobo district have adopted Agro ecology practices as part of care for creation. A total of 1500 households have adopted C shaped and Mandala gardens as a strategy of water conservation to enhance food production. Mandala gardens maximise land space through intercropping as part of food diversity at a household scale.

Reduce, recycle and reuse campaign was also mooted by Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo in its operational areas. Bottle irrigation is promoted in Matobo district as a solution to save water and human energy. People collect disused soft drinks and beer bottles from their surroundings and use it to irrigate their crops. The micro irrigation saves a lot of water and human energy.



Spiral garden at St Joseph's Agro ecology centre

1350 project participants have also constructed dead level contours in Mangwe each measuring 200m. This watershed management approach has improved water conservation infield enhancing crop production. The project aimed at addressing the food insecurity situation in the 3 wards of Mangwe as well as conserve the top soil and water in the fields. The region receives an average of less than 450mm of rainfall annually and thus a Dead Level Contour will harvest the water, spread it in the fields and water the crops. This will increase the yield and address the food insecurity situation in the wards.



Dead level contour measuring 200m in Mangwe

Communities planting trees in Matobo





“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

” My family never went without food during the 31 days of national lockdown thanks to Caritas.”



## “FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE CONTEXT OF COVID 19”

The Government statutory instrument 83 of 2020 Public health (COVID -19 prevention, containment and treatment) order gazetted on March 27 2020, declared COVID -19 crisis a national disaster. Lockdown measures were put in place to slow down the spread of COVID-19 nationwide. Populace were encouraged to stay indoors exercising preventative measures. These restrictive measures changed daily routines of most households who relied on formal and informal trading as source of income.

Rural populace who depended on remittances from local and beyond borders were also hard hit by closure of the country’s entry points and intercity travel bans. The situation was further worsened by unavailability of the budget set aside to cushion populace during the lockdown period. As a development arm of the Catholic Church demonstrating Faith in Action, Caritas Archdiocese of Bulawayo mobilized resources through its partners to provide food packs during the lockdown. 43808 people assisted were reached out in 15 wards of Matobo. Each participant received a monthly ration of 7,5kg cereal, 1.5kg pulses and 0, 75 litres oil.



## COVID -19 sensitive food distribution

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guidelines were used in all food distributions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to Caritas staff and project participants. COVID - 19 sensitization messages were shared with beneficiaries ahead of distributions, meetings, trainings, and resilience building activities in line with national guidelines. COVID-19 sensitization materials, including hand-washing posters printed in local languages and the COVID-19 helpline for the Matabeleland South province, were displayed at every activity site. Distributions were managed in tranches with beneficiaries coming to the FDP based on a pre- set and pre-communicated schedule to ensure a maximum of number of people (including beneficiaries and all officials gathered at the FDP). Hand washing and health screening area for assessment was administered by the Village Health Workers and EHTs.

“It is a kingly act to assist the fallen.”



Banner with COVID -19 message in Kalanga



Hand washing station

# 7



## Creation of productive assets transforms lives of communities in Matobo District

Food Assistance for Assets Programme has transformed the lives of the 900 people assisted in ward 5, 8 and 19 of Matobo District. Productive assets built in the operational wards have reduced the risk of disasters, strengthened livelihoods and community resilience through increased productivity and marketing strategies by smallholder farmers. Effective management of natural resources was enhanced through training in watershed management of the targeted communities.

“There was profound improvement in crop production evidenced by high quality products that enabled farmers to penetrate markets and increase household income. “



*Tomatoes produced at Midlo Community garden.*

Community gardens supported by Caritas have increased production levels attracting wider markets in Maphisa Growth Point and Kezi Business Center. Smallholder farmers at Midlo, Mahlasela and Beula community gardens were able to meet their daily needs for cash through direct sales of other fresh vegetables.

Crop production was enhanced through effective training of small holder farmers in Agro-Ecology and other Agronomic practices to maximize on production.

“Successful completion of Midlo Dip tank was really a “missing link” in animal health management over the years and the community was now functional. “



*Midlo Dip tank*

Livestock plays a significant role in the livelihoods of many people in rural areas. For many farmers in Matabeleland, livestock is a critical financial asset providing both food and income at household level. To strengthen livestock management at Midlo community, Caritas facilitated the construction of a dip tank in order to curb the spread the spread of tick-borne disease. Farmers used to travel more than 8km to the nearest Dip tank and the health of cattle was compromised because the majority of them declined to dip their stock. Successful completion of Midlo Dip tank was really a “missing link” in animal health management over the years and the community was now functional.

“Dip litter fowl runs a “catalytic approach” to promote Village Savings and Lending’s (VSLs) in 3 operational wards of Matobo District: “



### Solar powered incubators

The Veterinary Department recommends that cattle should have at least 32 dipping sessions per year and in order to ensure sustainability, communities in Ward 14 were now contributing cash to buy Acaricides.

CARITAS Zimbabwe established 3 VSLs groups in ward 5, 8 and 14 that were given a life line through chicken rearing. The groups each received solar powered incubators to generate income and complement other existing activities in the VSLs groups

## 8



Ivotsha a safety net for vulnerable households in Bulilima, Umzingwane, Matobo and Gwanda.

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe has had drastic consequences in the wellbeing of families in rural communities. Families' economic activity and livelihood pathways were restricted by the lockdown. They were struggling to support their families and dependents as they spend more time together at homes with no meaningful economic activity to sustain their family's food and nutritional needs. Most households were surviving on remittances however, due to closure of borders they were no longer receiving remittances from the neighbouring countries. This caused serious suffering to the already impoverished households who were struggling to buy their usual range of foods for family nutrition. Caritas through the Ivotsha programme provided food packs to 8700 households in 18 wards of the four districts namely Bulilima, Umzingwane, Matobo and Gwanda.

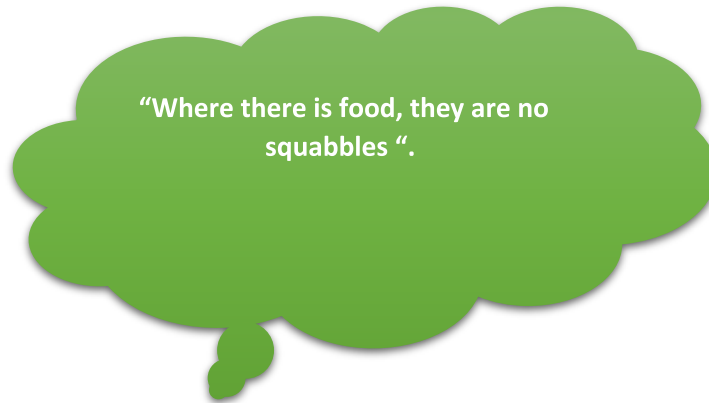
*"My profits have improved due to the Ivotsha programme."*

*"Thank you for the food pack, my family will have something to eat during this lockdown"*



Project participant in Gwanda with her entitlements

The entitlements promoted by the project improved dietary provisions within the participating households. Access to food enhanced family unions. The project also planted the spirit of collective action amongst business community in servicing bigger orders and financial accountability.



CONCLUSION; -

Despite the adverse effects of COVID 19 it is a reality that exposure to the Pandemic is high of which CARITAS Bulawayo and all front line commit that they shall play an ambassador role in the fight against COVID 19. A lot of appreciation is extended to all the partners that supported CARITAS with financial and material resources, Trocaire, Catholic Relief Services, Co-ordaid, World Food Program including CARITAS Zimbabwe National office that co-ordinated various funding partners.

