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Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Press Office

Stand No. 1901 Barrassie Rd,

Off Shamva Road

Box 350, Bindura, Zimbabwe

Telephone: ++263 8 677 006 136 | +263 779 279 912

E-mail: zegupress@admin.uz.ac.zw

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JOURNAL PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation Review and Advancement*, is to provide a forum for community engagement and outreach.

CONTRIBUTION AND READERSHIP

Sociologists, demographers, psychologists, development experts, planners, social workers, social engineers and economists, among others whose focus is on community development.

JOURNAL SPECIFICATIONS

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SCOPE AND FOCUS

The journal is a forum for the discussion of ideas, scholarly opinions and case studies of community outreach and engagement. Communities are both defined in terms of people found in a given locale and defined cohorts, like the children, the youth, the elderly and those living with a disability. The strongest view is that getting to know each community or sub-community is a function of their deliberate participation in matters affecting them by the community itself. The journal is produced bi-annually.

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Manuscript Submission: Articles submitted to the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation* are reviewed using the double-blind peer review system. The author's name(s) must not be included in the main text or running heads and footers.

A total number of words: 5000-7000 words and set in 12-point font size width with 1.5 line spacing.

Language: British/UK English

Title: must capture the gist and scope of the article

Names of scholars: beginning with the first name and ending with the surname

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Abstract: must be 200 words

Keywords: must be five or six containing words that are not in the title

Body: Where the scholars are more than three, use *et al.*,

Italicise *et al.*, *ibid.*, words that are not English, not names of people or organisations, etc. When you use several scholars confirming the same point, state the point and bracket them in one bracket and ascending order of dates and alphabetically separated by semi-colon e.g. (Falkenmark, 1989, 1990; Reddy, 2002; Dagdeviren and Robertson, 2011; Jacobsen *et al.*, 2012).

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REFLECTING ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS' ACTION IN ADDRESSING RURAL FOOD SECURITY IN MBIRE DISTRICT, THE ZAMBEZI VALLEY, ZIMBABWE

TAKUDZWA CHIDEMBO¹, NYARADZO SHUMBA² AND KWASHIRAI ZVOKUOMBA³

Abstract

Food insecurity has plagued many people throughout the world especially in drought-prone zones. Humanity relies on agriculture production for food security; however, many factors lead to the downgrading food security especially in rural areas. This study provides an analysis through in-depth engagement with empirical evidence and expose the multi-dimensions of food insecurity in Mbire District where the Lower Guruve Development Association and World Vision International embark on rural food security programming and projects in that part of the Zambezi valley. Mbire District is endowed with conditions that are conducive for food insecurity inclusive of climate change, floods, excessive heat, little rainfall and wandering wild that destructs crops. Guided by the theory of climate change diplomacy and the qualitative research approach, the study answered four research questions that are: What were the support services provided by World Vision and Lower Guruve Development Association to buttress rural food security? What were the impacts of non-governmental organisations in Mbire District on rural food security? What were the challenges faced by NGOs in trying to support rural food security? What were the strategies used to reduce rural food security in Mbire? The study recommends measures that can be put in place to reduce

¹ Department of Development Programming and Management, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, ORCID: 0009-0003-5644-8453.

² Department of Development Programming and Management, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, ORCID: 0000-0001-9726-9679 nshumba@staff.staff.zegu.ac.zw

³ Department of Development Programming and Management, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, ORCID: 0000-0002-8152-9621,zvokuombak@gmail.com

incidents brought about by climate change, floods, heat, violent storms and serious winds. The study also recommends the continuation of support on rural food security from other local NGOs, the government and the international at large.

Keywords: *food security, vulnerability, resilience, climate-change, human-security.*

INTRODUCTION

Poverty and food insecurity are the main problems that are facing humanity nowadays. Food insecurity occurs when people have scant food to satisfy hunger, have an insufficient and limited diet. It is exceedingly difficult to close the gap in rural food security in the Mbire District. Due to these issues surrounding food scarcity in Mbire District, vulnerable demographics have limited access to food, whereas improved agricultural output, poor infrastructure, the establishment of local jobs and extension services are necessary for resilient rural development to take place. Rural areas are typically overlooked at when it comes to food programmes, particularly in Mbire District where people live in distant locations with limited infrastructure and it is challenging for individuals to travel there and supply food and other resources for use by the community.

Food insecurity has been impacting many livelihoods in Mbire area for a long time. Many have been affected through the shortage of rainfalls, poverty, drought, climate change and floods. World Vision and Lower Guruve Development Association are assisting in reducing issues with food insecurity that impact humanity. For the purpose of reducing food insecurity, they must receive recognition from national, regional and worldwide organisations (Crush and Frayne, 2011). World Vision (WV) and Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) are playing a big role in rural food security in Mbire where the country has been failing to attend due to the financial resources. LGDA and World

Vision are working on many initiatives and projects in order to reduce both adult and child poverty. This research is a culmination of the research conducted by LGDA and World Vision in providing support programmes to the people through food aid. This research explores the impacts of LGDA and WV on rural food security in Mbire and their effectiveness.

CONTEXTUALISING FOOD SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE

Many people are suffering from food insecurity in Zimbabwe both rural and urban areas. People are not affording to buy food for themselves due to many factors that include: climate changes, floods, diseases like cholera, loss of jobs, economic challenges, high food prices and overpopulation. There is lack of clean water in some of the Zimbabwean parts, fuel shortages, continued poverty and the adverse impacts of Covid 19, continue to ravage disadvantaged people (WFP, 2023). An estimated number of about 5.5 million rural Zimbabweans were said to be food insecure by 2019 to 2020 with about 3.8 million people as observed by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC, 2019). Shortage of income and loss of jobs shows lack of access to basic resources and as of Zimbabwe, nutrient deficiencies have become prevalent; with many people having high rates of malnutrition. Economic collapse, climate change and Covid 19 are the major causes of food insecurity locally in Zimbabwe. These have led to the emergency of hunger and drought. Also, the inflation rates that changes rapidly every year are leading to food insecurity. Zimbabwe is well known as an Agrarian country and maize is the staple food but due to the production of maize that is going downward due to low rainfalls, many are finding it so difficult to have the basic needs in their lives. Muderredzi (2018) argues that the Zimbabwean food security situation is seen as the greatest part that is contributing to the economic decline.

Masvingo is a province in the south eastern Zimbabwe and is one of the provinces found in the drier parts of the lowveld of the country. As a province Masvingo is beset by many challenges; for instance, poor rains yearly leading to hunger and droughts. As observed by Mapfumo *et al.* (2017), farmers in Masvingo are moving from growing long grains to the production of small grains like rapoko, millet and sorghum because of the raining patterns that changes. World Food Programme and FAO are implementing projects in Masvingo to make sure that there is food security in communities that are commonly affected with droughts. Increased poverty in Masvingo have been contributed by recurrent droughts and the economic decline. Food insecurity in Binga has increased since some people eke a meagre living mainly from the income they get from fishing and the selling of vegetables and firewood. Women in Binga have less access to opportunities and productive resources (Muderedzi, 2018). There is need for the increase in food availability in Binga to ensure that households are food secured from hunger. Agricultural low productivity practices and lack of access to markets are affecting food security in Binga. Livestock management and crops have been reduced in Binga to subsistence farming and due to this mismanagement, soil erosion has been taking place at an alarming scale. Dube (2011) argues that Binga has the highest food insecurity percentage in the region. Poor performance on the agricultural activity is leading to reduced crop production. Many households in Binga have benefited a lot from the resilience programme that was meant to alleviate hunger in the district (Munyena, 2008).

Muzarabani is a district that is situated along the Mozambique and Zimbabwean boarder in Mashonaland Central Province. Muzarabani is a marginalised district because of its low production levels in agricultural output. Many farmers depend on rainfall (Mavhura, Manatsa, Mushore, 2015). Muzarabani is mostly well known for the floods that mainly lead to droughts. Farming outputs are affected by

floods, high evaporation rates that takes place every year and soil infertility caused by soil erosion (Mavhura, 2017). Since the district is well known for flood disasters, destruction of both crops and people takes , outbreak of diseases and others . People in Muzarabani are associated with many challenges that include low income since many are deprived from working meaning there is high unemployment rates leading to poor levels of productivity on food security , lack of education , poor health services. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society intends to support many households in Muzarabani who are affected by shocks, floods, hazards and droughts. School Feeding and Cash Transfer Project have been implemented in order mitigate the effects of food insecurity. World Vision and LGDA are helping in the reduction of food insecurities caused by climate changes since due to shortages in food insecurity, children have been withdrawn from school and some have been forced into early marriages. There is death of livestock and crops have been affected because of droughts. Malnutrition is continuing to be a challenge to children under the age of five. This study answered the following questions; (a) What are the support services provided by World Vision and Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) on rural food security? (b) What are the impacts of non-governmental organisations in Mbire on rural food security? (c) What are the challenges that are being faced by NGOs in trying to support rural food security? (d) What are the strategies used to reduce rural food security in Mbire? These four questions were thus answered by this study.

CONCEPTUALISATION

The basic dimensions of food security aid in tracking the advancement of the objectives for achieving food and nutrition. These are the physical availability of food, economic and physical access to food, food consumption and stability of the food. These were introduced at the 1996 World Food Summit. Food availability initially concentrates on the supply side of food security. As observed by USAID (1995),

achieving food security necessitates that people have adequate access to food supplies through their own production, the market and other sources, that households have adequate access to those food supplies. The Green Revolution in Asia during the 1960s and 1970s, that included a combination of better irrigation, seeds, farm technology and chemical fertilisers, was very effective in increasing food production. However, this did not inevitably result in increases in everyone's access to food. Therefore, it is important to implement appropriate ideas to guarantee that food is accessible to all societal levels.

The availability of food as an aspect of food security globally, speaks of a person's ability to obtain sufficient amounts of high-quality food. Meaning that people should be able to get food despite social, political and economic hardships. In Zimbabwe during the political and economic crises of 2008, person's access to food was decided by the political party in which one was supporting. Even if one had the money to buy food, access was not guaranteed unless one joined the ruling party. The security of a person's access to food was threatened by the political crisis. As a result, providing food through NGOs created an atmosphere where other sectors could work with the government to promote food security essentially. Managing food as another dimension, usage of food addresses problems that are related to the consumption quantity and what and how people eat. Access to services and amenities including water, energy, health and sanitation are among the food security. Such access to utilities can be gendered, that could be harmful to homes headed by women. To achieve food security, the government and NGOs must include gender analysis when deciding how to distribute resources. Stability is highly affected by the volatility of the market prices of staple foods and the population's inadequacy to bear risk in the event of unfavourable circumstances like natural disasters, unforeseen weather conditions and political instability. There is need for communities with the necessary coping mechanisms to ensure that food is available all the time.

THEORETICAL FRAMING

The study was underpinned by the ground breaking work of Wisner *et al.* (2007) of climate change human security diplomacy in which the issue of climate change and its effects on human development has to be negotiated, firstly amongst human and secondly between humanity and climatic conditions. Climate change has become the biggest threat to human development, hence, the need to increase the development of sensitive measures to human existence (Connolly-Boutin and Smit 2016). This framework serves to indicate the various aspects of a community that should be considered in an effort to characterize its vulnerability to changing conditions and its capacity to adapt, particularly as this relate to its food security. The framework serves in part as a “check list” of relevant variables to consider in an analysis. It recognises that there are several dimensions of food security and there are embedded and interconnected with other livelihoods attributes and the natural resource base within which communities operate. The framework indicates key connections and interactions that represent important features of any assessment of the dynamic nature of a community’s food security. It provides an overall outline of the factors and interconnections that constrain and influence the nature and dynamics of a community’s food security. People in a village have a suit of assets and will be affected by biophysical (physical, biology and ecological) and socioeconomic (social, economic, political and institutional) drivers but the specific assets will vary among individuals and households and their exposure to the drivers may also vary.

METHODOLOGICAL UNDERPINNINGS

The targeted area for this research was all the 17 wards in Mbire District, located in the province of Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe in the Dande Valley. The district is in a low rainfall area and the rainfall distribution is erratic. Previously the district was infested with tsetse fly but after a successful controlling effort by the government only two wards are still not permitted to keep cattle even

though the insects are no longer found in the areas. Long dry spells experienced during the agricultural season results in poor yields as most crops are written off. Furthermore, food security is worsened by lack of knowledge on correct seed, lack of alternatives to improve soil fertility, scarcity of inputs, lack of linkages to markets and lack of a diversified agriculture. As a result, the community is faced with starvation and failure to improve their livelihoods.

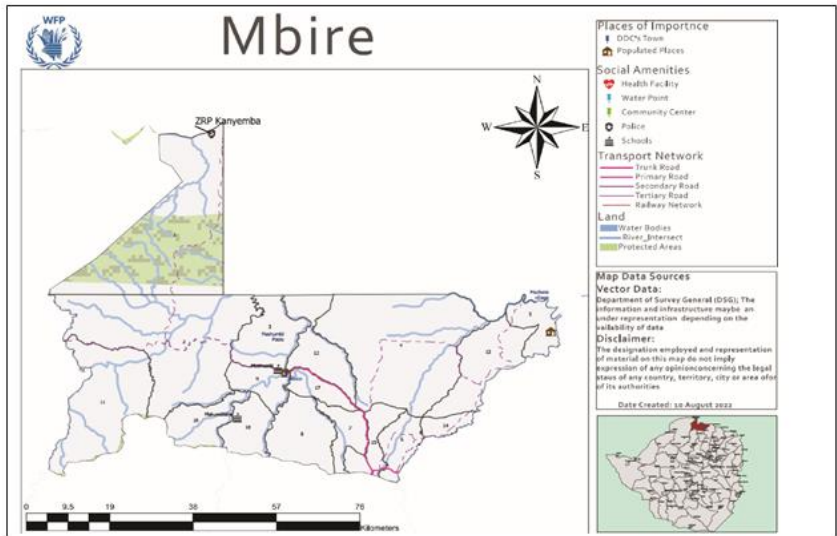


Figure 1: Mbire Rural District Map (Source WFP)

This segment provides information acquired through the DDC’s office. As observed by this information, the District is located in Mashonaland Central Province, lies 250 km north of Harare towards Zambian/ Mozambique border. Its area is 4,695.87km². Mbire boards with Zambia’s Luangwa district to the north, Mozambique’s Tete province to the northeast, Muzarabani district to the east, Guruve district to the south and to the west Chewore safari area in Hurungwe district. The district Population is 83,724 (41,014 males and 42,710 females).

Mbire Rural District is one of the most remote and underdeveloped districts in Zimbabwe, despite the abundant natural resources (wildlife) it is endowed with. A good indication of this underdevelopment is its poor road and communication infrastructure. The district was part of Guruve before it was given a district status in 2006. Mbire is among the poorest, worst drought affected and food insecure districts in Zimbabwe. The district has one growth point, Mushumbi that is where most district government offices are located and the others are in Mahuhwe. Other big business centres are Mahuwe, Chidodo and Chitsungo. Mbire District has four traditional chiefs namely, Chief Chapoto covering the northern part of the district bordering Zambia, Chief Chisunga covering the central part of the district beyond Manyame River bordering with Chief Chapoto to the north, Chief Chitsungo covers the south western part of the district and Chief Matsiwo covering the eastern part of the district. Mbire District has four kraal headmen. The total number of village heads is 380.

This study utilised a descriptive qualitative approach. In-depth qualitative research was used to support this, as was the voice extraction method and a case study. Qualitative research is conducive to a perspective of social reality, as observed by Creswell (2018). As observed by Creswell (2018), a study that uses specific objects observe in their natural environments and research questions requiring inductive reasoning would benefit from the application of the qualitative method. Qualitative data were coded to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents and pseudonym coding K for participants and P for key informants. The total study participants were made up of twenty (29) participants. The targeted population were rural people living in the 17 wards in Mbire because they were the ones who were prone to food insecurity. Purposive and snowballing were the sampling techniques used to formulate a sample size of twenty nine participants. The community members participated in three focus group discussions (FGDs) that were obtained through

snowballing. The NGOs that provided food security were purposefully selected and targeted for this study. The study employed thematic data analysis techniques to present the data collected during the research study and was coded using in vivo coding.

FINDINGS

Table 1 provides information in a summarized version, NGOs operating in Mbire the District by Ward for easy appreciation of food security issues in the area

Table 1: NGOs operating in Mbire the District by Ward (<https://fnc.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Mbire-District-Profile.pdf>)

Organisation	Category	Area of intervention	Wards	GOZ departments working with NGO
Action Aid	Resilience Building	Food and nutrition	1-17	Agritex, Health ,
CAMFED	Humanitarian	Child protection	1-17	Social Welfare.
LGDA	Resilience building	Capacity building	1-17	Youth, Women affairs
ADRA	Health	Nutrition, WASH	1, 2, 3,	Agritex, Health, DDF
Help from Germ	Resilience building	Nutrition interventions	4, 3, 6, 9,	Agritex, DDC
NAZ	Nutrition Security	Nutrition	1-17	MoHCC
AWF	Wildlife control	Human safety	1,2,4, 11	Parks
WV	Humanitarian	Water	1, 4, 5, 8,	Social Welfare

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING FOOD IN MBIRE DISTRICT

There are Non- governmental Organisations operating in Mbire District that are Lower Guruve Development Association and World Vison. These NGOs are providing food aids, projects and other basic

needs needed for people to survive. LGDA and World Vision emerged in Mbire due to the challenges and problems that were being encountered there and needed special attention. Many people are living in extreme poverty and hunger in the country. The problems encountered in Mbire include floods, drought, climate changes and poverty. Many people are suffering from hunger, starvation and poverty and it is not easy for them to escape from it. It is against this background that LGDA and World Vision emerged in Mbire District to help people through poverty alleviation. There is no information taken to determine the number of services that were being offered by the World Vision and LGDA. Also, to see if the services are of great help to the people and to what extent.

The researchers managed to see that there was a need to formulate the effectiveness of the services offered by LGDA and World Vision operating in Mbire and the need to deal with problems that are affecting people's lives due to food security. Despite poverty, low rainfalls, climate changes and floods that occurs in Mbire, people need food to survive. The researcher identified loopholes in Mbire on the challenges in which people are facing and the impact of LGDA and World Vision as they are working towards food aid help. This study shows the impact of LGDA and World Vision on rural food security in Mbire.

SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY WORLD VISION AND LGDA

World Vision and LGDA have been providing support services in Mbire District to ensure that there is food security. LGDA provides people with cash crops like vegetables in the gardens so that people will use. World vision assist people with projects and water sanitation whereby they construct wells and boreholes for people to use and maintaining one of the major goals of SDGs that is that people should have access to good sanitation and clean water. Agriculture remains the backbone of most African economies despite the challenges that

people faces for example climate change, excessive heat, strong winds, floods, dangerous animals and others. One participant (K1) shared his experiences regarding the support services they are receiving from Lower Guruve Development Association and World Vision.

“...we receive seeds from LGDA that include vegetable seeds, tomatoes, onions and cabbages that we plant in our gardens for sale and to eat in our homes. We normally do what is called “Mushandirapamwe where we work our projects as groups. We thank this NGO very much because we are given these inputs freely. It will be just our duty to monitor them as they grow up”.

Another woman (K9) shared similar sentiments:

...I was given the chickens that I’m rearing by these NGOs and they have been a breeding very well until they started to die because of excessive heat which we experience here in Mbire annually. I’m only left with a few of them and I do not know if they are going to survive for a long time. They usually start dying in the summer season because the heat will be too much and the chickens cannot sustain it”.

THE IMPACT OF RURAL FOOD SECURITY ACTIVITIES IN MBIRE DISTRICT

Lower Guruve Development Association and World Vision have worked so tirelessly in Mbire towards the improvement of food security. They have performed numerous activities such as proving money for people to start up projects, the inputs for agricultural activities, the construction of boreholes and wells, the provision of food hampers to families and so on. These NGOs have impacted positively in bringing up the good harvests and improving the food security that was increasingly decreasing. Participants from interviews and focus groups discussions (K3 and K15) argue that though LGDA and World Vision are impacting their communities with different projects, they are certain things that are depriving them from being well food secured due to the changes in climatic changes, heat, animals, storms, floods and other disasters. are some of the responses from the participants

...We are having problems with storms and violent winds every year my child to an extent that our cattle kraals and our crops are destroyed. Also houses in which we store our harvested products are destroyed as well by storms. Bad storms usually wash away all the crops in the fields. I think for the past seven years or so we are experiencing the same problem but due to an NGO called LGDA we have access to food through projects. [K3]

...We have a problem with the rearing of our livestock as it is our source of meat, the livestock I am rearing are goats whereas I used to rear chickens but because of the heat that occurs around September and October they die as there as water shortage. The presence of NGOs has helped us in drilling boreholes for drinking water for us and our animals. [K12]

CHALLENGES AND IMPACT OF NGO ACTIVITIES

Many challenges were raised by participants. Men and women who participated in the research observe how in as much as LGDA and World Vision is striving to ensure enough access to food in Kasuwo and Kadzi, climate change have affected people's lives and NGOs negatively. There is said to be changes in the rainfall patterns. Rain seasons are becoming short that requires short seasoned crops like millet, sorghum and rapoko. There are also violent winds, severe droughts, floods and rise in temperatures. Participants [K1], [P4] [P2], [K27], [K18] made the statements:

"Rainfall patterns have changed, there are no longer rains that used to occur before and this is a little bit challenging to the NGOs because usually they want to offer projects that progresses like if they give people seeds yet there are no rains so people will continue to be food in secured always." [K1]

"...The season is becoming shorter every year to such an extent that the raining season is starting in December or January after that it ends in February whereas the crops will not have reached their level of maturity so that they can be harvested. Also, there is no enough water for the livestock to drink. Due to little rainfall, NGOs are facing challenges in trying to achieve food security to different families." [P4]

".... NGOs are facing a problem with extreme heat conditions whereby they are causing crops to wither and wilt at the same time. For example, sorghum and maize are drying up before they reach their level of maturity. It is becoming difficult for the NGOs to know how best they are going to help people so that they will survive and that crops are they going to formulate that can be grown in Mbire that cannot be affected by climate

conditions. People are always coming up with low yields that cannot even be put on sale.” [P2]

“Boreholes are drying up here because of water shortages due no serious rainfall during the rainy season. Heat is worsening the situation where water that we used to drink from the boreholes is now very salty. Due to excessive heat, water is not drinkable in some areas that is water from the boreholes.” [K27]

“Monkeys are a problem in Kadzi and Kasuwo villages. They are a big threat to humanity as they enter in the gardens and eat the vegetables that people will have grown for food consumption and for sale.” [K18]

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY IN MBIRE DISTRICT.

There are many strategies that are used in Kadzi and Kasuwo villages to improve food security. Participants shared their experiences on how they are adapting with the ways to improve food security. They tried to make sure that even though they are usually affected by climate change, they have to be food availability, food accessibility and food utilisation. Since cattle, sheep and chickens were dying because of heat, people have adapted to rear guinea fowls and goats because they are more resistant to harsh climate, drought and extreme temperatures.

Participants shared their experiences concerning the strategies they are using to improve food security. The experiences are listed:

“...since our cattle are dying because of the changes in climate, goats are the only livestock that is surviving. Goats are good to eat and they are of good advantage as they breed every season and usually, they breed two to three kids meaning by the end of the year they will have increased up to even six goats in a short period of time.” [K29]

“My yard was full of chickens for the past years but because of the heat we are now experiencing, they started to die. I’m only left with three chickens. I’m now rearing guinea fowls. They can survive in high temperatures and harsh weather conditions. They are strong, they do not die like the chickens. Chickens were our main project from LGDA and there were our source of income and for household consumption but due to harsh conditions we are no longer rearing them. Also, guinea fowls are not too demanding they can feed on anything, they are resistant to diseases and we use them as a source of meat.” [K7]

“We have a problem here with wild animals who are always after our crops like monkeys. So, in trying to resolve this issue so that we will not suffer from having no food, we have formulate an idea of building temporary shelters at the field and gardens where people can stay during and over the night guarding and watching over the crops. Also, we normally dry our fruits and vegetables at the gardens like “masawu and mauyu and mufushwa. If no one is at the fields when the monkeys arrive, they will scatter everything and people will continue to be food unsecured.” [K19]

“Long back we used to have bumper harvest here in Kasuwo but due to the climate changes, there is now a difference. If the rains take a long time to come, old men and women from the village would visit “mhondoro” known as the spirit mediums to seek help from their ancestors so that they will not turn their backs from them. After the message have been sent, the old people will be instructed on what they should do so that the rains will start pouring so that people will start growing crops. Through this way, it was stated that it will not take so long before the rains start to pour down.” [K6]

“We have been drying vegetables as a way of preserving food for a long time and due to excessive heat, that we face here, they do not take time or days to dry up. Since the rain seasons are no longer reliable, we make sure that we have much dried vegetables from our garden and fields. We also preserve wild fruits like masau and mauyu from the baobab tree.” [K24]

CONCLUSION

Worldwide researches shows that concerted efforts from states, governments and relevant stakeholders are required in an effort to ensure food security, especially in the LEDCs like Zimbabwe. This is because in most third world countries, the government faces the burden of food insecurity related issues (Chitongo, 2013). Therefore, considering the challenges associated with food insecurity and other associated with the government including shortage of resources, a factor worsened because of corruption associated with the government officials in charge of food security issues. Research alludes that development through projects is a panacea to food insecurity challenges. Hence, NGOs have been regarded as an answer for rural communities’ food insecurity problems. Chitongo (2013) alludes that the 1980s and 1990s have seen an increase in the number of NGOs

active in food security relief and development. Edwards (1998) elaborated on the recognition of the third sector's role by asserting that official agencies often see NGOs as a magic bullet, that even when fired in any direction without very much evidence, finds its target. Sahley (1997) argues that a rapidly growing population of overseas aid resources is now flowing through indigenous NGOs, a mature third sector in Africa and other third world countries. The resources channelled through NGOs are an important catalyst of self-reliant development activities such as food security. Sahley moved on to point out that NGOs can also become a permanent sector in a society that influences policy, empowers grassroots organisations and provides links with public and private debates. Despite the role that NGOs plays in ensuring food security, Chitongo (2013) observe how an increasingly important issue for NGOs active in food security is their relationship with the government. This is because those that are critical of the state will risk likelihood of repression. Bratton (1989) concludes that the amount of space allowed to NGOs in any given country is determined first by political considerations rather than by calculations of the contribution of NGOs to economic and social development. In as far as the idea is taken into consideration, the role of NGOs in the global world is important to a greater extent. Therefore, suffering from trying to universalise the challenges faced by the NGOs towards achieving food security, whereas these challenges differ from country to country depending on the type of government in that particular country. This provided fertile ground for this study to specifically investigate the impact that NGOs are playing towards ensuring food security in Mbire District.

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