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P.O. Box 350

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

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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.

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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 as well as 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 subcommunity 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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Articles must be original contributions, not previously published and should not be under consideration for publishing elsewhere.

**Manuscript Submission:** Articles submitted to the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation Review and Advancement* were 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

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**Language:** British/UK English

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# SLUM DWELLERS SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF MAGAMBA IN HATCLIFFE EXTENSION, HARARE

TINASHE CHANZA, SHAMISO MAFUKU AND RUMBIDZAI MPAHLO

## Abstract

*Housing for low-income people has been a big issue in many countries and Zimbabwe is not an exception. This challenge has been a major contributor to Zimbabwe's expanding slum population, with thousands of people living in slum areas. This study draws on the experiences of Magamba in Hatcliffe Extension, Harare, to understand the origins, demographics and survival strategies of slum dwellers. A quantitative research approach was employed. Household surveys were conducted as part of the data collection process in that semi-structured questionnaires were used. Observations using photographic or pictorial aids were done. The study suggests that impressions of poverty in Magamba correspond to a lack of access to fundamental requirements such as adequate shelter, water, sanitation, security of tenure, jobs and foodstuffs. The community's coping strategies emphasize that, despite the problems they face, residents are strong and have skills that they use to improve their livelihoods. In addition to creating a multi-stakeholder platform for resolving the housing delivery challenges, the study suggests slum transformation and political will where politics is not above institutions. These could be solutions to the rising number of slums that are developing and growing in the country.*

**Keywords:** sustainable livelihoods, sustainable communities, politics, slum transformation

## INTRODUCTION

Slum development and growth continue to be a global problem with planners and legislators unable to address the issues (Zanganeh *et al.*, 2013). Globally, the urban population is rapidly increasing unevenly resulting in the development and growth of slums. Growth in towns and cities of Third World countries has been accelerating at an average rate of 2% compared to the 0.5% rate in developed countries (Mahabir,



2016). This pattern is predicted to persist with most Third World countries having problems absorbing future population growth (United Nations, 2015a). Better opportunities and social facilities in urban areas attract masses from rural areas (Zinyama *et al.*, 1993). In the global south, rapid urbanisation poses a significant issue due to a lack of infrastructure and services (water, housing, healthcare, and sanitation) required to support the growing number of people flocking to towns and cities (Cohen, 2006).

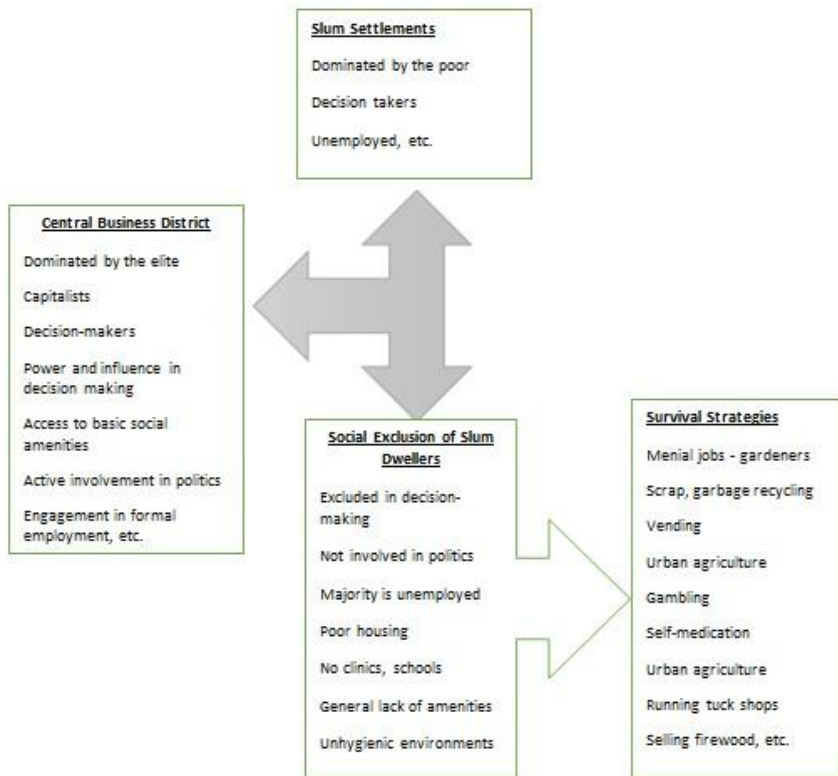
Rapid urbanisation caused noticeable gaps in housing supply and demand in Zimbabwean cities during the post-independence era as large numbers of people moved to towns from rural areas. Zimbabwean cities were relatively unscathed by the exponential growth of slum settlements common in other African cities (Tibajjuka, 2005). Since then, measures have been established by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to address the issue of housing shortages. A coordinated housing sector was created through the national housing policy that considers the demands and interests of all stakeholders for maximum performance and implements plans to create housing for the impoverished (Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, 2012). Considering these achievements, Zimbabwe still faces a severe housing crisis and struggles to provide appropriate homes for low-income members of society (Muchadenyika, 2015). Ademiluyi (2010) proposed that the housing crisis is faced universally despite it being a universal right, recognised at the global level in most constitutions.

Slums have been in existence for a long time, and their presence has been reported in writing for quite some time, (Mahabir *et al.*, 2016). Alliance (2006) defines slums as rejected zones in urban areas where housing and living circumstances are inadequate. Kuffer *et al.* (2019) note that one to 10 people across the globe live in squalid environments (slums). Khayelitsha slum in Cape Town, South Africa, with a slum population of 400 000 and Kibera in Kenya with a populace of 700 000 the biggest and most impoverished slums in the African region (Aboulnaga *et al.*, 2021).

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

The urban poor engage in a variety of survival strategies to lessen the impact of poverty. Chambers and Conway (1992) defined survival strategies as the assortment of actions people select to carry out to meet

their livelihood objectives. Sustainable livelihoods focus on people's abilities to create and sustain their means of subsistence while enhancing their own and future generations' quality of life. Scoones (1998) argues that a variety of concerns, including the much larger discussion of the connections between poverty and the environment, are related to sustainable livelihoods. Livelihoods are sustainable, if they can withstand stresses and shocks, recover from them, and retain or improve their capacities and resources both today and in the future, without compromising the natural resource base (Chambers and Conway, 1992). Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework diagram adopted by this research.



**Figure 1:** *Conceptual Framework Diagram* ( Author's creativity - Chanza, 2022)

Figure 1 demonstrates that the city is seen by the wealthy as a location where they may increase their riches and exert control over the underprivileged neighbourhoods (slums), then as a place where people live, work to support themselves, attend school, and raise their standards of living. Logan and Molotch (2007) referred to that situation as a "development machine mentality" in the cities in which the political and economic elite use laws and economic dominance to control the less fortunate through the commercialisation and exchange of values.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Slum dwellers make up most of the population and are one of the most vulnerable. They are more disproportionately affected by poverty than any other urban citizen (Mwabu *et al.*, 2001). There are social, economic and cultural issues that slum dwellers face: vulnerability to rights violations, lack of enough water, poor education, poor sanitation, limited access to justice and lack of security (GoK, 1999). This makes their living difficult and expensive, necessitating the use of survival strategies as coping mechanisms. They perform activities like corn roasting, prostitution, drug peddling, hawking, greasing, tailoring, domestic helpers, recycling garbage, and street vending (Syagga, 1989). Most slum residents survive by working in the informal sector, which maintains impoverishment and lowers family strength. Slum-dwellers lack the specialised skills needed to enter the more competitive formal sectors of urban employment. They spend most of their time working in low-paying, labour-intensive jobs in the informal economy. Although the urban poor are employed in a variety of industries and services, their financial contributions to the local and national economies are rarely acknowledged (UNHSP, 2003). Slum dwellers provide services that may not be as easily accessible through the formal sector since they make their living from informal but essential activities.

According to a survey done in 2006 in Dhaka among 500 households in slum settlements, 29% of male slum dwellers pushed rickshaws (three-wheeled cycle-type vehicles) throughout the city (Hossain, 2006). Most rickshaw drivers are typically illiterate and lack proper employee training. Another 23% of men were engaged in minor trading and street selling, such as selling fruits and vegetables, towels, cheap goods, etc. They also worked in other professions like construction (6%), driving and transportation (5%), clothing and industrial work (5%) and domestic help

(4%). Those who worked in low-level government and semi-government organisations and had access to some schooling, made a significantly small percentage (Hossain, 2006). Male workers are preferred for most employment in the city. Domestic help and backbreaking jobs, which are exceeding low status and badly compensated, are some other employment options for women to earn a living in their homes.

To thrive, dwellers in the Jika Joe's slum in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, used a variety of survival techniques. These included working in the food industry, social grants, roadside shops or informal economy, housing rents, and micro-enterprises. Renting out of rooms is another method (survival strategy) adopted by these slum dwellers. Some residents preferred (sacrificed) to let their rooms (rent out) in their dwellings, while others build shacks on their places and rent them out as the place attracts more people because it has schools, social amenities and near employment places of many and services (Mkhize, 2018).

The socioeconomic status of slum dwellers is significantly influenced by occupation. It has an impact on other factors, including people's socioeconomic status, development, progress and living standards. The socioeconomic standing of a person is influenced by their style of life. The family's income has an impact on living conditions. It contributes to a better quality of life. Jobs rely on a person's skill set, education level, family history and nearby career opportunities. Slum residents engaged in illicit activities such as the herding of goats, lambs, and poultry, as well as jobs like tailoring, retail shopkeeping, domestic help, construction work, catering and alcohol vending (Pawar and Mane, 2013).

Fundamentally, slums are seen as problematic zones for urban development in thirdworld countries. They are homes that are occupied unlawfully, aggravating environmental pollutants and degrading urban living conditions. According to Goswami and Manna (2013), residents of slums endure the worst living circumstances, lack of access to clean water and lack of sanitary services. Souza (1978) opines that approximately 67%of the huts in Kolkata's slums in India had insufficient windows and no ventilation, contributing to the darkness. Of the buildings, 60%were *katchas* with tile or tin roofs and bamboo beams. (Sajjad, 2014) proposed that registered slums of Mumbai have better household environmental conditions than non-notified slums of the

districts. All the slum dwellers' homes are overcrowded and inadequately ventilated, an invitation to a variety of illnesses and infections. The sanitation issues in Mumbai's urban slums were examined (Risbud, 2003). Sanitation in slums is extremely bad because 73% of slums rely on public restrooms provided by the government, 28% urinate in the open, 0.7% pay to use restrooms run by NGOs and only 1% use private restrooms.

Social amenities represent the living standard of the slum dwellers. Some examples of social amenities include the availability of drinking water facilities at the household level, the different types of latrines and where they are about whether they are on the property, the different kinds of lighting sources, such as solar energy, electricity, kerosene and other oils and the different types of cooking fuels, such as cow dung charcoal, wood, coals, charcoals and grass.

The quality of life of residents living in slums has been a matter of significant interest to scholars of numerous disciplines. Due to the lack of basic amenities for their daily lives, the living conditions of slum dwellers are appalling. They are socio-economically and politically impoverished elements of urban society. They suffer from harmful environmental circumstances and, as a result, they are labelled vulnerable populations or at-risk populations. Most slum residents experience a subpar and miserable life (McAuslan, 2016; Singh and Sinha, 2019).

Phulbari slum settlement had almost 3,400 homes but just one tiny public clinic. This circumstance is characteristic of Bangladesh's slum settlements. The situation of urban residents living in slum settlements is tense and are neglected by the state and forced to rely on services from NGOs and the private sector that are not well-regulated and offer care of varying quality. Some of the slum dwellers depend on self-medication due to the lack of clinics (Rashid, 2009).

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study used a quantitative methodology and a simple random sampling technique. The study is based on first-hand information from household surveys that were conducted in Magamba. Household surveys were conducted as part of the data collection process in that semi-structured questionnaires were used. The questionnaires were

designed in sections with the first section geared towards harnessing information on the background of the respondents and the second designed towards gathering answers to the specific questions of the study. Observations using photographic or pictorial aids were done.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

The insights of this study are from Magamba, a slum that developed and is still growing in Hatcliffe Extension, 21 kilometres north of Harare. Magamba slum falls under Ward 42 of Harare North Constituency, along Alpes Road, close to a newly developed community of University of Zimbabwe lecturers (Plate 1). Hatcliffe Extension was previously a detention centre for urban migrants from across Harare. Magamba community has an estimated population of 2 000 people. Magamba is a community with a mixed composition in terms of age groups. Young persons aged 15 to 35 account for a larger proportion of the community's population. Water, sewer systems, proper roads and other urban facilities were typically lacking in these newly formed settlements (Chitekwe-Biti, 2009).



**Plate 1.** Study area map of Magamba slum (Google Earth)

## **RESULTS**

Many of the participants in this research were women. Researchers found out that most of the men will be at their places of work fetching firewood for business as a survival strategy. Most questionnaires were

answered by 47 (72%) females out of the 65 participated in the study. Fewer males (28%) participated in the exercise since more of them were said to be out hustling for family survival (*kungwavha-ngwavha*) as they call it. This indicates that more men in the Magamba slum are striving for the survival of their family, going out to different places to earn a living as a survival strategy.

The socioeconomic makeup of the household is thought to be significantly influenced by the level of education. There are no educational facilities in the Magamba community. Children travel long distances to access basic, primary and secondary education. Parents may not have the privilege to go to school during their time, but the youth must be afforded the opportunity. The level of education is inversely connected with the poverty level. The lower the education level, the higher the poverty of a household. About a quarter (26%) had had primary education, 51% had gone up to the secondary level, 8% indicated that they have gone up to higher education (tertiary level) and 15% indicated that they had never gone to school. It is interesting to note that among the respondents, those who reached secondary and tertiary education had an advantage in responding to the questionnaires than those who did not go to school. The literacy level is perceived as adequate as most people can read and write. Therefore, the need to improve building schools within or near the community improves the level of education of the children in the community.

The bulk of Magamba residents works in construction companies, farms, Pomona Stone Quarries (Pvt) Ltd as part-time workers and informal trade (recycling scrap they pick at Pomona Dumpsite), with only a few holding formal jobs. Those who work in farms, construction and low-density suburbs of Vinona, Mt Pleasant and Borrowdale, etc. as gardeners fall under the category of fully employed constituting 15% of the respondents. Vendors and tuckshop owners and scrap recyclers were all classified under the category of self-employed, being the largest at 44.2 and unemployed residents constituted 30.8%. The area faces social and economic issues and young people frequently engage in illicit activities to survive. The money people make depends largely on what they do as survival strategies. Income is significantly influenced by overall education levels, which can also improve overall access to chances in a certain sector (employment opportunities).

**Table 1: Monthly income levels of respondents (Field survey, 2022)**

<b>Income group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Up to 50 US\$	37	60
51-100 US\$	19	29.2
Over 100 US#	9	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>

The results illustrated in Table 1 indicate that 60% of slum households make no more than US\$50 per month in income. About 29.2% of the households make between US\$51 and 100 each month. On the other hand, only 13.8% of households fall into the category of those with monthly incomes of over US\$100 which is a better group within the community, within which are tuckshop owners and those who work in construction companies. This then indicates that dwellers typically work in low-paying jobs and cannot afford to buy necessities for daily life, to send children to school, to buy proper building materials to build sustainable houses. A greater proportion (60%) survive by selling firewood and vending which does not bring much income. As a result, their social and economic situation is terrible. They continue to live in poverty as their incomes are from hand to mouth. Their living conditions must be improved so that they can meet daily demands.

Magamba started developing in the 2012-13 period and now the population is over 2 000 with more than 250 households. The settlement is getting bigger every year that passes. A large proportion (53.8%) are households that have three to five persons living under one roof and 26.2%, of households indicated that there are more than five persons living under a single roof, yet most of the houses consists of one or two rooms. Households that have single persons account for 7.7% and households of two persons account for 12.3%. As evidenced by these statistics, the area is overcrowded, thus there is an inverse relation between houses and people. This is an indication that there is a serious housing challenge.

The growth and development of Magamba can be traced back to 2012 when there was political madness and functionalism in the ruling party ZANU PF where land was given to their youthss by the aspiring Member



of Parliament candidate. A period of stay of over 10 years accounts for a substantial number of respondents 36 (55.4%), followed by those who stayed in the area for 5 years and under, the newcomers (27.7%). Respondents who have been here for of 6 to 10 years make 16.9%. This then indicates that the slum has been in existence for 11 years as the majority indicated that the year 2022 is their 11<sup>th</sup> year. That means most of the dwellers came to the place in 2012.

### **WATER FACILITIES IN MAGAMBA**

In general, the community lacks all urban services, for example, water, as the area is not serviced by the Harare City Council. Since municipal tap water is unavailable, the households dug shallow wells for their survival and these are the sources of water used by most residents. The community borehole is struggling to meet the increased demand for water, resulting in long lines for water collection at the piped water scheme initiative done by Oxfam Zimbabwe (Plate 2). Residents, therefore, rely on water from unprotected wells they have dug in their homes (Plate 2). The wells are not protected underneath, thus the water is susceptible to pollution from surrounding pit latrines, although they are covered on the surface. Furthermore, because some households do not have wells, they store water in plastic or metal containers, exposing the water to contamination.



**Plate 2:** *Water facilities in Magamba, Hatcliffe Extension (Field survey, 2022)*

Shown in the Plate 2 are sources of water found in the community. The picture on the right shows a recent initiative to help the community with

portable and safe water. The initiative is called Hatcliffe Magamba Piped Water Scheme installed in 2020. Social distancing at water points remains theoretical in most communities as residents stampede for the precious liquid. The water scheme reduced the potential risk of contracting and spreading the COVID-19 as it decongested the one borehole that was serving the majority of the community. It was done by Oxfam Zimbabwe in partnership with the City of Harare with the core objective of easing water challenges that were being faced by the community. Residents welcomed and appreciated this project as it provides them with safe, portable and reliable water. The initiative is said to have eased pressure or decongested some water points to a limited extent as water has some limits of three buckets (60 litres) per family or household a day as the scheme is affected by the weather. The availability of water depends on solar energy as water is pumped using solar pumps.

#### **SANITATION FACILITIES IN MAGAMBA**

The community's sanitation situation is terrible, with residents living like animals. Water and sewer pipes are not available in the community. Residents relieve themselves in blair toilets or pit latrines and also in the surrounding bushes. This practice increases the risk of diseases, including cholera and typhoid. Slum residents have constructed structures on unserviced land, resulting in development without proper water and sanitary infrastructure. Pit latrines are the most common form of sanitation found throughout the settlement. The current situation in Magamba is that some households (18) indicated that they use bush toilets, whereas the rest (47) pointed out that they use blair toilets or pit latrines. On assessing the condition of certain toilets, it was noticed that most of them are shallow pits, and to make matters worse, the toilets are dug near wells as the space for these two is limited per household (approximately 100150 square metres) (Plate 3). The situation as noticed is tense as diseases like cholera are looming, it is just a matter of time before they manifest.



**Plate 3:** *Sanitary facilities (toilets) are being used by residents* (Field survey, 2022)

Plate 3 depicts blair toilets. In the first picture, the toilet is currently under use and is encircled by white tents or plastic sheets for the privacy. The second picture is a new blair toilet of a newcomer under construction. It interesting to point out that new residents are coming and flocking into the place and can build wherever they wish.

Magamba slum is growing every year that passes by.

#### **HEALTH FACILITIES IN MAGAMBA**

This slum settlement is one of a few in Harare where human health is negatively affected. There is no nearby clinic where residents can get basic medical care. This raises many questions regarding where the growing population might acquire healthcare services. Residents either travel to Hatcliffe 1 clinic for maternity and basic health services or travel to Glenforest clinic, situated a distance far away from the community. Some of the residents survive through self-treatment.

There are no restrictions to reside in Magamba as evidenced by newcomers flocking in and erecting their new structures. Residents are not allowed to erect permanent structures, raising concerns about their future. The residents in Magamba have no land rights and there is no clear land administration and management structure making their future uncertain. Because the community is unorganised and without stand pegs, anyone can take up residence anywhere. Residents expressed their fear of eviction because the council does not recognise them and

their neighbours (the UZ Association of University Teachers community) are always fighting for their eviction.

#### **NATURE OF HOUSING IN MAGAMBA SLUM**



**Plate 4:** *Nature of houses in Magamba, Hatcliffe Extension (Field survey, 2022)*

The first picture on Plate 4 shows how houses look from a distance and the second one shows one of the houses in the community. In general, houses as shown in Plate 4 are made of plastic sheets, boards and wood tents indicating poverty. Most poor people have access to housing through cooperatives. Plastic sheets, wood boards, metal scraps and grass shacks are the materials that were used to construct most houses as shown in the pictures. The settlement depicts typical slum or squatter or informal settlements in Zimbabwe. Most families have a one-roomed house. The area is limited for any form of expansion (100-150 square metres per household), hence overcrowding is an issue. Parents and children share a single room, hence moral and cultural ethics have been compromised.

#### **SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF MAGAMBA SLUM DWELLERS**

Several respondents stated that they do not have decent or formal jobs because they lack the necessary qualifications for good opportunities. The only way they can provide for their families is to open tuckshops, although this enterprise is not always a dependable source of revenue.



**Plate 5:** *Economic survival strategies* (Field survey, 2022)

The photographs in Plate 5 show a tuckshop structure and urban agriculture (vegetable and sweet potato garden) that are employed for survival. Informal business activities are the most congested by residents in Magamba such as vegetable selling, corner tuck shops and fetching and selling firewood. A significant number also work as part-time general hands or contract employees in adjacent suburbs of Vainona, Mt. Pleasant and Borrowdale and on farms such as Art and Sun Valley. The community also engages in urban agriculture. In the main, vegetables, sweet potatoes and maize are grown for sale within the community. A substantial number of residents are dependent on scavenging rubbish, selling re-cyclable scrap and making soap from the garbage they pick at Pomona Dumpsite, a walkable distance from the community according to residents.

### **FACTORS THAT LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF MAGAMBA SLUM**

The development of Magamba can be traced back to around 2012 and 2013 as the residents indicated that these were the dates they came to this place. Magamba presents a unique case in its development and growth. Its development is largely related to politics.

**Table 2:** Factors that led to the development and growth of Magamba (Field survey, 2022)

Reasons	Number of respondents	Percentage
Poverty/ unemployment/ high rentals	6	9.3
Rural-urban migration	9	13.8
Politics	34	52.3
Informal economy (attracted by Pomona scrap industry)	16	24.6
Total	65	100

Table 2 indicates that politics is the chief promoter of the Magamba community with 52.3% of the households confirming that they had been blessed with land by one Zvandasara, a ZANU PF aspiring MP candidate for the area. Zvandasara's objective was to elbow out Mudambo, another ZANU PF aspirant in an internal fighting or functionalism where the same party members competed for votes in the same constituency. However, the Pomona scrap industry (informal sector) is another factor with 24.6% flocking to the community, attracted by the dumpsite. Residents indicated that they walk for 40 to 50 minutes to the dumpsite where they pick scrap for recycling. Rural to-urban migration {13.8%} is another reason that contributed to the development and growth of Magamba which is a clear indication that those from the countryside came looking for greener pastures.

#### **ORIGIN OF SLUM DWELLERS IN MAGAMBA IN HATCLIFFE EXTENSION**

Residents of Magamba have different source regions. The origin of the residents in Magamba is related to the factors that led to its development as there is push and pull factors behind it. Some were brought in by politicians, It was found and concluded that a 60% of the residents in the Magamba community in Hatcliffe Extension were people who used to live in Hatcliffe with their parents or extended families. Most of them indicated that when people were given a place to stay as youths of the ruling party ZANU PF, they left their families to start their own as they found it unacceptable to continue staying with parents as they were old enough to live on their own. Some respondents indicated that the places or houses they used to live in were overcrowded. Only a few (13.8% ) indicated that they came from the countryside in search of greener pastures. The other proportion (26.2%) came from greater Harare - to avoid high rentals and others attracted by the Pomona dumpsite.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of this study collaborate with the study by Mkhize (2018) who observed that to thrive, dwellers in the Jika Joe slum in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, use a variety of survival ways, including tuck shops, engaging in the informal economy and doing construction jobs (technical services). Thus, the findings of this study improve the current body of knowledge on slum dwellers' survival strategies. On the contrary, Mkhize (2018) noted that Jika Joe slum dwellers use housing rents (renting out rooms), engage in the food industry and get social grants for survival methods they adopted. Some residents preferred (sacrificed) to give up their rooms and rented them out, while others build shacks on their stands and rent them out as the place attracts people because it has schools and social amenities and is near to employment places of many and has services. These differences in survival strategies in Zimbabwe and South Africa are mainly because of unlike economic environments in two countries(). In South Africa, they are given grants and, to some extent, unemployment benefits, not like in Zimbabwe. On the contrary, Pawar and Mane (2013) observed that slum dwellers survive by herding goats, lambs and chickens as well as engaging in the tailoring industry which is not common in Magamba.

On the contrary, Rashid (2009) noted that open sewers frequently overflow in the Phulbari slum community on rainy days since there was little drainage, showing that the Phulbari slum has some urban services, including sewer and health care though it is not sufficient (one clinic accessed by over 3 400 residents), unlike in Magamba slum in Hatcliffe Extension where there are no such services. Some slum communities in South Africa have access to energy (electricity), provided unlawfully at extortionate rates that are consistently greater than those for legal connections (*ibid.*).

The findings from the Magamba slum show lack of urban services - sewer, water, power and sanitation - collaborate with Goswami and Manna (2013), who noted that residents of slums endure the worst living conditions, lack of access to clean water and lack of sanitary services. Consequently, the research's findings add to the general understanding of slums.

## **CONCLUSION**

There is a proliferation of new settlements in Magamba as newcomers continue to flock in and the problem of housing in the slum communities continues to worsen. This study concludes that the poorest and vulnerable households in the Magamba slum are forced to adopt strategies that enable them to survive and improve their overall welfare. Among all the survival strategies discussed in this article, the variables that significantly affect their choices are age, gender level of education and income levels. Residents have the general view that the government will intervene by offering services and solutions to reduce potential health hazards from improper sanitation practices and transform slum settlements.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Private-public partnerships (PPPs) infrastructure is well acknowledged to be best provided by the private sector with a profit motive. The Zimbabwean government (public sector) should work with private players to construct infrastructure, such as housing affordable to those living in slum conditions, schools, roads, clinics and so on. The public sector can do this by subsidising private players, giving them tax relief and working to create favourable economic and political environments, as opposed to the current ones, that do not attract donors (well-wishers) or foreign direct investments, both that can help fund infrastructure development.

Political will by national and local governments goes a long way in dealing with the development and growth of slums. In Zimbabwe, Magamba slum and Hopely are a true reflection of political madness and misrule and plundering by ruling ZANU PF party. To address the vast number of slum problems that many cities in Zimbabwe face today, for example, the Magamba slum and those that will persist in the future, far more political will is required at both the national and local levels of government. For example, Magamba is a political issue that needs a political solution. Thus, politics must not be above local authorities, in this case Harare City Council (HCC). Therefore, doing things legally creates spaces for regulators (HCC) to make their own wellinformed decisions without any political interference (partisan party politics).



Slum transformation is another important way to deal with slums. It is a multistakeholder strategy that this study recommends in dealing with the urban menace of slums. It comprises citizens, companies and local governments working together to improve physical, social, economic, organisational and environmental conditions. Slum transformation involves different stakeholders in installing and improving infrastructures, such as access roads, street lighting, supply of water, sanitation and drainage, preventing flooding and restoration of open green spaces; enhancing small enterprises and supporting local economic development, all examples of public policy strategies.

Policies and initiatives for urban development that focus on slum dwellers' livelihoods and urban poverty, in general, are other initiatives that can go a long way in providing sustainable livelihoods for slum dwellers. Slums are, to a considerable extent, a geographical and physical reflection of urban poverty and prior efforts to either physically eliminate or rehabilitate slums have not always acknowledged the significance of this fact. Future strategies should address the factors that underpin urban poverty, rather than the physical characteristics of slums only. Slum policies should aim to improve the livelihoods of the urban poor by promoting the informal economy's growth, tying low-income housing development to income production and providing easy access to jobs via pro-poor transportation and low-income settlement site rules. Slum policies, in general, should be linked to broader, people-centred urban poverty reduction strategies that target the multiple components of poverty, such as jobs and incomes, food, health and education, housing and access to essential urban infrastructure and services.

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