

## ST LUKE UMC ORLANDO GROUP UPDATE - 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Currently they are supporting 4 groups in Zimbabwe

- 2023- C-1 Rudorwashe (The love of God) – Guta
- 2022 C-1 Peace (Runyararo) – Mutasa
- 2021- C-2 Precious - Mushunje (**video report will be submitted soon from Laura**)
- 2021 C-1 Lifted Up – Manzununu

### 1. RUDORWASHE GROUP

The group was recruited in March 2023 and it consists of 25 households and a total of 80 OVC.

#### Group activities

- **Group nutrition garden** - The group established a nutrition garden on a half hectare land that was allocated to them by a traditional leader. The group is growing a variety of crops such as Beans, Tomatoes and Cabbages. They are sharing the produce to improve their nutrition at household level. They also encouraged each other to establish kitchen gardens and currently 20 households have established their own kitchen gardens are still to realize their first harvest from these cash crops.



*Rudorwashe group after being allocated half a hectare of land by a community leader*

- **Trainings conducted with the group**
  - Dream Design
  - Health and hygiene
  - Cholera prevention
  - Child rights and responsibilities and child abuse

- Entrepreneurship
- Group leadership
- Conservation farming
- **Income generating projects currently being done by Heads of Households**

From the 25 households, 20 received IGA grants and 5 received vocational training and start up kits

- Farming - 5
- Livestock keeping - 10
- Retailing - 5
- Barber shop - 1
- Sewing - 3
- Building - 1

## **2. LIFTED UP 2021 C-1 LIFTED UP – MANZUNUNU**

Lifted up group was recruited in March 2021 and consists of 24 households with a total OVC of 80. The group is located in Manzununu about 35km away from the nearest town.

### **Individual projects being done by heads of household**

Livestock (goats, broilers, traditional poultry, turkeys, rabbits, piggery project) - 18  
 Retail (buying and selling of clothes, groceries, stationery, plastic ware) - 13  
 Farming/Market gardening - 15  
 Fish farming - 3  
 Bee keeping - 1  
 Hairdressing - 2  
 Catering - 3  
 Tailoring - 1  
 Phone and radio fixing - 1

### **Group projects and activities**

- **Group income generating project** -The group received group IGA funds in their second year and started a layer project where they sell eggs. They chose this project because it quickly generates income. They sell the eggs to the community and sometimes share eggs for consumption amongst members. From the profits realised, group members bought watering cans and fertilisers for farming. They also shared the profits with the aim of ensuring that each group member buys groceries. They also share eggs for consumption.
- **Table banking** - All 24 households in the group attend their weekly meetings and engage in table banking. They started table banking in their 1<sup>st</sup> year where members would contribute \$3 a month. They increased the amount they contribute towards their table banking to \$5-00 a month in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They borrow funds from their table banking to purchase livestock, diversify their projects, and purchase building materials and household items. The group has also used funds for their table banking and purchased 2kg of maize seed and 5 kg of ammonium nitrate to support five orphaned households and enable them to grow their

own crops. They also assisted these households with construction of dish drying racks and rubbish pits.

- **Nutritional garden-** The group members are still continuing with their nutritional garden but they have since commercialized it. They grow and sell tomatoes, onions and cabbages. The profits are being deposited into the table banking account.

### **Achievements made by group members**

- 14 families Constructed or repaired their houses using their profits and loans from the group's table banking savings. Repairs included roofing, plastering, flooring, replacing of broken windows and doors.
- -A total of 8 families built or repaired their latrines.
- -5 families built or repaired their kitchens
- -7 households constructed protected wells for clean safe water.
- All 24 households are able to plant crops such as maize, groundnuts and cow peas.
- -24 households are now keeping livestock i.e. traditional chickens, rabbits, guinea fowls, turkeys, goats, sheep and cows.
- Diversification and expansion of projects – Heads of households are running more than one businesses.
- 9 head of households started projects for their siblings. Projects started include buying and selling clothes, livestock and farming projects.

### **Allen Mutandi**

Allen (18) is from Lifted-up group. He stays with his sibling and grandfather. His father passed away and his mother left when his young sibling was 3 years old. They survived on working in people's fields and would eat 1 meal a day. They also received old clothes they could not fit as payment for the work done. The 3 of them slept in the kitchen as this was the only structure they had. He dropped out of school at a very early age.

Allen was recruited in Zoe Empowers in March 2021. He is into black smithing, he makes hoes, picks, machetes and other garden equipment. He also has a broiler keeping project.

### **Achievements made**

- Build a 2 roomed house, bought blankets, a radio and enrolled his young sibling in school among others. *"I failed to finish school and I had lost hope for my young brother who had never stepped foot in school. Zoe Empowers gave me that hope as I was able to enroll him in*

*school for the first time in September 2021. I will make sure I make everyone who gave me this opportunity proud by ensuring my brother completes the highest level of education."*



*Figure 1: Allen welding and fixing some of the garden tools    Figure 2: Allen showing his broilers that are a week old*



*Figure 2: Allen showing the house that he constructed*

### **3. 2022 C-1 Peace (Runyararo) – Mutasa St Luke UMC Orlando**

The group was recruited in April 2022 and it consists of 26 households and 83 OVC. .

#### **GROUP ACTIVITIES**

- **Community outreach activities-** The group volunteered to share information with their peers after a training on the dangers of drug abuse at a local school.
- **Group nutritional Garden-** The group owns a nutritional garden where they grow vegetables including rape and onions. They share the produce and sell surplus.
- **Group project - Potato farming -** They run a potato farming business; they have almost three quarters of a hectare covered with potatoes. Currently the potatoes are being harvested; the group is selling them to the local people.

- **Group savings and table banking-** The group is participating in table banking where each member contributes \$2-00 per week. They intend to buy groceries and share at the end of the year.

#### **Projects being run by heads of households**

- Farming (Ginger and garlic, Yams, Banana farming, sugar cane, bean, fish farming, bee keeping ) -
- Livestock (piggery, poultry) -
- Service business (Donkey transport)-
- Barber – 3
- Hair dressing – 1
- Craft work - 1
- Sewing – 2
- Building – 2
- Solar installation – 1
- Phone repairing – 1

#### **Significant achievements**

- 13 members bought pipes and connected water to their homes and gardens. Honde valley community uses gradient terrain to connect water from natural water sources like rivers, dams and springs.
- The group is training other groups on potato farming since they received a specialised training training from the AGRITEX after showing an interest
- **Joseph Dete** - He started with a broiler project (50 broilers), and he had a ready market in Nyanga. From his profits he bought 2 goats, a pig and a bicycle to travel to and from his barber shop. He also started a rabbit keeping project, currently he has 46 rabbits.

#### **JOSEPH DETE'S STORY**

Joseph Dete was raised by his mother's maternal grandmother. His mother died when he was very young, and he has little knowledge of his father's whereabouts; rumor has it that he died in a foreign land. He dropped out of school as the grandmother could not afford to pay for his fees. He would work in people's fields in order to survive and at times beg for food from other people in the community.

In March 2022, Joseph was recruited into the Zoe program and received \$150.00 grant to start a business. He started a horticulture business on a plot of land that was allocated to him by his grandmother. He grows beans and cabbages for sale. Currently he is growing tomatoes. He bought some pipes and sprinklers and drew water from the mountains which he use to irrigate his farm.

### **Achievements made**

- He fulfilled his dream of appeasing his maternal grandmother, who raised him. He had always wanted to perform a Shona ritual called Maredzwa (compensation for child rearing), but he lacked the necessary funds. He bought a goat, a head wrap (doek), a traditional African waist wrap, and a blanket with the profits he realised from his bussiness and gave them to his maternal grandmother as a token of appreciation for raising
- He bought pipes and sprinkler and drew water from the mountains to water his farm.
- He is now able to eat two times a day and access health services.
- He bought goats, rock rabbits, rabbits and a pig.
- Joseph repaired his house and constructed a fowl run.
- His plan is to buy a stand - Despite the strong assurance from his grandmother that he is going to inherit the land after her death, he look forward to buy his own personal stand. He believes that he will inherit nothing after his grandmother is gone



*Joseph and his grandmother*



*Joseph in his tomato field with the pipes and sprinklers he bought*



*The goats Joseph bought from his garden produce*



*He bought a pig as a way of saving*



*Joseph and his rock rabbits*

*Joseph and his rabbits*

## 2. Daniel Manhando

Daniel lost his parents when he was 6 years old. He was left in custody of his maternal grandparents. Daniel attended school up to grade seven and had bad associates who influenced him to drop from school. With his friends they started drugs at a tender age and all the times he was involved in violence with other community youths or older people. Daniel at some point he was involved in fight which led him to lose his teeth and was apprehended by the police. No one from the family and the community loved Daniel due to his associates and behaviour. His grandmother had given up on him as he at times would sell household items to get money for drugs and alcohol

Daniel was recruited into the Zoe program in March 2022. Before receiving any support, Daniel with the support of Zoe social workers and other players in behaviour change programming helped him to have a positive attitude with life and reconcile with family members and the community. Like wonders, the transition happened smoothly and people could hardly believe that Daniel was a changed individual. He stopped taking drugs and alcohol and he always shares his testimony with others. He is now one of the Peace group champion members to challenge drug and substance abuse.

Daniel later received a grant to start a business. He started broiler keeping, horticulture (vegetables, beans and tomatoes) and banana farming on his grandmothers land.

### Achievements made

- He is one of the outstanding group members who harvested 20x50kgs of corn.
- He bought a bicycle that he uses to ferry his garden produce to the market in the community.
- He exchanged 5x50kgs of his corn with cement and constructed a toilet.
- Daniel bought solar panels toward establishing a barber project at his homestead.
- Daniel has never attended church in his life. He is on quote saying, *"... I was a lost sheep. I experienced all sorts of bad life and tested it. God still loves me and sent his angels Zoe to restore my life. I am a living testimony who can be equated to the story of Paul in the Bible. Now I go to church and I'm not ashamed to share my testimony with anyone about Zoe and what God did to me..."*



*Josephs initial broiler keeping project*



*His 2022/20223 maize harvest*



*Solar panels he bought towards establishing a barber    The bicycle he bought to use when selling his garden produce*



*Daniel managed to construct a toilet for his family*