

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**



**THE EFFICACY OF FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN ADDRESSING FOOD
INSECURITY AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN RUSHINGA DISTRICT.**

By

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Social Work in partial fulfilment for the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Science Honours Degree in Social Work.

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DEDICATION

To my parents: Benjamin Nyambunga and Netsai Mureyani.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I do hereby attest my deepest gratitude to the Lord, the provider of all the time throughout my studies. The guidance and mentorship of my supervisors: Mr Jaji and Mr Gonorashe is highly honourable. My parents, siblings and relatives, thank you for being there for me. You are too small to stop the rain, but thank you for standing by my side when it was raining. Mom, I know you never slept nor started your day without saying a prayer for me every day. Special appreciation to my friends (The BMWs): Nomore Makuva and Letwin Matani to mention a few, for encouragement, moral and physical support as we journeyed together in this. May the good Lord bless you!

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at establishing the efficacy of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among the special populations of PWDs at household level. The objectives of the study were: (i) to examine the contribution of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs, (ii) to analyze the challenges in implementing FDMS among PWDs and (iii) to establish recommendations to improve the efficacy of FDMS in addressing food insecurity of PWDs. This study was conducted in Rushinga district wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 19 and 21. The study was guided by two models of disability namely Rights-based and Charity Models. It used the qualitative research methodology and phenomenological research design. Target population was 57 reported and confirmed cases and had 14 participants (25%) as sample size. 4 key informants were also considered in this study. Data collection method used were Focus Group Discussions and in-depth interviews for both key informants and participants using scheduled interview guides as tools. Field data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The contribution includes an increase in crop harvests, increased nutritional crops production, food handouts during lean season and after productive works. The findings prove a positive adjustment in PWDs feeding habits through an increase in number of meals per day as well as nutritional value of their meals. The study findings on the challenges in implementing FDMS among the PWDs noted misconception of disability issues, misappropriation, politicization of the strategies, poor PWDs representation and bureaucracy. The findings on the possible recommendations to improve the efficacy of the program include provision of adequate and comprehensive packages, scratching off the bureaucratic principles and requirements, community support, timely disbursement of funds and allocations, disability sensitization and awareness in communities and PWDs sound representation. With the support and cooperation from all the relevant stakeholders, the program can better address food insecurity among PWDs.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

COMTEC-	Community Technology Development Organization
DDC-	District Development Coordinator
DSD-	Department of Social Development
FAO-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDMS-	Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies
FGDs-	Focus Group Discussions
FFA-	Food for Assets
HSCT-	Harmonised Social Cash Transfer
IFAD-	International Fund for Agriculture Development
NCDPZ-	National Council of the Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe
NDP-	National Disability Policy (2021)
NGOs-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NDS1-	National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025)
MoPSLSW-	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
PWD-	Persons with Disability
SADC-	Southern Africa Development Committee.
UNCRPD- Disability.	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with

UNICEF-	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
VIDCO-	Village Development Committee
WFP-	World Food Programme
WHO-	World Health Organization.
ZIMVAC-	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

This chapter is an introductory to the study giving a background and a conceptualization of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability (PWDs). The study will consider the efficacy, which is the aptitude of such program to yield a desired change (Cartwright, 2009), that is food security for the PWDs focusing on disability friendliness and inclusiveness as well as disability targeting, responsiveness and needs-based-sustainability. It includes sections on study's aim, problem statement, research questions, objectives, assumptions, delimitation, limitations, ethical issues and chapter summary.

1.1 Study background

Whilst the world is on the way towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 2.1 of guaranteeing all people's access to enough, safe and nutritious food throughout the year and SDG Target 2.2 which has the goal of eliminating all forms of malnutrition by 2030. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (2021) acknowledges that the world is at critical moment and not generally progressing either towards these targets. Notably, with Covid-19 pandemic posing devastating effects on world's food security situation. Post-pandemic period has seen nearly 2.37 billion people food insecure with no region spared. Political instability and upheavals, climate change, natural disasters, ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and economic crises among others equally share the contribution. More than half of the food insecure population are found in Asia and more than one third in Africa. It is worrisome to note that, people with disabilities have a greater risk to this world plight because of factors like socio-economic disadvantage and exclusion. Article 28 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD) clearly states that the member states have to ensure access by persons with disabilities to social protection programs as also in line with the National Disability Policy (2021).

In Africa, WFP Global Operational Response Plan (2022) shows that acute food insecurity vulnerability levels in Africa are still disturbing, with no exception from climate change, Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters, political instability, insurgencies and Russia-Ukraine war. The horn of Africa (Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia), Western and Central Africa (Ghana, Togo and Sahel region) and Southern Africa are experiencing acute food insecurity. WFP (2020) on disability and food security notes that people with disabilities have higher and greater risk in accessing food, therefore it recommended a targeted assistance to consider disability and prioritize livelihood that is accessible and inclusive.

In the SADC region, WFP Global Operational Response Plan (2022) reports acute food insecurity situation with no exception of Zimbabwe who was the 'bread basket' of Southern Africa. Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Namibia have been recorded to have food insecurity situation attributed to droughts, cyclones, economic downturns, conflicts and political instability. Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war have strained the economy of southern Africa countries. On greater risk of this, are the people with disabilities and their households. Social protection programs should be well program in a disability friendly and inclusive approach.

In the case of Zimbabwe, according to ZimVac Report (2022), the food insecurity situation in the country has be reported more acute in Matebeleland North, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland provinces. Droughts, cyclones and macro-economic instability among other causes have been noted. Zimbabwe Food Security and Markets Monitoring Report (2022) has also testifies food insecurity situation in the country attributing it to hyper-inflation, economic meltdown and high cost of living. Rushinga is one of the dry district in Mashonaland Central located in natural ecological region 3 with some wards in region 4. ZimVac Report (2022) acknowledges food insecurity situation in the district mainly attributing it to a failed 2021/2022 farming season due to recurring dry spells. The

whole of the district is generally food insecure yet a more worrisome fact is people with disabilities have already existing various conditions making them more prone to food insecurity. WFP Zimbabwe (2022) acknowledges that the types of barriers people living with disabilities have, do exist before a humanitarian crisis and are worsened in crisis. Whilst in the drive and spirit of pursuing National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) mantra, that is 'leaving no one and no place behind, towards a middle upper class society by 2030,' the Second Republic government of Zimbabwe through the National Disability Policy (2021) has guaranteed to improve the quality of life of persons with disability and their respective families. Zimbabwe National Disability Policy, Section 3.18.6 has clearly stated that people with disabilities must be included in all social protection initiatives since they are more likely to be living in poverty conditions making their prevalence among beneficiaries of social protection high. In line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Disabled Persons Act (Chapter 17:02) on the eligibility of people with disabilities for social protection, the government of Zimbabwe is implementing Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies (FDMS) address food insecurity among beneficiaries, it also targets this population. Hence, the study will examine the efficacy of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rushinga district.

Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies (FDMS) is a social protection program/initiative/approach that has been adopted by the government under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) with the Department of Social Development (DSD) as an implementing department in collaboration with a number of government line ministries and departments to address incessant food deficits among the vulnerable members of the society (FDMS manual, 2021). The strategies herein, include food distribution, nutritional gardens, food for assets and agricultural input support. The program has recently been reviewed in early 2021 to be in line with the NDS1 (2021-2025) and aims at ensuring improved access to inclusive Social Protection targeting vulnerable populations with social assistance (FDMS manual, 2021) and in the interest of this study, people with disabilities are one of the most affected vulnerable population by food deficit. As highlighted in the above mentioned

manual, the program adopted targeting mechanisms from as at national level, down to provincial, district, ward, village and finally the household level. These mechanisms are informed by the ZimVAC report done on yearly basis to determine and make sure that the assistance is given to the neediest beneficiaries, hence it ascribes to the residual model of social welfare.

Additionally, the program has implementation modalities with four phases which runs throughout the year to address the food requirements of vulnerable population in the society. The program encompasses a number of strategies which are implemented throughout the year in a bid to address food insecurity as highlighted above. These are free food distributions, food for assets (FFA), nutritional gardens and agricultural input support strategies. Important to note is one the program objectives which is, according to the referenced manual: to avail **adequate and nutritious food** assistance to the vulnerable members of the society. This objective translates into food *availability* and *utilization* pillars of food security which then are the focus of the study. According to Aborisade and Bach (2014), availability denotes enough food supply at all levels for example national, district, community and household assessed in consistence with the need/requirements/demand for the food. It also defines utilization as a pillar addressing nutritional requirements as the food has to be the right type and quality to meet nutritional needs of human bodies thereby promoting normal, active and healthy life.

1.2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

To establish the efficacy of FDMS in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability at household level as well as the gap not being met.

1.3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Food insecurity has proved to be a global plight, with no exception of high-income countries in North America, Europe and Asia (Loopstra, 2017). FDMS program was initiated to address growing food insecurity among the targeted vulnerable groups

including PWDs. However, disability sensitization and knowledge has not been done with justice especially in rural areas where the communities still socially, politically and economically exclude people with disability (Choruma, 2007). With this background, they are still treated as outcast and their inclusion is still tinier hence, they are treated as a burden to the society and considered having dependence syndrome (Mthethwa, 2019). Even the broader community holds this perception. This is why social protection packages towards their welfare, are mostly hijacked by able-bodied leaders and individuals. Poor implementation, embezzlement of funds, poor funding, politicization of the initiatives, less frequency and sustainability of the initiatives speaks a lot about people's attitude towards people with disabilities (Council of Europe, 2017). Despite the efforts by the government, PWDs continue to be food insecure which then raises the question of efficacy. Surprisingly, no study has evaluated the efficacy of this FDMS initiative in bringing about the desired food security among the PWDs, hence the present study to address the methodological, literature, empirical and knowledge gap.

1.4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- i. To examine the contribution of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs in Rushinga District.
- ii. To analyse the challenges in implementing FDMS among PWDs
- iii. To establish recommendations to improve the efficacy of FDMS in addressing food insecurity of PWDs.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following questions are going to guide this research:

- i. How has the FDMS program contributed in addressing food insecurity among PWDs?
- ii. What are the challenges in implementing FMDS program among PWDs?
- iii. What are the possible recommendations to improve the efficacy of FDMS

program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs?

1.6. ASSUMPTIONS OF THE STUDY

The researcher assumes that the efficacy of FDMS program to bring about the desired food security levels among PWDs is compromised. It is assumed that the program has factors at both planning and implementation stages which are negatively affecting the realization of the desired outcome. The research assumes that less disability sensitization especially in the rural communities has a negative bearing on the implementation of the FDMS in addressing food insecurity among the PWDs. The research also assumes that food insecurity levels among PWDs have been on the significant rise, hence a serious concern as a result of poor performing local economy and the effect of covid-19 induced lockdowns. The researcher then assumes that FDMS program must be more comprehensive in its scope to address this and bring about food secured households of and/or with PWDs. Finally, the researcher assumes that responsible district offices have database information of PWDs who are getting assistance under FDMS program.

1.7. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research project sought to establish the effectiveness of government initiative namely FDMS in addressing food insecurity among people with disabilities. It also sought to draw up a gap being left by this initiative with much concern within the scope of addressing food insecurity among the persons with disability. Notably, people with disabilities do have some challenges in accessing these social protection packages/programs, hence the interest of this study to explore those challenges. It provided awareness to the Government, Portfolio Committee for Social Protection in particular and relevant stakeholders for example local NGOs. It availed the possible recommendations on implementation policy review and for paradigm shift hailing the initiatives to be more disability friendly and inclusive.

1.8. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study had a focus on the efficacy of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. The challenges in implementing the program among PWDs are also of interest. This study was conducted in Rushinga District within the timeframe 2022-2023. The study considered only wards 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 21 in which the program was being implemented with attention to special population of persons with disability. Some participants were not necessarily with disability but was interviewed as key informants. In case that there was communication barrier because of the nature of participant's disability, his/her household member(s) was interviewed since the household is also affected.

1.9. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was more likely to face a challenge of other participants refusing to freely release information against the implementation of FDMS in persons with disability on fear of victimization by politicians, however confidentiality was assured and prioritized. Lack or inaccuracy of numbers of people living with disabilities in the district's research wards since a number of disability cases are not reported due to the perceptions people hold about disability. Key informants may not give out what they consider confidential information. This study was confined only within the boundary of Rushinga District 7 selected wards in which the FDMS program was being implemented, therefore the results cannot be generalized to other districts.

1.10. Validity and Reliability

The research used a research method, design and instruments which were specifically designed for this study. Data collection was done physically in person with all the participants. Whilst conducting the research, the researcher ensured data quality through involving 4 key informants, who by the nature of their offices and expertise would provide relevant and credible information concerning the subject matter (Lokot, 2021). Sampling was done to determine sample size of the key informant and participating PWDs to testify their experiences regarding the program. No personal,

financial or political interests were pursued or inappropriately interfered in contacting the study. Objectivity was at the core of the process. The research interests were based on the study objectives, in order to achieve the study validity (Crosswell, 2013)

1.11. DEFINITION OF KEY WORDS

- Efficacy is the aptitude of a program or initiative to yield a desired change (Cartwright, 2009)
- Food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to sufficient food for every person in a household to lead an active and healthy life. It is either temporary or can last long time. (WFP, 2020)
- A person with disability “means a person with a physical, mental or sensory disability, including a visual, hearing or speech functional disability, which gives rise to physical, cultural or social barriers inhibiting him from participating at an equal level with other members of society in activities, undertakings or fields of employment that are open to other members of society,” Disabled Persons Act (Chapter 17:01).

1.12. CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter has epitomized the background to this study citing how food insecurity is a growing social plight especially for people with disabilities around the globe. This has no exception to Zimbabwe for its around 15% disability prevalence (NDP, 2021) and their food insecurity (ZimVAC Report, 2022). Purpose of the study has been established drawing it from the statement of the problem. The chapter also captures the research objectives, questions, assumptions, significance, delimitation, limitations and ethical considerations.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

The chapter details literature review for the study topic. The theoretical framework, various governments' initiatives towards addressing food insecurity among people with disabilities, case studies from both first and third world countries. Literature reviewing of local government initiatives will be also considered to lay open a research gap therefore justifying the purpose of this study.

2.1. Theoretical framework

In order to understand social protection issues for people with disabilities, the following theories help in explaining policy planners', program implementers' and the general public's perceptions, philosophies and actions towards people or issues of disability. According to Choruma (2007), disability is multi-dimensional and thus in reality, it is differently defined and perceived according to culture, knowledge base, context, beliefs and the societal values. The lens for this study was Rights-based, biopsychosocial and charity models of disability. The study used two models as stands justified because both supplement each other in explaining this study. The first explains how is it possible to yield the desired outcome of food security among PWDs whilst the latter give lens used to explain why there are challenges in implementing the program. These are in turn negatively affecting the efficacy of the program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

2.1.1. Rights-based model of disability.

This model is based on human rights principles enshrined in UNCRPD which Zimbabwe ratified in 2013 recognizing disability as a natural aspect in human diversity that has to be respected and supported across all its forms (Korolkova and Anthony, 2016). The model argues that people with disabilities have same rights to their able-bodied counterparts taking into consideration that impairments must not be considered an

excuse for denying or restricting people's rights. Degener (2017) notes that the model offers a theoretical framework for disability policy with emphasis on human dignity of people with disabilities and encompasses all sets of human rights. The model purports the constructive proposal for improving life of people with disabilities, for which food security is one of the basic right. This model provides best lens to account for the desired result of FDMS program as well its involvement of all humankind into mainstream discourse of development, vulnerable groups (PWDs) included (Katsui, 2009). It however fails to account for the challenges being encountered whilst implementing FDMS among the PWDs, hence the need to consider also the Charity Model as theoretical framework for this study.

2.1.2. Charity model of disability.

This model views people with disabilities as just victims as their conditions are tragic and are suffering (Retief and Letsora, 2018). In this regard, the model views people with disabilities as passive recipients of charity thereby promoting dependency syndrome. At times, it is termed the deficit or tragic model. Mthethwa (2019) argues that the model assumes people with disabilities are pity and sympathy deserving and that philanthropists through charity or welfare are the ones who can solve their conditions. The model puts PWDs in a position where they cannot question or ask, but rather be thankful of the kind of charity they will be receiving. It reduces people with disabilities to objects and as useless liability in the society (Choruma, 2007). Whilst this model appreciates philanthropic welfare to PWDs, but it does not appreciate it a right that people with disabilities have a right to life with dignity and to social assistance. In this case, some of those implementing program or the community itself, have this thinking and perception and that definitely would derail the program from achieving its goals and objectives. Whilst this model gives best lens useful in explaining why the challenges in implementing this FBMS on PWDs, it represents the thoughts and the perception of those not disabled towards the so-called PWDs (Amponsah-Bediako, 2013), yet the PWDs are those who are central to this study. Hence the need to consider also the Rights-based Model.

2.2. Contribution of the FDMS program to address food insecurity of PWDs.

Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies (FDMS) is a social protection program/initiative/approach that has been adopted by the government to address incessant food deficits among the vulnerable members of the society (FDMS manual, 2021). The strategies herein, include free food distribution, nutritional gardens, food for assets (FFA) and agricultural input support. The program is in line with the NDS1 (2021-2025) and aims at ensuring improved access to inclusive Social Protection targeting vulnerable populations with social assistance (FDMS manual, 2021). In the interest of this study, people with disabilities are one of the most affected vulnerable population by food deficit (Mitra, Palmer and Kim, 2017), (Park, Kim, Kim, Jeoung and Park, 2020) and (Nyathi and Ndlovu, 2022). As highlighted in the above mentioned manual, the program adopted targeting mechanisms from as at national level, down to provincial, district, ward, village and finally the household level. These mechanisms are informed by the ZimVAC report done on yearly basis to determine and make sure that the assistance is given to the neediest beneficiaries, hence it ascribes to the residual model of social welfare.

Additionally, the program encompasses a number of strategies which are implemented throughout the year in a bid to address food insecurity as highlighted above. This research has an interest in food distributions, food for assets (FFA), nutritional gardens and agricultural input support strategies. Most important to note is one the program objectives which is, according to the referenced manual: to avail **adequate and nutritious food** assistance to the vulnerable members of the society. Various legislative frameworks have stood in support, United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Article 28 entitled *'Adequate standard of living and social protection'* is very fundamental to this study. In this regard, the governments have a chief mandate to ensure their access and inclusion in social protection and poverty reduction programs. At a global level, various governments have shown their commitment in designing policies and social protection programs targeting this

vulnerable population in question, America has Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) (Choi, Fram and Frangillo, 2017), Community Gardening and Congregate Meal Programs in Netherlands (Waltz, Schippers, Gittins and Mol, 2018) and COCASA Food Assistance in Mozambique. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (2018), the Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) in Section 15, 22 and 30, National Disability Policy (2021) and Social Welfare Assistance Act (Chapter 17:06) give a legislative basis for PWDs' solid rights to welfare assistance and programs. The National Development Strategy 1: 2021-2025 (NDS1) which was used to design the FDMS program (FDMS Manual, 2021), outrightly gives the impact and contribution this program has to make by aiming at ensuring an improved access to inclusive social protection and poverty reduction programs which are disability friendly and inclusive. in order to bring a positive change in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

A number of researches have been conducted both local and abroad to assess the contribution of programs of like nature to deal with food insecurity issues among the PWDs. Social protection programs for PWDs are so important as they help in reducing the complex vulnerabilities of this group through provision of basic needs (Park, Kim, Kim, Jeoung and Park (2020). (Nyathi and Ndlovu, 2022) also noted that these programs at least help PWDs to achieve living up to a certain degree of life with inherent dignity (UNCRPD). Ghosh and Parish (2015) research which had a focus on broader U.S.A. government initiatives towards PWDs, it acknowledged that they improve the lives of PWDs in general, for example and of interest was food insecurity. Having literature covering this area, a gap still exists since there was none covering the specific FDMS program. In as much as the efficacy of the program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs, the post Covid-19, Russia Ukraine conflict and current economic meltdown are the distinct conditions in history timeline which have strained funding and/or resources hence this study.

2.3. Challenges in implementing FDMS among PWDs.

A number of studies have shown that social protection programs always have

implementing challenges on PWDs. Another study was conducted in Ghana, of government funded social protection initiative, among other things to address food insecurity among the PWDs. Arkorful, Anokye, Basiru, Hammond, Mohammed and Micah (2019) found out that the initiative was plagued with, among other things access difficulty, disbursement delays, assistance inadequacy and partisan politics. The study found out that these challenges stalled the effectiveness of the program by stagnating the efforts being made by governments in developing countries. The study made strides in proffering the efficacy of the program/initiative. Local studies have also raised same concern over such seemingly usual challenges in administering social protection assistance especially to PWDs (Handina, 2010). Though the results resonate well with local researches on other social protection programs, it cannot be generalized to FDMS program, hence the need for this research.

According to Waltz, Schippers, Gittins and Mol (2018) studying on the Netherlands government initiatives in a bid to address food insecurity among PWDs. The researchers noted that so often, the assistance package fail to keep pace with the inflation and they go a long time not reviewed. This has the implication that the assistance is always inadequate and therefore fails to bring about the desired result which is meeting PWDs' needs and promote them living life with inherent dignity (UNCRPD). Even be the case, the research was done in a first world country, hence the need of this research to be done on a local social protection program in question.

Choi, Fram and Frangillo (2017) had a focus on organizational and institutional factors affecting food security among people with disabilities in USA. The research noted that the government's food assistance programs are often inadequate in addressing the need. This also applies to local programs as noted by Kundyamatimba, (2013) and Arruda and Lara (2018). The research targeted a general population of vulnerable members of the society whose vulnerability extents are explicitly different and conditions for some are only temporal. This research therefore specifically targeted people with disabilities who are at a greater risk of food insecurity more than their able bodied counterparts (Mitra, Palmer and Kim, 2017).

Withers (2012) had a focus again, on unfolding institutional factors as disabling barriers for food security concern among people with disabilities. The research noted that PWDs are failing to access the packages/initiatives because of bureaucratic and requirements systems. However, the research did not study the local government initiatives and also failed to highlight some of the bureaucratic and requirements systems which affecting people with disabilities in Zimbabwe. This study has however, focused on the Zimbabwean government initiative, FDMS program noting those bureaucratic and requirements systems that are affecting PWDs right to have access to this social assistance program.

2.4. Recommendations to improve the efficacy of FDMS.

Various literature has proposed remedies to the challenges of implementing social protection programs aimed at addressing food insecurity among PWDs. It has to be noted that these recommendations were proposed from researches done for different social protection programs and not necessarily FDMS. However, they might be leads in finding solutions to the challenges which characterizes the implementation of FDMS program on PWDs.

According to Arkorful, Anokye, Basiru, Hammond, Mohammed and Micah (2019), if the government considers adhering to the blue prints which are international and local legislative frameworks to ease the access difficulties. Also consideration of adequate and comprehensive assistance packages, early disbursement of funds to the implementing partners or government arm and principled politics which does not interfere or merge with the implementation of social protection assistance. The research proposed these recommendations and can boost also the efficacy of FDMS in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

Whilst Withers (2012) researched on unfolding institutional factors as disabling barriers for food security concern among PWDs. He proposed that social protection programs can have a better impact on the lives of PWDs and bring about the desired outcome of a PWD community which is food secure by removing the bureaucratic and requirements

system. He argued that these are responsible for causing disbursement delays and disqualification of other assistance deserving PWDs who might not have eligibility requirements.

Various researches on this study area have proposed all the above recommendations which can be leads to also deal with the challenges characterizing the implementation of FDMS in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

CHAPTER 3

3.0. Introduction

This chapter deliberates in detail the research methodology applied when conducting the research. The research design, study area, study population, sample size, sampling procedures, data collection, data presentation and data analysis procedure and ethical considerations are contents thereof.

3.1. Research methodology

The researcher used Qualitative Research Paradigm/methodology. Crotty (1998, p. 67) postulates that the “qualitative research seeks to explain social phenomena through

understanding the ways in which individuals make sense of their social worlds and sees knowledge as historically and culturally situated.” The data in this research is in words form rather than numeric. This research methodology has been influenced by an epistemological position of interpretivism (Whittaker, 2012).

3.2. Research design

According to Creswell and Creswell (2018: p 3), a research design is defined as “plans and procedures for research that span steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation.” In this regard, the research design defines the procedure concerning the data required, the methods employed to collect and finally analyze this data. Generally, it responds to how all the above mentioned is going to answer the research questions vividly and objectively. This research used qualitative research approach which is defined by the above stated author as a way for discovering and understanding the sense that individuals and/or groups assign/attach to a social problem. In this direction, this research used the phenomenological design which according to Polkinghorne (1989) cited in Rasid, Djafar and Sontoso (2021), describes the meaning of the lived experiences for several individuals about a concept or the phenomenon exploring the structure of consciousness in human experiences. It simply explains the meaning of people’s experiences about a phenomenon. Its main aim being capturing, as closely and carefully as possible, the way a concept or a phenomenon was lived by people who participated in the phenomenon (Creswell and Poth, 2018). The study was conducted in descriptive and explanatory manner in regard to the efficacy of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among people with disabilities. Descriptive research design targets to describe or define the subject topic at hand whilst explanatory aims at explaining the dynamics of the phenomena in the context of research subject topic.

3.3. Study area.

The study will be confined to wards 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 20 in Rushinga district. These were the only wards in which FDMS program was being implemented, selected on the basis incessant food insecurity levels.

3.4. Target population

Neuman (2014) defines study population as the specific collection of elements the researcher considers for a study. Given the definition above, the target population of this study are people with disabilities who are living in Rushinga district wards 1, 2, 3, 7, 19 and 21. The target population is numbering to 57 reported cases of PWDs (Rushinga District Enumeration, 2022). This population, taking consideration of the disability prevalence in the District, might be understated attributing it to the community flawed understanding of disability. Cases of children with disabilities might have been under reported as well as other nature viewed as not disability for example epilepsy. However, this data was considered since it has been used in ward and village vulnerability ranking. Key informants, a total of 4 were also included as they provide key information concerning the subject matter.

3.5. Sample Size

Studying the whole population of people with disability in those 7 wards under research is impractical, however, sampling allows the researcher to infer information only from a subset of a population. It is therefore a sample which then represent the whole population under study. According to Engel and Schutt (2013), it reduces the workload, cost and makes it easier to have high quality information. Bearing in mind the rule that 'the larger the sample size, the more accurate the findings' (Kumar, 2011). The researcher was mindful of data saturation principle which originally is defined as a point beyond which "no additional data are being found whereby the researcher can develop properties of the category" (Glaser and Strauss, 1967. pg. 61) Therefore, for the purpose of this study 14 participants were considered on the basis of practicality and feasibility, giving a sample size of 25% of the study population. It has however, remained a subject of discussion where scholars have no consensus yet on data saturation as it differs with respect to the study design. For the purpose of this study, using data saturation estimation as guided by empirical guidance of theme prevalence within the population (Fugard and Potts, 2015), 14 participants were considered, equally representing 7 wards, 2 from each. 4 key informants were also considered since they have key knowledge on issues concerning people with the disabilities and the

implementation of the selected government initiative: FDMS program.

3.6. Sampling method

The researcher triangulated two of the Probability sampling methods to make sure that participants are a good representation of the whole study population of people with disabilities. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), probability sampling denotes drawing a sample from a sampling frame that is the target population in which all individuals have equal chances of being chosen, therefore the results are generalizable. The researcher firstly used Stratified probability sampling where the population as per each ward were divided into subgroups in respect of gender if available. Under this technique, the researcher used the disproportionate stratified sampling whereby the number of elements from each stratum is not influenced by its size (Kumar, 2011). The researcher used purposive sampling for the key informants.

3.7. Data Collection

Qualitative methods of collecting data were used. The researcher used in-depth interviews, Key informant interviews using in-depth interview guides. It is a tool or a method that involves structuring an interview making sure that key questions are not left out when conducting intensive individual interviews with participants exploring their perceptions on a specific program or situation (Boyce and Neale, 2006). Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) were also used gather information. It is defined as a qualitative research tool used to gather data from a selected group of participants on a particular phenomenon (Besnet, 2018). Data collection procedure was followed where the researcher sought and was granted permission to undertake this research from the Office of District Development Coordinator (DDC) as well as local Chiefs and kraal Heads where the wards under study were located. The researcher also had the letter of approval/ permission form the institution.

Throughout the course of research, the researcher made sure that respect for research ethics were observed and upheld. The questions on the data collection instruments

were designed in line with the study objectives which then formed the themes for the findings. Showkat and Parveen (2017) noted that in-depth interviews are mostly paired with other methods for example questionnaires and focus group discussions (FGDs). Out of these two, only Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was considered. The reason for this consideration was the fact that questionnaires are not feasible and compatible enough when dealing with people with disability (Trevisan, 2020). Also that among people with disabilities there is high illiteracy rate (Rupppar, Allcock and Gonsier-Gerdin, 2017) because of their compromised access to education. In this view, requiring them to write as they respond would lead them feeling frustrated, embarrassed, and shame which is against research ethics. The study used FGDs, participant and key informant in-depth interview guides as instruments. Data obtained from these tools or methods can therefore be reliable and credible for this study.

3.7.1 In-depth interviews

The study considered face-to-face in-depth interviews which helped in accurate screening. According to Showkat and Parveen (2017), in-depth interview is a qualitative research technique in which data is directly collected by the researcher from the participants. Interview method gives an interviewer to follow up on leads, interviewer can give out confidential information participants may not be willing to put in ink (Creswell and Creswell, 2018). Interviews are also a solution to illiteracy issues considering that illiteracy level is very high among people with disabilities because of their compromised access to education. It was used to get research data from 5 PWDs.

3.7.2. Key informant interviews

These are qualitative interviews for people with expert knowledge on the topic (Mumtaz, David and Ching, 2014). According to Muellmann, Brand, Jurgens, Gansefort and Zeeb (2021) argued that to get credible results from this tool, a researcher has to consider 4-6 key informants, hence for the purpose of this study, 4 key informants were interviewed. This tool gives a researcher an opportunity to establish rapport with key informants, to raise enthusiasm, interest and awareness around an issue as well as collecting detailed and rich data (Mumtaz et al, 2014). However, it is noted that reaching and scheduling

interviews with busy and difficult-to-reach respondents is so challenging (Muellmann et al, 2021).

3.7.3. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

(Besnet, 2018) defines Focus Group Discussions as a more detailed, in-depth group interview with discussion that is an extension of the interview approach. The chosen themes are explored in a controlled and orderly manner with the assistance of a facilitator. Most scholars agree on FGDs membership of 6-12 (Besnet, 2018. Lasch, Marquis, Vigneux, Abetz, Arnould, Bayliss & Rosa (2010). The researcher was the facilitator for this Focus group discussion For the purpose of this study, the researcher considered 9 membership size so that the group is large enough to accommodate a diverse group and small enough to ensure everyone participates. In-depth insights and rich qualitative data. With this tool, a researcher got in-depth insights and credible qualitative data (Yayeh, 2021) as it allows participants to have a discussion and agree on the understanding. This tool give a researcher an opportunity to obtain an in-depth data from collective discussion which personal interview cannot give (Neuman, 2014). It is important to note that in FGDs, it is possible to misinterpret the opinions of vocal people as representing the majority opinion (Yayeh, 2021) hence the need to consider other data collection tools to supplement each's weaknesses.

3.8. Data analysis and presentation

Neuman (2014) postulates that data analysis entails a systematic organization, integration and examination of data, searching for patterns and relationships among the specific details. In this regard, the thematic qualitative data analysis was used. It is a method of analyzing qualitative data by searching across the data set to identify, analyze and report repeated patterns (Braun and Clarke, 2006). The research used the thematic analysis approach which is defined as is a method of analyzing qualitative data by identifying, analyzing, and reporting repeated themes or patterns (Braun and Clarke, 2006). The process started by data coding which is a way of assembling and categorizing data to derive themes and patterns (Williams and Mozer, 2019). The research used a hybrid approach of combined deductive and inductive approach in

coding process. The objectives of the study formed the main themes of the study findings and from there, minor and sub-themes emerged accordingly. The researcher sorted the findings into chunks depending on the main theme that they align to. The analyzed data was then presented and interpreted using tabulation, graphs and descriptive summaries.

3.9. Ethical considerations

When one is conducting a research, there are ethical considerations in Social Work research are of great importance as ethics and principles of research are mandatory and have to be upheld to protect the participants (animals and/or humans) and avoid fraud. They do inhabit each and every stage of the research process (Sobocan, Bertotti and Strom-Gottfried, 2018). The researcher upheld voluntary and informed consent as he firstly explained the study, its purpose, what it means to participate and their due rights to all participants and key informants before they got to acknowledge on the consent forms upon their willingness (shown on research tools presented as postscript). According to Angel and Scutt (2013), voluntary and informed consent is when a participant is given all the information pertaining the research to decide to participate or deny. The research also honored and upheld privacy and confidentiality whereby the researcher promised the participants that their responses were never to be shared to anyone else and was recorded in a way that it can never be used to link with the respondents (Angel and Scutt, 2013). The researcher never recorded name of participants on the response scripts to adhere to confidentiality. Where direct quotations were included in this work, the researcher used pseudo codes which never suggested a clue of the one who made them. The researcher also used verbal and written consultations and permission seeking from the responsible authorities and local leaders to carry out this research as shown in the appendixes presented.

3.10. Feasibility of the study

The study was conducted with only a few obstacles here and there, thus in the view of the researcher. There was high cooperation from both the key informants and participants which the researcher owes to: good rapport which was achieved in the previous year during the time of fieldwork placement and also got maintained by good

standards and respecting of the research ethical considerations. The offices of the key informants are located in one geographical area hence convenience on the side of the researcher. Though the wards are sparsely located, the researcher was quite familiar with their geographical locations and the village heads provided the leads to the participants' residence. In this regard, little financial resources were used in undertaking this research.

3.11. Chapter Summary

This chapter has presented on the research methodology which was employed in this research. It outlined and expanded on the research design, study area, target population, sample size, sampling methods used, data collection process, tools and methods used, data presentation and analysis then finally ethical considerations for this study.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1. Introduction

This chapter presents data presentation, analysis and interpretation of the research findings from FGDs, the in-depth interviews with key informants and participants (PWDs). It aims at epitomizing the data which was collected from the field from a number of respondents so as to draw conclusions on the study. The focus is to present the research findings and demonstrates how they satisfy the research objectives and their significance to the study. Using thematic analysis, a number of themes and sub-themes were identified and are discussed below. To enhance the data analysis and organization, views of respondents were presented tagging respondents' names as KI 1(sex) - KI 4(sex), P1(sex) – P5(sex) and FGD 1 representing Key informant number, participant number and Focus Group Discussion 1 respectively with sex in brackets.

4.2. Demographic characteristics of the respondents.

4.2.1 Key informants

Designation	Organization	Sex
Social Development Officer (SDO)	Department of Social Development (DSD)	Female
District Agritex Officer	District Agriculture Extension Officer	Male

Field Officer	Community Technology Development Organization (COMTEC)	Male
District Focal Person	National Council of the Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe (NCDPZ)	Male

Table: 1 Source: Field Data (Rushinga District)

4 key informants were purposively selected and considered on the basis of their relevance to the study. In as such, their expertise and offices provided key information concerning the implementation of the program under study in relation to its scope concerning PWDs.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) which was selected was key in that, it is the government’s implementing department of the FDMS programs running in the district and also play a supervisory role to such programs being implemented by other Organizations. Thus, the Social Development Officers are the ones who understand this program better as they also conduct selection and registration of beneficiaries exercise. They are quite familiar with the FDMS manual, targeting and free food distribution as well as the inclusion and consideration of people with disabilities as one of the vulnerable members of the society.

District Agritex Office was also considered and provided key information as they also implement the program through agricultural input support and extension works. Their work is meant to boost food security from the household level to the localized community (district) level. They are also bound to support people with disabilities to raise their food security levels.

COMTEK is an organization partly implementing 2 of FDMS outlined in the manual which are Food for Assets (FFA) and nutritional gardens. Therefore, this organization was key in providing the relevant information to this study concerning the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in such strategies. The contribution of such

strategies could not be ascertained without their involvement in this study.

The district focal person for the National Council of the Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe (NCDPZ) was also selected and proved a key in this study as he is the one who fights and champions the consideration and inclusion of PWDs in all the programs in the district. He periodically holds meetings with ward focal persons where challenges being met by people with disabilities are shared and discussed then forwarded to the District Development Committee secretariat for agenda awaiting meetings. He was familiar with challenges PWDs are facing in the implementation of FDMS program.

All the key informants expected to partake in this study were available on arranged time and they participated in this study giving a response rate of 100%.

4.2.2. Participants (PWDs).

The primary respondents for this study were people with disabilities selected from 7 wards under study, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 19 and 21. The study expected to involve a total of 14 respondents that is 5 PWDs for in-depth interviews and 9 PWDs. All these participants managed to participate in this study giving out a response rate of 100%. This has been attributed to pre-booking which was done over the phone before the visit.

4.2.2.1. PWDs population distribution and wards representation

Ward	PWDs population size	Ward representation/ sample
1	6	2
2	11	2
3	10	2
4	7	2
7	9	2
19	8	2
21	6	2

Table: 2 **Source:** Field data (Rushinga District) **N=14**

All the wards under study were equally represented as the sample considered 2 participants from each to make up a sample size.

4.2.2.2. Nature of the disability among the participants

Number of participants	Nature of disability
4	Physical
2	Mental
1	Developmental
2	Visual
1	Autism Spectrum Disorder
1	Hearing
3	Multiple disability

Table: 3 **Source:** Field data (Rushinga District) **N=14**

Table 3 shows the distribution of nature of disability among the sample (PWDs). The highest number of participants falls under those with varied physical disabilities. Of the total sample, 13 participants managed to participate on their self. On the same note, 1 other participant had his caregiver interviewed on his behalf because of the nature of his disability. This is in reference to what was outlined in the delimitation of the study which mentioned that caregivers would be interviewed if there exists a communication barrier.

4.2.2.3. Age of the participants

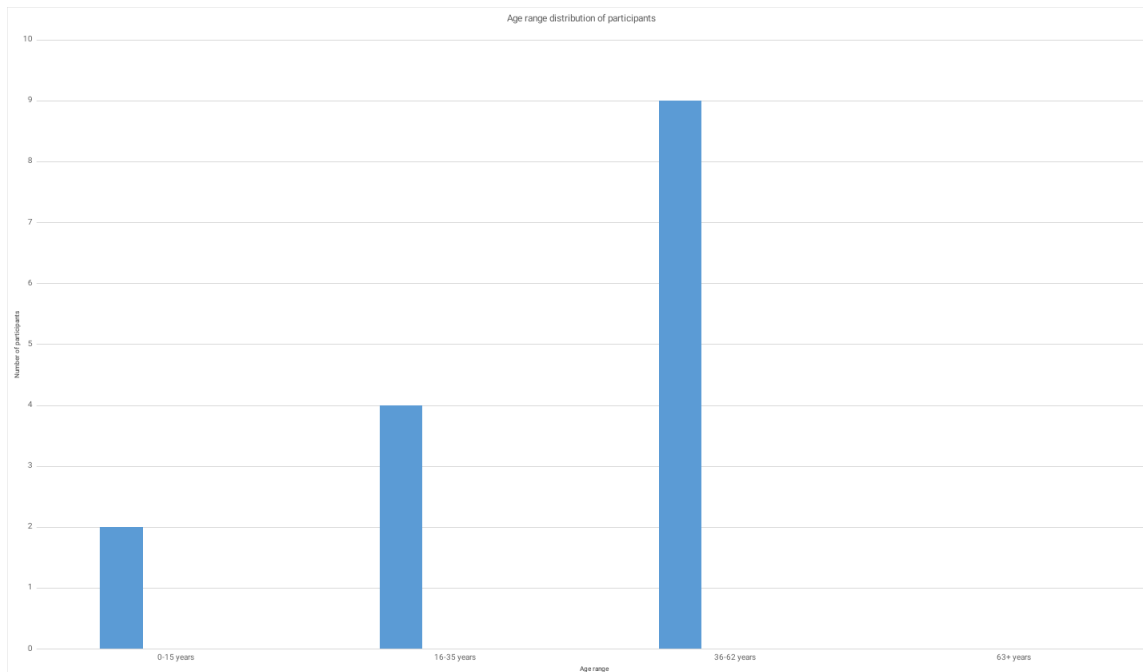


Fig: 1 **Source:** Field data (Rushinga District) **N=14**

Fig: 1 shows the age distribution of the participants. Noteworthy is that the highest proportion of participants fall under the economically able group despite their disabilities. There were no elderly persons with disability in the wards under study. There were relatively less number of children participants in the wards under study. This can be attributed to the fact that the community held assumptions about disability makes it uncomfortable for families to report disability hence, children with disabilities are always hid and kept inside their homes. This mind set is informed by the charity model of disability where disability is considered a curse and a useless liability to families and community (Choruma, 2007).

4.2.2.4. Sex distribution of participants

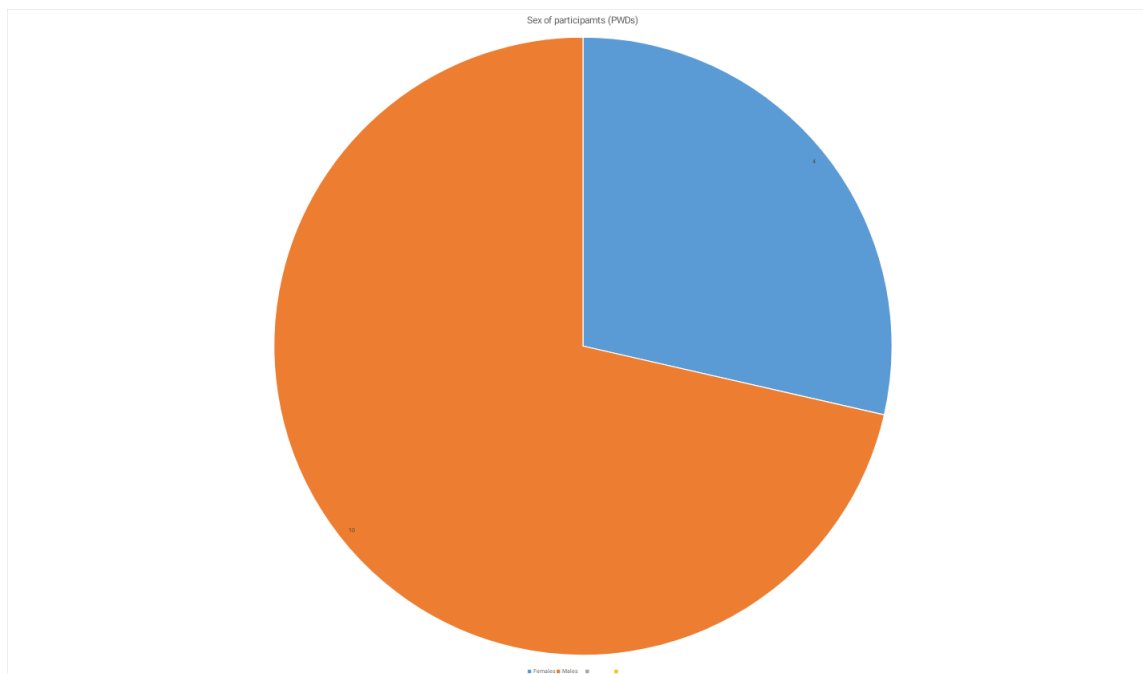


Fig: 2 Source: Field data (Rushinga district) **N=14**

The study had 10 male participants making up the largest proportion whilst female participants were the least, 4 in number.

4.2.2.5. Position in the family

Position in the family	Number of participants
Father	6
Mother	3
Child	1
Other	4

Fig: 3 Source: Field data (Rushinga District) **N=14**

The participants had varied positions in the family ranging from being a father, mother, child or others for example a grandchild and a nephew. Whichever the position one holds in a family, a household head or any of family members, literature review evidences that households with PWDs are more risk to food insecure as compared to

household without.

4.3. Contribution of FDMS in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

The research objective of this study was to find the testified contribution that the FDMS program is making in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. The field data showed the results presented in the sub-themes below. Each contribution was however measured in the interests of meeting the food security tenets of either or both of availability and utilization. This theme therefore presents such data.

4.3.1. Free food distributions.

The FDMS program's contribution in enhancing food security of PWDs and their households were testified in free food distributions which are done in the lean season. PWDs and their respective households are one of the key beneficiaries to the program. KI 1(f) confirmed this:

"...disability is among the 4 key categories used to measure one's vulnerability status, ...the government's policy makes sure that they are part of the program, ...we have a number of PWDs and their households who are on the beneficiaries list of this ongoing free food distributions."

Most of the participants also hinted on the same note with P4 (m) saying:

"Tinowana mapfunde kana chibage pamwedzi wega wega nguva yakunenge kuisina chokudya." This is loosely translated to: "We are given sorghum or maize on monthly basis during the lean season."

FGD 1 also alluded and agreed on the same note. The field data shows that there was an overwhelming response of acknowledging the contribution of the FDMS program through free food distributions therefore enhancing food security status among the PWDs. In the interest of weighing the contribution in meeting the food availability and utilization pillars of food security, there was a general discontentment across both categories of respondents: the key informants and participants (PWDs). The allocation given per month per beneficiary was of concern, highlighting a failure to meet the two said pillars of food security. The allocation was failing to meet even the objective 2 of

the program which states that it would provide adequate and nutritional assistance in its manual (MLPSSW, 2021). The allocation was labelled inadequate and mal-nutritional. To support this, KI 1 (f) said:

"...on the aspect of availability and utilization, the allocation is inadequate and not nutritional at all as we only provide the starches, just 10 kg of maize or sorghum per month, nothing more, even basic oil. This is a rural area, where people lack other means to provide themselves with supplements, think of PWDs, they are labour constrained. This means they go for sadza in the morning and still sadza in the evening, that 10 kg will only feed a beneficiary for less than 3 weeks at most. What will they feed on through the remaining days?"

Participants were of the same view together with the FGD1 arguing that the allocation was inadequate and mal-nutritional. P 2 (f) argued:

"10kg dzishoma, tonodya sadza mangwanani nemanheru uye mudyiro wedu wakasiyana nevari mumadhorobha. Kazhinji kacho tinozopedza mwedzi tisisina hupfu. Dai waitipawo nezvinaana mafuta zvaiva nani." This is loosely translated to: *"We eat sadza 2 meals a day, 10kg is inadequate. Our feeding habits are different from those in town, we usually reach the month end without mealie-meal. It was better if they were giving us other basics like cooking oil."*

The above sentiments acknowledge the contribution of the FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs and it affirms the Rights-based model of disability as it realizes their rights to social assistance, however, the contribution falls short to meet the program objective of providing adequate and nutritional support which translates into availability and utilization pillars of food security. This is in line with Choi, Fram and Frangillo (2017) who argued that government social protection programs are often inadequate. This then validates the Charity model of disability as well as assumptions of the study in chapter 1, that PWDs are viewed as passive recipients of the welfare for which they cannot question but rather be thankful of the charity they are receiving (Mthetwa, 2019).

4.3.2. Agricultural Inputs Support

The data obtained from the field shows an acknowledgement of FDMS program through agricultural input support to the PWDs and their respective families in a move to support their involvement in the crop production for subsistence use thereby enhancing their food security status. These inputs are in the form of seeds and fertilizers. KI 2 (m) confirmed the contribution as shown in his words below:

“Yes agricultural inputs support is other way the FDMS program is enhancing the food security status of PWDs, and when we do the registration we make sure we register them and they definitely receive those inputs in form of seeds and fertilizers..., so that at the end of farming season, they have something to harvest from their fields.”

Most of the participants also highlighted and confessed the contribution of the program in inputs support. One of the participant, P 5 (m) made the following sentiment:

“Abi yangu parikutiitirawo zvirinani sevanhu vanehurema, nokuda kwezvaturi hatishande saka nemudhuri wawekuita mbeu nemafertilizers, chokwadi zvinotemesa musoro, asi chirongwa ichi chirikutipawo mbeu nemaferlizer, minda yedu inonge ichitoonekerawo.”

This is loosely translated to, “Considering that we are labor constraint, we cannot afford to buy fertilizers and seeds with these exorbitant prices charged. This program is therefore giving us such inputs free of charge, and our fields are well performing.”

FGD 1 also hailed agricultural input support as it empowers PWDs in as far as crop production for subsistence purposes is concerned. Across the data from the respondents, agricultural inputs support was acknowledged to be making a contribution towards addressing food insecurity among PWDs, meeting the availability pillar of food security. However, the data shows a trace of concern over the contribution citing nature of disability as a restricting/limiting variable for most PWDs for a strategy to bear much anticipated outcome. This was noted across the data from both the key informants and

participants. KI 2 (m) confessed that:

"In as much as we want to involve everyone who has a disability, we have challenges with some PWDs especially those with severe physical disabilities, they end up selling those inputs, however, we have been engaging the communities for concerted efforts so that such PWDs are assisted during the farming operations because their welfare will still go back to the community."

This key informant highlighted that for this strategy to produce results it is up to the community for concerted efforts and are taking up that responsibility through engaging the communities. There have been good results where communities were already up for concerted efforts for example in Ward 7. The data obtained shows that, indeed the contribution of agricultural input support is making strides in increasing food availability levels among PWDs. This is then in line with the provisions of the National Disability Policy (2021) and the NDS 1 (2021-2025). It also does use the lens of the rights-based model of disability.

4.3.3. Productive works

Across the data obtained, there was an acknowledgement of the contribution of FDMS program through productive works. The strategy is called Food for Assets (FFA) being supported and implemented by Community Technology Development Organization (COMTEC) as a partner. Acknowledging the contribution, KI 3 (m) was quoted saying:

"...in implementing this FFA strategy under FDMS program, PWDs do partake, as in line with the government policy, we have about 10% of beneficiaries, ...nature of disability remains an issue and a restricting condition for their full participation, however, in extreme cases, a household member would assist. ...this has improved the food availability and utilization status/levels for households of/with PWDs."

The beneficiaries provide labor for 15 working days doing productive works then receive their monthly allocations comprising of 50kg of maize, 10 kg of pulse and 5 liters of cooking oil. The contribution has tried to improve the food availability and utilization

pillars of food security. The implementation depends on the availability of funding, hence, frequency is sometimes compromised. Only a handful of participants mentioned and hailed this contribution which is attributed to the fact that those PWDs who were participating in other strategies under this FDMS program were not considered. KI 3 (m) highlighted that they are also using FFA to support PWDs by assisting them in land preparation for Pfumvudza in their fields. This has partly made agricultural inputs support a success story in boosting food security levels of PWDs. P 5 (m) was quoted making the following sentiments:

"... zvatinopihwa patinooonoshanda, zvinombochovha, zvirinaniwo paine mafuta asi zvinoitwa apo neapo." This is loosely translated to: "...the allocation is better, at least cooking oil is included but it is not done so often."

Most of the participants who hailed this contribution acknowledged it better in terms of considering other basic commodities but bemoaned its infrequency. This was also a concern raised in the FGD 1. This supports the idea which was noted by Waltz, Schippers, Gittins and Mol (2018) of inadequacy and infrequency of government social protection programs meant to take care of PWDs.

4.3.4. Nutritional gardens

Nutritional gardens have been hailed for improving nutrition in the diet of PWDs and their respective households. This concept of gardening has been implemented in 4 of the 7 wards under study. There is crop production of variety of vegetables and the participation of PWDs was being promoted but however in many cases the nature of disability was a limiting factor. The data across the respondents showed that this concept has insured that PWDs and their respective households have vegetables and other supplements from the garden insuring a better approach to availability and utilization pillars of food security. KI 2(m) revealed that:

"We uphold the government policy of 10% for the PWDs, however especially those with physical disabilities do really have challenge though we have tried that the facilities be disability friendly like toilets. This concept of gardening has made a significant change in their lives improving food availability and utilization. When

the production has produced a surplus, they even sell to meet other home expenditures. We only have a challenge soon after winter until the onset of rain season, water levels in our dams depreciates."

The nature of disability has been noted a concern across the data as a limiting factor to PWDs full participation. However, the contribution has been commended. Considering that Rushinga is lies in the dry region which experiences very high temperatures especially soon after winter through the rain season, water for irrigation remains a challenge during such period. This also accounts the failure to establish the same concept in other 3 wards under the study which happens to be drier. One of the participants (PWDs) stated that:

"Maghadheni aya arikutiyamura, tavakukwanisa kuzvirimira muriwo mumwe wekutotengesa, kare zvainetsa nokuda kwekushaikwa kwemvura, izvezvi tave nemadhamu." This is loosely translated to: "Nutritional gardens are really helpful to us as we are now able to do crop production even to for selling to other villagers. It was not possible before since we had no source of water, but now we have dams."

The obtained data across the participants, key informants and FGDS showed an acknowledgement of the significant contribution of the program through this gardening concept. This is taking up the rights based concept in disability issues as it enhances economic and social participation of PWDs. It also helps to prove that PWDs are persons of abilities However, dryness in some of the wards and in some months of the year stalled the efforts.

4.4. Challenges being faced by PWDs.

The other main theme identified in and across the obtained data from the respondents showed that a number of PWDs were having access barriers or challenges in the implementation of the program. These challenges are presented in form of sub-themes below.

4.4.1. Misconception of disability

The data from respondents reiterates that especially the community holds biased views in regard to disability. Instead of providing an enabling environment to PWDs, communities are themselves a barrier to participation, inclusion and disability mainstreaming. Disability is still considered inability as the communities are lacking support they should give to the PWDs so that they participate at equal ground with everyone. Cases of disability are not being reported because of fear of stigmatization from the community. Data collected from the three data collection methods showed an overwhelming concern on this. KI 1(f) noted that the communities lack disability knowledge as quoted saying:

“When we go for registration down there in the villages, you can see that a person with epilepsy and those with mental disability are not considered disabled and this leads to a compromised ranking exercise. ...to avoid stigmatization by the community, some cases of disability are not being reported... they are kept indoors and chained. ...the household remains food insecure because no case is known.”

The obtained data showed that some names of people with severe physical disability sometimes have their names dropped from nowhere in the beneficiary list of agricultural input support. The community holds the view that disability is a senseless liability to the family and society at large and it resonates well with the study assumptions mentioned in chapter 1. This biased knowledge of disability is greatly increasing disability exclusion and inhibit PWDs participation in the FDMS program leaving them still food insecure despite the implementation of the program. This is so typical of the meaning the community attach to disability being informed by the charity model of disability. As what the model explains, the community considers PWDs as not normal and a liability to them.

4.4.2. The program and nature of disability

Across the recorded data, interviewed key informants and PWDs highlighted a concern over restricted or a hindered participation and exclusion. As highlighted, this is due to the program nature of lacking disability accommodating modalities which are ready for

even complex disability cases. Across the strategies, especially people with physical disabilities have been less accommodated as nature of their conditions posed a restricted participation. To be a beneficiary of this program a person has to be a registered and ranked beneficiary which is done at registration meetings for which semi and non-ambulatory PWDs have mobility restriction. During the registration exercise of free food distributions, those who fail to show up had a risk of being left out. KI 1(f) was quoted saying:

“...people who are physically challenged, when it comes to beneficiary selection, they may be unable to attend the meetings meaning there are chances that they can be left out and when it comes to collecting their allocation there are high chances of them sending someone to collect on their behalf, so when the proxy is not faithful enough, they may not get their share as received.”

Measures to address this were being put in place, but some, PWDs fell victims. It all comes back to the community’s awareness and perception about disabilities. This is best explained by the charity model of disability lens. However, it is good to note that when the community is sensitized and knowledgeable about disability, community or its members would join hands together for the betterment in the welfare of PWDs and embraces the mindset informed by the rights based model of disability (Council of Europe, 2017).

4.4.3. Misappropriation of their share

The data showed that whilst the government is making efforts to reach out to PWDs, grassroots structures and individuals have been pointed for huge misappropriation of PWDs’ share in the program. Some PWDs narrated how they never and some partially received their share but have been all registered. Some PWDs do fail to attend distribution exercise on pay points and proxies sometimes temper with their share. When it comes to agricultural inputs support, a number of cases were narrated where the grassroots structures involving VIDCOs (Village Development Committees were involved in the misappropriation of inputs for names of PWDs. The data obtained showed that the leadership took more for themselves at the expense of the supposed

beneficiaries who are PWDs. This has greatly undermined and compromised the effectiveness of the program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs and their respective households. To affirm this, P 4(m) was quoted saying:

“Ndakanga ndaka nyorwa pavanhu vaizowana mbeu nefertilizer, musi wekunopihwa wakasvika ini nezvandiri zvaisakwanisa nemhaka yeurema hwandinawo, kuGMB kure. MaVIDCO ndooanositirongera transport asi apa vakati zita harina kudaidzirwa, ndakazonoona mudhumeni ndinzwisise sezvo makomba epfumvudza ndakachera, vakandibuditsira list raiva neumbowo hwekuti ndakawana ini ndisina, asi papaper raishandiswa musi uyu, zita rangu raisavapo. Nakazonzwa kuvi vamwewo vakaremara vakangavaitirwa, maVIDCO nevamwe vakuru ndoovakaita izvi nekumawards mamwe.”

This is loosely translated to: “I was registered for the inputs support, upon the distribution day I couldn’t go to GMB, my condition could not allow me so as always, VIDCOs arrange transport for our share but this time they said my name was not confirmed. I visited our ward Agriculture Extension Worker and produced a paper different to the one used on distribution day, with an evidence that I received my share. So I heard from other PWDs, the VIDCOs had done that as a team in conspiracy with other leadership details across the wards”

The FGD1 with emotions bemoaned this calling it a social ill and a major blow against the enjoyment of due PWDs’ rights. This then shows that misappropriation of the share supposed to be given to PWDs by the local leadership details has somehow decimated the supposed outcome of FDMS program in enhancing food security. This is however against the principles guiding the implementation of the program laid out in the operation manual. This resonates well with the assumptions of the study (Chapter 2) which outlined that misappropriation of assistance attests misinformed mindset of leaders and the community towards disability.

4.4.4. Politicization of some strategies of the program

A score of data from the participants has revealed that some politically motivated people and local leadership have been hijacking the agricultural inputs support to

pursue their political interests. 4 participants revealed that they had their names scratched off the registration register for the inputs because of their different political affiliations. Some local leadership details have been pointed for even making public threats for people supporting a different political party claiming that the program is meant to benefit only those who are pro-ruling party. This is however against the principles guiding the implementation of the FDMS program as outlined in the FDMS Manual. This has undermined the supposed contribution of the program to improve food security status of PWDs and their respective households in as far as availability and utilization is concerned. To affirm this, P 25(f) was quoted saying:

“ZvePolitics tinoshaya zvinopindira papi nechirongwa ichi, madzisabhuku anototaura pachena kuti tavakuenda kuma elections, vanoisa bhora musango tovaziva, hamuna chamunowana kuma inputs, tinofara kuti havana simba rakadaro kunezvemagwere kunyangwe vachityityidzira vanhu zvakadaro. Kuma inputs, vakuru ivava vanowana zvakawandisa zvimwe vachizotengesa, isu tichinzi vanhu 4 pabag rimwe refertilizer.”

This is loosely translated to: “We do not know how politics relates with this program. Local leaders make open threats against those who ascribe to opposition parties as we are heading towards general elections. They say they will always make sure that we will not get something. We are happy they have no such power in free food distributions as they claim. They get much for themselves and us sharing a single bag of fertilizer quarter each.”

This proves that whilst the program is set to do much in improving food security among PWDs through inputs support, meddling politics in the implementation even at the grassroots level is stagnating the efforts and posing a challenge and an access barrier to PWDs (Anokye, Basiru, Hammond, Mohammed and Micah (2019). All this taking roots from the pre-conceived biased information on disability deeply rooted in the charity model of disability. Hence, their food security levels are remaining low despite the program implementation.

4.4.5. Poor representation

Across the data from the participants, there has been a concern by PWDs on lack of working representation. They have claimed that they face challenges which they forward to the local leaders, those implementing the programs and the local DPOs but nothing has shown improvement. The data shows that leaders and those implementing the program are neglecting their duty to hear them, protect their rights and advance the concerns as in line with the National Disability Policy (2021) and the principles guiding the program. Whilst distribution help desk set by the Department of Social Department (DSD) during every free grain distribution has been appreciated in terms of PWDs representation, participants have described how other strategies for example agricultural input support and Food for Assets (FFA) as the worst in lacking reception and representation of disability issues. This has been a challenge for PWDs which they believe is contributing to their food insecurity despite the implementation of FDMS program. To affirm this, P 1 was quoted saying:

“Kuti unyorwe kune vanonetsekana nekufamba nokuda kwehurema ndezve luck, vanokanganikwa nguva yakawanda or vanozoiswa kwekupedzisira, we lack representative voice, kuma inputs havakwanisi kuuya, ende ndizvo zvinopa vanotibira vaye mukana.”

This is loosely translated to: “It is very luck you get registered for those who are semi and non-ambulatory, they are forgotten so often or they get ranked last well after other undeserving people. We lack representative voice. Some of us cannot be able to physically come and in the absence of that representative voice, it gives a chance for those who sneak out our share.”

This has therefore has left some PWDs still food insecure despite the implementation of the program to address the issue.

4.4.6. Bureaucracy

According to Poocharoan (2013), bureaucracy relates to a system of endorsed or sanctioned ways, rules and/or principles of operation which are considered too complicated that an organization or a policy uses. The data form the participants

showed a concern of bureaucracy as a challenge that PWDs are facing in accessing the program. Across the data, PWDs highlighted two concerns. The first was that a number of them have no national identity cards because of their compromised access to Civil Registry services citing nature of their disability as a cause. On registration, those PWDs without National Identity cards face challenges. Secondly, according to the FDMS manual, one of the guiding principle is that “the government does not feed in retrospect” and PWDs cited that this has done more evil than good to the beneficiaries in as far as food availability is concerned. This principle applies to the free food distributions as the government do not allow distribution beyond the last day of the month, in as such, all wards remaining beyond such date are forsaken for that month. PWDs showed their concern against such principle arguing that the government did not consider extreme weather conditions which might delay distributions beyond month end for example rainfall. This way, it threatened food availability aspect of food security among PWDs. Both key informants and PWDs alluded to the same bureaucratic principles posing an access barrier to the program. P 3(f) was quoted saying:

“Mumwe mwedzi, takazongodzi chikafu hachichauye, totomirirazve mumwe mwedzi, kwaiva nemvura inenge week nekuraudzira yakakanganisa kufamba zvakanaka kwechikafu saka havabvumirwe kuramba vachipa kana mwedzi waperava vasati vapedza.”

This can be loosely translated to: “This other month we just heard there was no free grain distribution for that past month, we had to wait for the next one. We had received prolonged rains for a week and half so they said it was not feasible for grain to be safely loaded, transported and distributed in such conditions. In as such, they are not allowed to do distributions beyond month end.”

The sentiments expressed showed concern over this bureaucratic principle, suggesting it should be scratched off. It undermines their right of access to assistance aimed at addressing their food insecurity situation. The data questions if the government has taken heed of extenuating cases like this one of bad weather conditions that could delay such distributions. This principle was accused of worsening PWDs conditions by

threatening food availability.

4.5. Recommendations given to the challenges identified

Across the data from both the key informants and participants (PWDs), expressed with a deep concern they stormed on the challenges that PWDs are facing in accessing the FDMS program. These challenges have negatively been affecting and still leaving them food insecure at times despite the implementation of this program meant to address their conditions in as far as food security is concerned. A number of suggested recommendations have been coined from across the sentiments expressed during the interviews. These are presented in the form of sub-themes below:

4.5.1. Adequate and comprehensive package

The data shows that both PWDs and key informants who participated in this study recommended if the government would consider reviewing the allocation PWDs are getting especially under free food distribution in terms of quantity (availability) and nutritional value (utilization). The current allocation has been only 10kg of grain per beneficiary per month. All the participants recommended the provision of adequate and comprehensive package under this FDMS program. One participant P 3(f) was quoted saying:

"...vakatipawao mahandouts anotikwanirawoo kwemwedzi wese uyewo zvinaana mafuta nezvimwewo zvakakosha..." This is loosely translated to, "The program should consider helping us with adequate and comprehensive packages."

The FDG 1 also recommended on the same note proposing for an assistance which is adequate and comprehensive considering that PWDs are more food insecure than they so-called able bodied counterparts. KI 1 (f) was quoted saying:

"...yes, we have made the same recommendations when we submitted our monthly distribution reports. It is our hope that the responsible offices will consider this (adequate and comprehensive assistance) request."

To really address food insecurity woes among PWDs, the participants strongly

emphasized a must-review of the beneficiary allocation to increase in terms of quantity to meet their feeding habits and the aspect of including other basic food items such as at least cooking oil to meet the utilization pillar of food security. Without this consideration, those who participated argued the program would still fall short of realizing its objectives and do less in addressing food insecurity issues among people with disabilities. It is also noted that failing to address this, the program will be also failing to champion the rights-based approach to disability whilst promoting the charity approach/model.

4.5.2. Scratching off the bureaucratic principles and requirements

Existing across the data obtained, there was a suggestion of the review of the program and the definite scratching off of the bureaucratic requirements and principles guiding the administration and implementation of the FDMS program. Agreeing to the fact that generally and mostly PWDs lack access to civil registration services (Hutagalung and Faedlulloh, 2021) KI 1 (f) made these sentiments:

“...the mandatory requirement on the possession of National Registration card as the basis for registration should be relaxed when dealing with this PWDs.”

In this view, when doing registration, those cases of other PWDs without National Identity Card should be considered and justified, for the sake of their welfare in as far as addressing food insecurity is concerned. ‘The government does not feed in retrospect’ is the other bureaucratic principle which existed across the data as a concern. Key informants expressed a concern over this too. They argued that like the case of incessant rains which they once experienced, is a natural phenomenon which can delay the distribution as planned but the beneficiaries would be still in need of food. Failure to consider that would definitely lead into the program doing less sometimes, in addressing these ever rising cases of food insecurity among PWDs. According to the field data, this bureaucratic principle should be unanimously revoked and that is a way to uphold the rights-based approach to disability issues.-

4.5.3. Disability sensitization and awareness in communities

All the challenges PWDs are facing in the implementation of FDMS program at the

grassroots level were attributed to the community's pre-conceived biased knowledge on disability. The data shows challenges for example, lack of support, lack of disability representation, politicization of the government programs, misappropriation of PWDs' allocations and lack of participation in other strategies constituting the FDMS program. According to KI 3 (m), the communities hold to wrong knowledge, ideas and philosophy about disability for example that they are a senseless liabilities and they should just be contented with the charity they receive (informed by the Charity model of Disability). Reference to the need by the responsible government departments and partners to embark on community sensitization and awareness on disability issues was constantly made. P 2 (m) made the following sentiments:

"Nharaunda naivo vatungamiriri vedu ava, ndavamborambe vachidzidziswawo nekutaurirwa vanzwise chinhu chinonzi hurema, pamwe vangationawo nekutigashira savanhu vatorinewo kodzero sevamwe vanhu vese!"

This is loosely translated to: "Let the community and our dear leaders be constantly sensitized and educated about disability, such that they will start to see and consider us as humans with rights like anybody else!"

As the data reveals, in good conscience, it is only when the community understands disability properly that the PWDs start to have the rightful and due position, participation, respect, support and appreciation from the community (Council of Europe, 2017). All the biased pre-conceived ideas, philosophies and mindset towards disability is informed by the charity model.

4.5.4. Community support

The aspect of community support exists across the data obtained from the field. It was portrayed as fundamental in catalyzing and complementing government efforts so that the FDMS program would enhance food security among PWDs. As put forward by those who participated in this study, the success of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs is pinned on the community support which they claim was still lacking up to the time of this study. Only in one ward out of seven where community support has been appreciated. According to KI 4 (m):

“There is need for concerted efforts from the community to compliment government’s effort in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.”

Community support was therefore recommended for better results in as far as FDMS program is concerned in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. It has been acknowledged as key and a determinant to success of initiatives meant to benefit PWDs (Choruma, 2007). Rights based approach to disability can never be upheld when there is no community support since the community is a main stakeholder in the implementation of the program, hence the philosophies it holds toward disability issues positively or negatively affect the implementation.

4.5.5. Disability representation

The data obtained shows that lack of representation of PWDs yet created many other challenges which those with disabilities found very hard to realize the contribution the FDMS program was making in addressing food insecurity. This then created an outcry as shown across the data, for those responsible and in leadership positions to be religious about their obligations in upholding the rights of PWDs as commended in the supreme law of the land: The Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) and the National Disability Policy (2021). P 10 (m) was quoted saying:

“We are down trodden in this society, no one cares about our rights, no one represents us, no one hears our voice when we say something. If we maybe have working representation, our concerns regarding this program would be heard and considered.”

A recommendation was hereby made as revealed in the data, that those responsible, in leadership positions and those implementing the FDMS program should take in arms their responsibility to satisfactorily represent PWDs. This would make the program have a better impact and contribution in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. Representation for PWDs has been promoted by all the structures from the United Nations level down to the country level suggesting entrusting such leadership roles to PWDs since they understand better disability and how does it feel to be disabled (Article 29 of UNCRPD). This was also suggested here.

4.5.6. Timely disbursement of funds and allocations

A concern was raised especially among the key informants implementing the program that there was an issue of late disbursement of funds into their district accounts to implement the program. As shown in the data, it led to delayed food distribution which is then sometimes affected by other unforeseen factors to spill over the month end into a new month of which as per the guiding FDMS operational manual the government does not feed in retrospect. KI 1 (f) made the following sentiments regarding this:

“...if the higher offices take consideration of the need for timely disbursement of funds into district account, for sure we won't have the issue of delayed and forfeited distributions which sometimes disadvantage two or three wards like the case I mentioned earlier on.”

The data reveals that late disbursement of funds and delayed/forfeited distributions were decimating the supposed contribution of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. This was also noted as what characterized government social protection initiatives (Arkorful, Anokye, Basiru, Hammond, Mohammed and Micah, 2019).

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction

A focus of this chapter is centered on the summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

5.1. Summary of the findings

The study aimed at establishing the efficacy of FDMS program in addressing food insecurity among the special populations of PWDs at household level. A number of strategies have been rolled out under this program. These include free food distributions, nutritional gardens, agricultural input support and Food for Assets (FFA), the so-called productive works. The findings have shown an acknowledgement of the few strides this social protection initiative has made in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. As revealed in the findings, most of the participants testified a slight positive change in their food security status/levels. The contribution includes an increase in crop harvests, increased nutritional crops production, food handouts during lean season and after productive works. The findings prove a positive adjustment in PWDs feeding habits through an increase in number of meals per day as well as nutritional value of their meals.

However, the study went on to weigh the contribution against the standards set out by the program itself that is '*to provide adequate and nutritional food assistance*'. These translates into utilization and availability pillars of food security. On this note, most participants acknowledge that the program was far from performing up to the very own

set standards leaving a lot of PWDs still food insecure despite the implementation of the program. The findings show that the contribution made was not enough to bail out PWDs and their respective households from food insecurity.

The program itself, as revealed in the findings, has programming flaws which include: (a) bits of lack of disability sensitivity and friendliness, (b) finance associated and procedural bureaucracies, (c) inadequate and non-comprehensive packages. At the grassroots level, implementing organizations/partners and community have also shared the spoil through allowing politics, wrong attitude to disability leading to stigmatization, under-representation and misappropriation of allocations due to PWDs to mar the contribution of the program.

The findings show that food insecurity disproportionately affects PWDs more than their able-bodied counterparts as well as other special populations. In this light, there was lack of collaboration between the government and communities in working together to address a number of aspects as highlighted above. In its current form, the findings have gestured charity model of disability as what characterizes more the program in partly programming and implementation.

5.2. Conclusion

Based on this study, conclusions drawn are:

5.2.1. People with disabilities are among the worst affected populations by food insecurity. Though the intensity of the effect is subject to the severity the disability one has, the study has shown that generally, PWDs are affected by food insecurity more than their able bodied counterparts.

5.2.2. The FDMS program has a limited contribution in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. That contribution is evidently shown by the provision of incomprehensive free food package of only and inadequate grain, poor performance of nutritional gardens initiative because of incessant dry conditions and infrequent food humpers after partaking in productive works.

5.2.3. PWDs have many complex challenges they face apart from food insecurity. This situate them at a more vulnerable position, such that they can be robbed of or dispose

on themselves that inadequate assistance handouts from the FDMS program. Taking for example, they often dispose agricultural inputs given to them for money so that they attend other dire needs.

5.2.4. The FDMS is ineffective to adequately address food insecurity among the PWDs because of bureaucracies and irregularities which it characterizes. The allocation for the program given to PWDs beneficiaries is inadequate and non-nutritive. Taking for example 10 kg of grain per month allocation, the findings proved that it is inadequate for rural people who have no means to buy food supplements for other meals. It is non-nutritive as the package takes no consideration of other basic items like cooking oil, for a nutritious package since they often lack means for income to provide for themselves. Government programs are often, and also true of FDMS, characterized by bureaucracies which are a threat to financial and other resource top-down flow which negatively affect implementation, hence the desired outcome remains unachievable. It leads to distribution delays and sometimes forfeited because of the principle that 'the government does not feed in retrospect.'

5.2.5. The FDMS program falls short of addressing food insecurity among PWDs because of its failure to be whole disability sensitive and friendly. It fails to acknowledge the varying nature of disability as the most strategies are only compatible with mild disability beneficiaries whilst being inconsiderate of severe disability would-be beneficiaries. In strategies like Food for Assets (AFA), agricultural inputs support and Nutritional Gardening, the participation and inclusion of PWDs is limited despite the at least 10% disability inclusion and participation policy by the government.

5.2.6. Government programs are often politicized, and also true of this FDMS program. Politicization of Social Protection programs gives room for corruption, misappropriation of resources and all forms of malpractices which lead to deviation from program objectives. Some of the beneficiaries end up getting partial or none of the assistance they were supposed to receive. Those implementing end up being partisan or those with political power end up imposing decisions on implementing teams which is unethical. Some of PWDs are left food insecure despite the implementation of the program.

5.2.7. Community stands as an important stakeholder in the implementation of FDMS program and the success or failure of the initiative lies in their hands. This study has largely shown that the wrong perception and attitude of the community towards disability has partly led to the failure of the program to adequately support people with disabilities and address their food insecurity plight. The community biased knowledge and attitude towards disability gave room for corruption, misappropriation of resources/allocations and under-representation of PWDs. Some of the strategies under this program highly demand community support for their success which the community was not ready to give in some wards. As a result, PWDs have received or witnessed so little from the program and are still food insecure despite a noted slight positive change.

5.3. Recommendations

The recommendation made based on this study are:

5.3.1. Social workers and all relevant stakeholders must lobby for the recognition of the rights of PWDs in education and the wide spectrum of work (market) so that they become self-sufficient. Resources should be availed to support education of PWDs and their enrolment for vocational training programs compatible with their respective nature of disability. This would capacitate them to earn income and definitely become food secure.

5.3.2. The government (responsible Portfolio Committee for Social Protection) should review the program and involve the community in planning and programming. This would allow the government to re-adjust the strategies and allocations to be more comprehensive and adequate so that food insecurity of the beneficiaries (PWDs) is adequately addressed. Social workers and all relevant stakeholders must push for this agenda setting.

5.3.3. There is need to embrace and support economic participation of PWDs as suggested in UNCRPD, other frameworks and policies. Social workers should perform as brokers as they link PWDs with resource systems so that they start doing self-income generating projects like poultry and livestock production to boost their income levels. This way, food insecurity is addressed as they would have capacity to cater for

their other needs on themselves.

5.3.4. The government should revise the FDMS operation manual and do away with bureaucracies and irregularities characterizing the program. This would allow free and timely yet accountable top-down flow of resources for timely implementation of the program. This would do away with delayed and forfeited distributions thereby enhancing the program for a better contribution in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

5.3.5. The government must make sure that the initiatives made to address food insecurity among the PWDs must be disability friendly and sensitive to ensure their full participation in the varying nature of their disabilities. It must also improve policies concerning disability inclusion and participation are enforced and adhered to. This would ensure a fair participation of PWDs in the FDMS strategies to address food insecurity.

5.3.6. Strict monitoring of the program would timely detect and inhibit political elements to infiltrate in the government social protection programs implementation. Government may also consider passing strict penalties for all the malpractices tempering with the implementation of its social protection programs. This will deter political influence and hijack of the program by politicians. The program would then serve sole objectives and beneficiaries.

5.3.7. Social workers and all responsible stakeholders must collaborate to conduct disability awareness campaigns more often to correct the community's biased attitude towards and knowledge about disability. This would have a positive impact in insuring all required community support in the face of implementation of FDMS program and to revive indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in addressing food insecurity among PWDs.

5.3.8. The researcher recommends a further study of the wide spectrum of government social protection system in addressing food insecurity among PWDs. Also to consider other pillars of food security, that is accessibility and stability. This would help in the programming of each and every social protection program to best address the rising problem of food insecurity among the PWDs as well as other disability related needs. It

would also help in making the contribution more measurable since food security constitutes all of the 4 pillars, indispensably.

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APPENDIX 1 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS.

PARTICIPANTS' INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE.

For PWDs

Introduction.

I am Nyambunga Farai, a fourth year student studying Bachelor of Social Science Honors Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a study on the title, "*The efficacy of Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rushinga District,*" in partial fulfilment of the requirements of my studies. In this study, I am focusing on **Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy** with special consideration of **availability** and **utilization** pillars of food security. I therefore, am asking for your participation. Your participation is pinned on your willingness and consent; however, you are allowed to withdraw when you wish to. It is my hope that information obtained will contribute for better in future programming. The information obtained is purely for academic purposes and confidentiality is at the core of this study.

Zita rangu ndinoitwa Nyambunga Farai, ndichidzidza paBindura University of Science Education iri mudunhu rino. Mukuzadzikisawo zvinodiwa pazvidzidzo izvi, ndirikuita

tsvakurudzo irikutarisawo kubatsira kurikuita chirongwa chimudunhu rino cheFDMS mukuderedza kana kupedza dambudziko rekushaya zvokudya zvakakwana uye zvinehutano kunoita abi edu vanehurema. Ndinokumbirawo rubetsero rwenyu mutsvakurudzo iyi, zvakadero, hamusungirwe kundibatsira uye makasunungukawozve kusaenderera mberi pamunenge madira mavekundibatsira. Chivimbo changu kuti tsvakurudzo iyi ichabatsira mukuwandudzika kwechirongwa ichi. Zvichawanikwa mutsvakurudzo iyi zvichashandiswa muzvidzidzo chete. Ndichakoshesawo tsindidzo zvekuti hapana achazoziva ndimi makataura zvamuchandibatsira nazvo.

SECTION A: Participant’s information

1. Age range? / Mune makore mangani?

1 – 15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 -35 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
36– 62 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	63+ years and above	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Position in the family / Chinzvimbo chamunacho mumhuri

Household head	<input type="checkbox"/>	family member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify)/ Zvimwe (Donongodzai):			

3. Nature of disability / Hurema hwamunahwo

Specify / Donongodzai:

SECTION B: Questions relating to the study

1. May you outline the contribution of FDMS program is playing in enhancing food security among PWDs?

Mungatiwo ndezvipi zvirikuitwa ne chironywa ichi cheFDMS mukuzama kuti vakaremara nemhuri dzavo vave nechikafu nguva dzose?

2. Has the assistance package and/or the support you are given through this program reflecting or a measure towards assuring adequacy and nutritious food?

Rubetsero rwamunowana kuburikidza nechironywa ichi runewo rupande rwakadii mukuzama kuti mawana chikafu chakakwana uye chinehutano?

3. As a PWD, what are the challenges you/other PWDs are facing in the implementation of the program?

Ndedzipi nhunha uye zvinetso zvamungati imi kana vamwe vaneurema varikusangana nazvo mukuparurwa kwecgironywa ichi?

4. Whilst we sum up, in what ways can the program be implemented better to address the shortcomings and enhance food security among people with disabilities?

Mukupedzisa nhaurirano ino, sekuona kwenyu nekuda kwezvose zvamurikusangana nazvo zvamataura, ndezvipiwo zvamungafunga zvingaitwa kuti chironywa ichi chiwandudze hupenyu hwevanhu vanehurema takatarisa kupedza dambudziko rekushaikwa kwechikafu?

Thank you for your time/ *Ndinotenda nenguva nerubatsiro rwamandipa.*

APPENDIX 2 DATA COLLECTION TOOL.

KEY INFORMANT IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

For Key Informants

Introduction and consent form.

I am Nyambunga Farai, a fourth year student pursuing Bachelor of Social Science Honors Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a study on the title, “The efficacy of Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rushinga District,” in partial fulfilment of the requirements of my studies. In this study, I am focusing on Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy with special consideration of availability and utilization pillars of food security. It is my best hope that information obtained will contribute for better in future programming. The information obtained is purely for academic purposes and confidentiality is at the core of this study. Your participation is pinned on your willingness and consent; however, you are allowed to withdraw anytime without losing

your rights. Assurance is therefore given, that the study will not harm you or your esteemed office as the information obtained will be of benefit to your organization and participants.

Key informant's signature:

Date:

Designation:

Organization:

.....

Scheduled question

1. May you outline the contribution of FDMS program in enhancing food security among PWDs?
2. In relation to the objective 2 of the program, has the assistance package given to PWDs reflecting 'adequate and nutritious' tenets of food security?
3. In your view, what could be the program challenges or shortfalls that PWDs are facing, leaving them food insecure despite the implementation of the program?
4. In what ways can the program be implemented to address shortcomings and enhance food security among PWDs?

Thank you for your cooperation!

APPENDIX 3

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Introduction.

I am Nyambunga Farai, a fourth year student studying Bachelor of Social Science Honors Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a study on the title, "*The efficacy of Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rushinga District,*" in partial fulfilment of the requirements of my studies. In this study, I am focusing on **Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy** with special consideration of **availability** and **utilization** pillars of food security. I therefore, am asking for your participation. Your participation is pinned on your willingness and consent; however, you are allowed to withdraw when you wish to. Be rest assured that confidentiality is at the core of this study. It is my hope that information obtained will contribute for better in future programming. The information

obtained is purely for academic purposes.

FGD member number	Consent (sign)	sex	Nature of disability
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Outlining the contribution of FDMS program in enhancing food security among PWDs.

Mungatiwo ndezvipi zvirikuitwa ne chironywa ichi cheFDMS mukuzama kuti vakaremara nemhuri dzavo vave nechikafu nguva dzose?

2. Has the assistance package and/or the support you are given through this program reflecting or a measure towards assuring adequacy and nutritious food?

Rubetsero rwamunowana kuburikidza nechironywa ichi runewo rupande rwakadii mukuzama kuti mawana chikafu chakakwana uye chinehutano?

3. As a PWD, what are the challenges you are facing in the implementation of the program?

Ndedzipi nhunha uye zvinetso zvamungati imi kana vamwe vaneurema varikusangana nazvo mukuparurwa kwecgironwa ichi?

4. Whilst we sum up, in what ways can the program be implemented better to address the shortcomings and enhance food security among you?

Mukupedzisa nhaurirano ino, sekuona kwenyu nekuda kwezvose zvamurikusangana nazvo zvamataura, ndezvipiwo zvamungafunga zvingaitwa kuti chironwa ichi chiwandudze hupenyu hwevanhu vanehurema takatarisa kupedza dambudziko rekushaikwa kwechikafu?

Thank you for your cooperation.

APPENDIX 4

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



P. Bag 1020
BINDURA, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263 - 71 - 7531-6, 7621-4
Fax: 263 - 71 - 7534
socialwork@buse.ac.zw

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date 28/11/2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to advise that FRAN NSAMBUNGA Registration No.

B. 191218B is a BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS

DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK student at Bindura University of Science Education who is conducting a research project.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study and where possible conduct interviews as part of the data collection process.

Yours faithfully

Dr. M. Zembere
CHAIRPERSON - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

APPENDIX 5

All correspondence to be addressed The District Development Coordinator
Referencè:

Telephone:- 2392
(066212)
Email:ddcrushinga@gmail.com



ZIMBABWE


MINISTRY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
RUSHINGA DISTRICT
P BAG 2110
RUSHINGA

26 January 2023

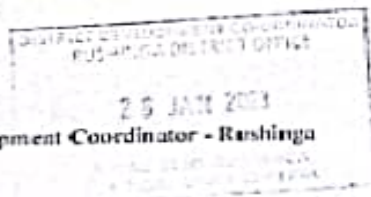
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Permission has been granted to FARAI NYAMBUNGA (B1912188), a student from Bindura University of Science Education to undertake an academic research in Rushinga District.

Kindly assist in any way possible.


L. R. Dube

District Development Coordinator - Rushinga



TURNITIN REPORT

The efficacy of Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rishinga District.

by Farai Nyambunga

Submission date: 07-Jun-2023 11:12PM (UTC+0300)
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The efficacy of Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies in addressing food insecurity among persons with disability in Rishinga District.

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