

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

Impact of Community Development Fund in Growth and Expansion of Community Empowerments and Livelihoods Projects: A case of Makonde Constituency (MashWest Province)

By

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance

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Bindura, Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT

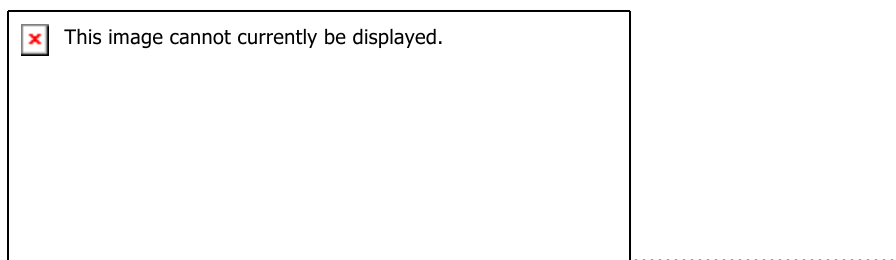
The study examined the impact of community development fund in the growth and expansion of community empowerment and livelihood projects (CDF) in Makonde constituency of Mashonaland West Province. In 2010, the community development fund was initiated in Zimbabwe with the purpose of providing local authorities with discretionary funds whose utilization is solely for the provision of social services. CDF utilization was expected to occur within a socially inclusive participatory framework. Since 2010, all the districts in Zimbabwe have been eligible to receive the funds (Ministry of Local Governance and Housing). The major objective of the study was to assess how community development fund contributes in the growth and expansion of community empowerments and livelihood projects and the level of community participation in constituency development funded projects in Makonde constituency. The general objectives of the study were; to find out the nature of community participation in the identification, implementation and monitoring of CDF projects in Makonde constituency; to establish factors accounting for the level of community participation in CDF projects in Makonde constituency. The study used a qualitative research methodology. The study found that community participation takes on different stages of CDF project processes. The nature of community participation for the majority of local communities in CDF projects is generally limited to consultation and use of unskilled labor. Local communities are generally not actively involved in project identification, implementation and monitoring processes. The study found that the factors accounting for the level community participation in CDF projects included lack of awareness and knowledge of CDF, lack of knowledge about the right and opportunities for participation, inadequate information dissemination, poverty and poor community attitudes towards participation. Therefore, there were recommendations noted through the study which include, that the government and NGOs should strengthen community awareness on the value of the role of the locals in rural or community development through education and training.

Declaration Form

I Sharon B Nyarugo B212459B hereby solely declare that this research is my work and not a product of someone's unless where otherwise acknowledged.

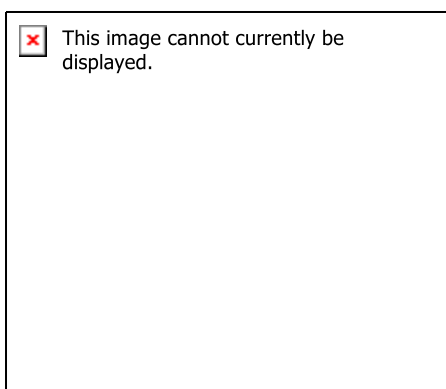
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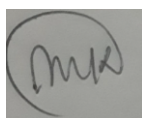


Date:18./.....08...../25.....

Supervisor's Name:..... Dr. R.CHIPAIKE



Supervisor's signature:



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Date:..... 20...../08..... 2025

Chairperson's Name:..... Dr J KUREBWATIRA.....

Chairperson's signature

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Nyarugo and my brother to whom I owe academic inspiration. Thank you for believing in me and you never gave up. You have been

my pillar of strength throughout .To God, I have never had s faithful friend like you, I will always praise your name and draw my wisdom from you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research project without doubt was a product of many who dedicated their varying talents, time towards its completion. My sincere gratitude is extended to Dr Chipaike, my supervisor for his patience, proficient guidance and support throughout the learning process. A deserved special thanks as well to my family for their emotional, social and financial support throughout the project. I also want to acknowledge the residents from ward 8, 13 and 14 for providing me with data during this study.

ACRONOMS

CDF.....	Community Development Fund
CDO.....	Community Development Officer
CDC	Constituency Development Committee
FED.....	Community Federation
GDP.....	Gross Domestic Product
MP.....	Member of Parliament
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organisation
WHO.....	World Health Organisation

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Since achieving independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has implemented decentralization projects, all aimed towards fostering development. According to Dresang (1986), Zimbabwe's administrative structure at independence consisted of "diffuse collection of government agencies enjoying a significant degree of autonomy and only weakly regulated by any central, coordinating entity, whether bureaucratic or political." The administration was tasked with converting the

inherited system "into a vibrant local governance framework that would promote long-term public engagement and participation" (Chikulo 2009:98).

Following the attainment of independence, the government initiated reforms designed to reshape inherited institutions, with the objective of improving local governance and increasing public involvement in developmental projects. Since its independence in 1980, the Zimbabwean government has made several steps to decentralize, Hampwaye (2008:348). The decentralization attempts have included a combination of the three basic forms of decentralization: de-concentration, delegation, and devolution.

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was created in 2010 to address poverty at the local level by subsidizing community development via elected CDOs .It is noted that "CDF is reinforcing the significance of the constituency service function role of parliamentarians because they are now able to implement small-scale patronage-driven developments in their respective constituencies, thereby conforming to community's developmental expectations." According to (Francis et al., 2009: 5), Community development fund offer materials for growth of societies. CDF intends to shift national materials to society in tackling dependency. In addition to bringing facilities and services nearer to the populace, this initiative aims to enhance the quality of life within local communities. It seeks to allocate financial resources to local communities to bolster development projects at the constituency level, ultimately leading to successful development.

Community Development Funds (CDFs) exemplify a form of close-to-the-people governance and policymaking within decentralized development. In this framework, Members of Parliament (MPs) and local governments serve as the main providers of social services to communities. This approach can be seen as an effective way to enhance the quality of life in local communities, thereby supporting sustainable livelihoods.

In Malawi, the Community Development Fund aims to address urgent, the immediate requirements for community development must be addressed to guarantee that rural development is equitably allocated throughout the nation. In Kenya, the purpose of the CDF is to foster development and alleviate poverty at both the community and constituency tiers. In Uganda, the CDF aims to combat poverty at the grassroots level, particularly in areas where other governmental poverty alleviation strategies have proven to be less effective. In Jamaica, the fund is dedicated to enhancing human and infrastructure development at the community and constituency levels, while empowering Members of Parliament to respond to the needs and priorities expressed by their constituents.

The projects that qualify for financing under CDF must be of a developmental character and provide benefits to various district stakeholders. Notably, project selection is crucial to the success of any development project. The constituency development committee (CDC) and the local community make preliminary selections of CDF-funded initiatives (MoLGH, 2006). The CDF guidelines outline a range of eligible projects for funding. Typically, appropriate projects encompass water supply and sanitation, infrastructure development such as roads, agricultural initiatives, educational programs, health services, social amenities, recreational activities, and various other economic ventures. In terms of project eligibility, the CDF's rules are rather flexible. However, circumstances deemed essential by the local populations might justify the use of the CDF for such projects and programs.

1.2 Purpose of the study

Understanding the role of societal development fund in fostering the advancements of society growth initiatives and livelihood programs.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Although widely supported by the participatory development paradigm, the research has not fulfilled its promise of ensuring the practical and meaningful involvement of local people in community development projects. It can be argued that the concept has fallen short of expectations due to the marginalization of the intended beneficiaries. This study aims to review the Community Development Fund with the goal of proposing specific solutions to promote more effective engagement, growth, and empowerment at the local level.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To identify mechanisms that facilitate community participation in the development and livelihoods projects.
- 2 To bring forth the problems experienced with the involvement of local community members in actively contributing to development initiatives
3. To provide suggestions.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What mechanisms can be used for community participation in advancement of societal growth and livelihoods programs in Makonde?
2. What implications encountered by local residents in implementing community development fund in Makonde.
3. What interventions can be carried out to improve the contribution of community development fund on community livelihoods and growth?

1.6 Assumptions of study

The study assumes local residents in Makonde constituency have implemented interventions to advance contributions of CDF on livelihoods projects community growth.

The study also assumes that the local residents in Makonde constituency came up with different mechanisms that can be used for community participation in growth of community empowerment and livelihoods projects.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The results of this research will greatly benefit local residents, particularly in schools and clinics. It aims to establish a comprehensive knowledge base regarding both theoretical and practical aspects of socio-economic development for students and scholars, along with suggestions for future research in this field. Furthermore, the study will enhance the understanding of the relationship between stakeholder engagement and socio-economic development. This will equip local development actors with the necessary evidence to take action. Additionally, this research will provide valuable insights to the CDF and Central Government regarding public policy matters, highlighting areas that require intervention to promote sustainable development within local communities.

1.8 Delimitations

The researcher shall investigate the impact of community development fund in Zimbabwe's local communities. Only one Constituency will be considered in this study which is Makonde Constituency in Mashonaland West Province and 3 wards which are ward 8, 13 and ward 14 in the same Constituency.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

The researcher noticed that respondents did not want to provide information especially the ones against the ruling government. In dealing with these issues, the researcher might as well encourage

CDF committee leaders, members and the locals to engage and participate in strategies that would improve the growth and expansion of community empowerments and livelihood projects in within the constituency

1.10 Definition of key words

- **Community development** According to Schutte (2016) community development could be defined as indigenous development which involves community participation to enhance peace and progress of the community and its people
- **Community Development Fund** is a financial resource that supports community projects aiming to improve the quality of life, economic growth and social wellbeing of local residents.
- **Poverty** is economic deprivation where individuals lack financial resources to meet their basic needs as food, shelter, clothing healthcare and education.

1.11 Dissertation outline

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter introduced the study by providing the introduction, background and problem statement. It laid a foundation of this research and showed a blueprint of how the research is going to be conducted

Chapter 2: Literature review and Theoretical Framework

The chapter focuses on literature review and theoretical framework of the study. The literature review examines academic papers, books, and various sources related to a specific research topic.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology and Design

The chapter focuses on the methodology that the research is going to implement in order to conduct a research. This chapter elucidates the diverse methodologies employed in the collection and analysis of data pertinent to the research. It encompasses an overview of the research paradigm adopted for this study, detailing the research strategies, data sources, data collection methods, and the instruments utilized.

Chapter 4: Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

This chapter focuses on gathering and presentation of the findings. The data will be gathered from the interviews with participants

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations and Areas of Further Research

The chapter focuses on conclusions, summary and recommendations of the research

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights and assesses available literature relevant to Community Development Fund. Literature review was also helpful in establishing existing gaps, some of which were addressed by this study.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study would be guided by stakeholder theory and agency theory.

2.2.1 Stakeholder theory

The stakeholders' idea posits that managers must have a common understanding of the value they are in a position to produce, bringing all stakeholders to a round table. It demands that managers have a clear understanding of their commitments to the company and the sort of connections they develop with other stakeholders along the road as they steer the vision and purpose of the organization (Pedersen and Bartholdy, 2004). Engagement of stakeholders is essential to the success of the CDF, as it is via this that the organization's vision, purpose, and objectives will be realised, hence producing value for its intended beneficiaries (Simiyu et al., 2014).

2.2.2 Agency theory

An agency relationship is formed when one or more parties known as the main contract or engage another party, known as the agent, to execute services on his behalf and then transfer decision-making power to the hired party. A relationship of agency occur if the proprietors are geographically spread, have insufficient technical skills and knowledge, or if they are too many to manage the business in an organized way. It also posits that, in order to maintain control over their organization, principals must address two issues: first, they must pick the agents, and second, they must oversee the agents' activities to ensure they are acting in their best interests.

2.3. Overview of CDF as a decentralization tool for socio-economic development

In improving the lives of the rural poor and boosting their involvement, socioeconomic development seeks to create solutions aimed towards their betterment. Kuntajar (2006) states that the majority of local governments in emerging countries rely on central governments and donor funding for their local socioeconomic development initiatives. In Brazil, subsidies from the central government contribute for up to fifty percent of local government funding for rural and urban

development, according to Litschig (2010). According to Okidi and Guloba (2006), the majority of local governments in Uganda fund up to ten percent of their local development budgets through local resources. In Tanzania, the Central Government provides up to 72% of all local government funding (Kuntar, 2000). Since the last two decades, decentralisation has been a driving force behind the achievement of local development. Local governments are increasingly tasked with the planning, implementation, and financing of local development initiatives within their respective domains.

The Community Development Fund (CDF) is a decentralized financial allocation effort designed to guarantee that a significant portion of the national budget reaches the constituencies of members of parliament (Tsubura, 2013). This aids in the funding of local and small-scale development initiatives, such as the construction of health facilities, schools, and water distribution systems, among other important projects. According to Tsubura (2013), CDF is a government innovation that gives the local representative the right to choose the selection criteria for local development projects under his jurisdiction.

2.3.1 Infrastructure and socio-economic development

Infrastructure development has long been the subject of theoretical and empirical investigation. It is known in numerous names, including overhead capital, economic capital, economic overheads, as well as fundamental economic facilities (Srinivasu & Rao, 2013). (Srinivasu & Rao, 2013). Infrastructure is a collection of distinct physical infrastructures which act as medium for the supply of public goods and services. Infrastructure development is a crucial and fundamental component for economic growth and development. It contributes to the modernization and commercialization of the agricultural sector, the growth of enterprises, and the enhancement of the level of life via the supply of water and power. It describes the success or failure of an economy in terms of maximizing production and reducing poverty levels over the long run. Infrastructure that is adequate and efficient has a favorable effect on all economic activity and the overall health of an economy. According to Todaro (1981), capital accumulation in the form of new investments

in equipment, land, buildings, and human resources all contribute to the growth of future productivity and revenue.

2.3.2 Social welfare and socio-economic development

According to the Merriam-Webster medical dictionary, social welfare consists of structured governmental and private social services for the benefit of society's underprivileged groups (Webster 2015).

Education as a social welfare good: The economist Theodore W. Schultz, stated that the human potential for production is greater than all other types of wealth combined. According to Schultz (1961), employees are a sort of capitalists since they acquire skills and knowledge through investing in education and other forms of human capital. This explains the productive supremacy of the economies of the first countries (Oliver, 2004).

Health as a social welfare good: It is often believed that the link between health and money is entirely unidirectional (Marmot, 2002). This suggests that as economic circumstances improve, health conditions also improve. According to Preston (1975) and Marmot (2002), it has been extensively proven by economists and epidemiologists that prosperous countries have, on average, better health outcomes than less prosperous ones. A country's wealthier citizens enjoy greater health than those in comparably poorer ones. In the same manner, proponents of public health argue that health is an economic engine as it accelerates economic growth. Similarly, within countries, the health results of more wealthy groups are, on average, superior to those of less affluent ones. CMH (2001) reports that wealthier nations spend more on health care than poorer ones. Within the framework of an economy, a person with limited access to personal money will be less healthy than an individual with more wealth. This link between money and health may also be seen in the reverse manner, i.e., as health standards improve, wealth rises. Therefore, this paradigm positions health as an economic engine. In a variety of ways, a healthy community also fosters economic development (Bloom & Canning, 2008). Good community health boosts

productivity at the individual level, which, when aggregated, increases economic performance at the community level (CMH, 2001). According to the notion, deteriorating population health results in low external investments.

Security as a social welfare good: Peace is the absence of war, but genuine peace entails more than the absence of hostilities. It is the capacity to live a normal life and move freely without the danger of violence from criminals, from unfair government agents, and from hostile forces (Dumas, 2006). Security, on the other hand, refers to the state of being protected from starvation, disease, and tyranny (Tschirgi 2005). According to the Human development report (UNDP, 1994), security concerns appear in the areas of economic empowerment, food supply, the environment, personal security, community security, and political security. According to the research, global integration and development objectives cannot be achieved unless all policymakers accord the security-development nexus primary attention.

2.3.3 Constituency Development Fund in Kenya

Auya and Oino (2013) performed a study in South Mugirango Constituency to determine the influence of the Common Development Fund (CDF) on Kenya's social development. The emphasis of the research was on the availability and accessibility of health and education facilities in North Mugirango before to and during the implementation of CDF. It focused on the proximity to the closest health facility, the condition of the buildings, the availability of vital pharmaceuticals, ambulance services, medical equipment, and the ratio of health care professionals to patients. The final finding of the research was that CDF has been instrumental in improving the lives of people in North Mugirango.

2.4 Summary and Gaps

The information about the impact of the CDF on Zimbabwe's socio-economic progress since its inception in 2010 is incomplete. While it is notable that previous decentralization programs

were of a temporary nature, the CDF has been in existence for the last 12 years. The majority of research on CDF focused on beneficiary participation, legislative frameworks, and budgetary management. It is evident that the existing empirical research about the impact of CDF on local development in Zimbabwe has not been effectively used. Therefore, previous studies have been unable to establish a correlation between CDF and socioeconomic progress in Zimbabwe. This necessitates this study in order to establish the connection between the Common Progress Fund and socio-economic development in Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

The chapter described the research methods of the study. It showed the strategy, demographic, sample size, and equipment utilized. In addition, this part detailed the protocols for data collection, ethical issues, data presentation, and data analysis. Choosing the suitable research technique is crucial to determining the procedures that must be performed to complete the study (Leedy and Ormrod 2005).

Research Philosophy

The research philosophy underpinned this study was Interpretivism. Research philosophy refers to the underlying assumptions and beliefs that guide the researcher's approach to the investigation of a phenomenon (Saunders et al., 2019). Interpretivism is a research paradigm that emphasizes the subjective interpretation of social reality and acknowledges the role of the researcher in shaping the research process (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). By adopting an interpretivist stance, the researcher gained a nuanced and contextual understanding of the program's implementation and its influence on the community members.

3.2 Research Methodology

The research is qualitative in nature. The study investigated CDF impacts on growth and growth of community empowerment and livelihood initiatives within local communities in Zimbabwe. The research methodology outlined the essential steps to be followed in gathering and analyzing the data for the research.

3.3 Research Design

Research design is a skill used to gather data by interviewing different people. A study design provides a logical justification for these decisions. The study was conducted using a case study research approach, with the influence of community development funds focusing on the development and enlargement of community empowerment and livelihood programs in Zimbabwe, which serve as the unit of analysis. This will be an exploratory research, since the effects of CDF in Zimbabwe are still developing.

3.4 Target Population

In this study the target population was essential for gathering appropriate data on the influence of the CDF on the development and scaling up of community and livelihood projects. The study targeted the entire population in the constituency because they are the beneficiaries of CDF projects in the Province.

3.5. Sample size

The responders were included with sufficient knowledge of the subject in the sample. Interviews are to be conducted with three ward development committee members, one community development chairman, one community development secretary, three ward councilors, five Chinhoyi town council employees, and seventeen home respondents. Vasileiou et al. (2018), in a comprehensive review of qualitative studies conducted over a 15-year period, indicated a sample size of twenty to thirty interviews as adequate for data saturation.

3.6 Sampling Procedure

A sample is a subset of the population that can be studied affordably and used to generalize about the characteristics of the population with relative ease. The research was based on a qualitative approach, hence qualitative sampling techniques were used. The used sample method is a vital component of the overall sampling strategy.

3.6.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, also called judgemental sampling, involves selecting a sample based on an informed understanding of the population, its traits, and the research objective, as described by Babbie (2010). This sampling technique does not require underlying theories. Purposive sampling gave the researcher room to acquire data which was important to the CDF. The practice of purposeful sampling was efficient since it reduced the time required to pick individuals.

3.7 Data Collection and Instrumentation

Data collection is a systematic way used to get information about a research. Through the use of interview guidelines, information was gathered from important informants. Interviews facilitated the researcher's ability to clarify questions to respondents resulting in a proportional increase in understanding and trust between the two.

3.7.1 In-depth interviews

The issue of CDFs is politically sensitive, local community members are not always accessible for interviews because of fear of persecution, therefore organizing interviews was a bit difficult. The researcher was able to seek permission from the local authorities to conduct interviews with the intended informants.

3.7.2 Focus group discussions

A focus group is a group conversation on a specific subject that is organized for research purposes. Kitzinger (1995:299) believes that focus group discussions stimulate involvement from persons afraid to be interviewed individually or who believe they have no input. The discussions in the focus groups are essential as participants may feel more at ease sharing their opinions in a group than individually.

3.8 Data presentation and analysis

This study was mostly qualitative; descriptive and explanatory data predominate over statistical ones. Data analysis is used to seek for correlations between visual data, textual data, and verbal data in order to draw conclusions (Chambliss and Scutt 2010:250). The acquired data in this research was presented and analyzed as it will be described and shown in the next chapter.

3.8.1 Validity and reliability

A research instrument or test is considered legitimate if it measures what it is intended to measure (Orodho, 2005). Before utilizing the interview guide to collect data for the research in Makonde Constituency, a pilot was conducted. The purpose of pre-testing the research instrument is to determine whether the respondents understand the interview questions, whether the questions will effectively gather the necessary data for the study (Orodho, 2005). A research instrument test is reliable if it regularly gives the desired findings. According to Kothari (2003), instrument refers to the degree of internal consistency or the stability of measuring equipment.

3.9 Ethical considerations

According to Burns and Grove (2010:85), research ethics are concerned with safeguarding the rights of research participants and others in the study context. Neuman (2007:48) asserts that ethical challenges stem from worries, dilemmas, and disputes on what constitutes good and wrong in doing research. Autonomy, secrecy, and data fabrication are significant ethical issues expected to be faced when the research was conducted.

3.10 Chapter summary

The chapter captured the research design, target population, sampling methods, data collection techniques, approaches for data presentation and analysis, along with ethical considerations.

CHAPTER 4

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The research data analysis is shown in this chapter. To report the qualitative data from the conducted interviews, content analysis was used along with qualitative data. By expressing both the themes and part of the taste of the actual words, the data was analyzed.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 1: Rate of interview responses

Wards	Number of targeted interviews	Interviews	Response rate	Gender of respondents	
				(F)	(M)
8	10	10	100%	5	6
13	10	10	100%	4	6
14	10	10	100%	5	5
Total	30	30	100%		

With the targeted population, a 100% return rate is seen in the response rate table above. Interviews received a 100% response rate. Due to on-time attendance at interviews, a total return rate of 100% was attained. Aaker (2000) asserts that a response rate of more than 50% allows for adequate inferences regarding the subject of the study. The 100% response rate was utilized by the researcher since it was more than 50% and would satisfy the study's goals. The connection between

the respondents and the researcher was essential as it helped develop the trust and confidence they needed to cooperate to attain such a high response rate.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

Research findings are the outcomes of the study

4.3.1 Implementation of community development fund leading to growth and expansion of community empowerment and livelihoods projects.

On answering this question, most of the respondents mentioned that implementation of CDF led to employment creation and as a result they were able to feed their families. One respondent was quoted saying, *“Through CDF funds, we are now able to get income from this Agriculture project...., we are very happy with such development in our community, we are now able to feed our families.”*

One key informant stated that; *“CDF funds have led to the rehabilitation of 10 Schools and two clinics.”*

Another key informant (Chairperson) stated that; *“CDF funds have enabled procurement of borehole materials, leading to the repairs of various boreholes.”*

Also, a key informant (local councilor) stated that; *“Area which were difficult to access are now accessible due to the road works done through the CDF funds”*

Result findings from this study are connected to the study done by Melamed when he stated that The East Asian Tigers' success has been linked to significant expenditures in manufacturing that requires a lot of manpower. This has really created enough jobs for the populace, which has helped to lower poverty (Melamed et. al, 2011). According to Loayza & Raddatz, (2010), construction and agriculture are two more industries that may have a good impact on the reduction of poverty. However, Khan (2007) argued that over time, different economies' ability to create jobs in different sectors does vary. (Khan, 2007). In several Asian economies, growth is no longer as effective at creating jobs as it once was. This demonstrates that the benefits of creating low-wage

jobs are just temporary. The World Bank's Robert Zoellick emphasized that employment is the finest safety net for everyone during the 2008 financial crisis (Melamed et. al 2011). They added that people would be best protected from threats if they could move freely across various local economic sectors.

4. 3.2: The level of community participation in identification, implementation and monitoring of CDF projects in Mashonaland West.

A growing number of people are fed up with the government and need to witness democracy done in more participatory ways. Particularly those who are marginalized and underprivileged, community improvement and community connection frequently work with certain groups of the population. People's quality of life and sense of wellbeing may be improved. Giving everyone the chance to live a life of high quality is the goal of health and education for all. (European Sustainable Development and Health Series: 4 (2002).

According to the research, there are four key ways that the Mashonaland West, Makonde community gets involved in CDF programs. These include; Participation in the project identification process. Community members are involved in identification of development priorities in the area which is the first key involvement of the community. The second key involvement aspect is during the time of project implementation, the community is involved in providing labour be it manual labour or technical on areas they are skilled at. The community was also involved in providing local materials such as pit sand and farm bricks on construction projects. Local builders are also engaged to provide skilled labour. The third way of involvement is through project monitoring, in this instance members of the ward development committee oversee community member's involvement, and assist technical supervisors of the projects to monitor progress. Fourthly, local representatives who serve on the CDC and are members of the project implementation committees ensure community involvement in CDF projects.

In Mashonaland West, members of the community gather together with village leaders and delegates to choose projects. According to the study, there was a low level of public participation in meetings held to identify CDF initiatives. It was determined that just a small percentage of the respondents from households had ever gone to a public meeting.

People who responded that they had gone to meetings reported that their local councilors had asked them to start meetings at the beginning of the year to voice their opinions on the projects that should be funded by the CDF. It was revealed when one participant stated that, *“Even though we are called to the meetings, we do not have much say in what happens as the MP and Counselor dictate what needs to be done. Members of the CDF committee are selected along party lines.”* (Respondent, 13 February 2025).

4.4 The challenges faced by local residents in CDF effective implementation.

4.4.1 Socio-economic difficulties

The respondents cited social and economic factors as obstacles to community involvement in CDF programs. One participant from ward 14 said that, *“We don’t have enough time to attend CDF meeting because we will be busy looking for food to feed our families.* Because of this, the majority did not have enough time to participate in other processes, especially if they cannot immediately see the advantages of doing so.”(Respondent, 13February 2025).

“Think about it shero, if they need me to attend the meeting and my family is going hungry at home and there is somewhere where there is a casual job being provided, where do you think I would choose to go?” a different respondent chimed in, *“Without a doubt, I would go where I would ultimately benefit directly.”* (Respondent, 13 February 2025).

Baum (1998) observed this type of response and remarked that people typically prefer to see a direct advantage for their participation, or to have something supplied. Though participants knew of the issues, they do not believe it is urgent or within their power to take action because their top priorities are keeping their families fed and employed. As a result, some of them would expect

payment for their labor. Respondents acknowledged that many individuals lacked the time or desire to participate in the CDF project. When compared to the other issues families faced, the CDF projects were not given priority.

4.3.3.2 Limited Access to Information and Information Dissemination

One participant propounded that *"Although we are encouraged to participate in CDF projects in this community as community members, we don't know where to start from. It is unknown to us whatever projects are to be funded utilizing CDF "(Respondent, 13 February 2025).*

According to another respondent who stated that, *" most community members are unaware of these CDF projects because they infrequently call for meetings where we may learn more about CDF."*(Respondent, 13 February 2025).

It is critical that individuals always have access to information about their neighborhood. Kotze (1997) highlights the importance of communication in ensuring community engagement.

4.4.2 Poor community awareness of CDF

The majority of the respondents, according to the survey, were unaware of the fund's source, purpose, the community's part in the CDF, or how it was used in the constituency. This is evidenced by a respondent who said that *"I have heard of CDF and it is a good thing. I don't know where the money comes from, but the MP brings it here to support the people and elevate their living standards. "*

The research found that the majority of respondents were ignorant of CDF based on the information they supplied to the study. Some people claimed they had never heard of CDF or been exposed to its procedures. According to Khawaja , A,I (2004), the degree of awareness and understanding influences citizens' participation in civic life and their level of involvement since it affect their level of access to and use of the fund. Additionally, it will affect how the community holds the responsibility bearers responsible. Lack of knowledge of CDF will make it difficult for the local population to resist undue influence over decisions involving its use. Members of the local community might find it challenging to guarantee their participation in the project identification

process and execution if they aren't provided with enough information about CDF, including its goals and its funding source. This could possibly lead to an increase in corruption hence negatively affect monitoring and accountability systems.

4.4.3 Politicizing of community development funds

Politicizing of community development funds was an implication faced in effective implementation of projects. Respondents said Councilors and the MP were using the funds to buy votes for the coming 2023 general elections. One respondent revealed that when he said, *"Our Councilor and MP are using CDF funds to get support and choose only their party members to be involved in CDF projects, leaving those siding with opposition parties as they are regarded as sellouts."*

These findings concur with Tsubura (2013) who draws the conclusion in his research on the politics of CDFs in a comparative context that the CDFs have led to numerous power battles in Asia and Africa.

4.5 Interventions that can be implemented to improve the contributions of CDF on community empowerment and livelihoods projects.

4.5.1 Enhancing democracy

Most respondents identified freedom of choice as a key intervention strategy that could improve CDF's impact on community empowerment and livelihoods. This view was reinforced by one respondent who remarked that, *"People need to be free on choosing a project that helps their society and also the power to monitor it as well"*.

4.5.2 Do away with Exclusion

Effectively institutionalizing participation faces major challenges because of the community's diverse demographics, such as variations in political affiliation, age, tribe, and gender, affecting both the community and other stakeholders to collaborate effectively and remain

united in development initiatives, it is essential that all parties adopt the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes. Engaging the community can serve as a powerful tool against social exclusion by ensuring that all stakeholders have a voice.

4.5.3 Removing obstacles to community involvement

Most development organizations frequently ignore these elements, despite the fact that they have a negative impact on participation and deprive the community of its power. Therefore, it has been determined that community involvement is both an outcome of empowerment and a successful empowerment approach. Participation itself has the potential to naturally empower individuals and the society to better understand their circumstances and take more control over the variables influencing their life. People's sense of wellbeing and quality of life may be improved as a result. Development procedures should be sensitive to knowledge variability, according to Coetzee (2001), who contends that the issues and failures of many initiatives were caused by a lack of such sensitivity. This insight is predicated on the benefits of utilizing the knowledge of the local population to solve local issues. Chiome and Gambahaya (2000:65), for instance, state that "the manifestation of an empowered community entails the visible use of their indigenous knowledge in resolving their own problems."

4.5.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter demonstrated, made clear the significance of residents' involvement in execution, as well as oversight of CDF in programs in their societies. Participation in the implementation and oversight of CDF programs within communities is limited. The research indicated that the limited engagement of the community in CDF projects within the Makonde Constituency can be attributed to several factors, including a deficiency in knowledge, a lack of effective awareness campaigns regarding the structures available for participation, insufficient information dissemination,

negative community attitudes, and socio-economic obstacles. The respondents of the study reported a prevalent unawareness of the CDF among community members, alongside a restricted comprehension of its specifics regarding project costs, funding allocated for particular projects, and opportunities for participation in CDF processes.

CHAPTER 5

5.0 INTRODUCTION, SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY

5.1 Introduction

The chapter involves a summary of the research. It also includes conclusions of the whole research and recommendations regarding the influence of community CDF on the development and advancement of community empowerment and livelihood initiatives.

5.2 Summary

The research was motivated by the need to understand and assess how CDF added to community advancement and livelihoods projects in Makonde constituency. Chapter one of this study looked at the background of the study as it was the introductory chapter. It looked at the aims and objectives of the study and also the significance of the study.

Chapter two of the study commenced with a comprehensive literature review, which examined the theoretical frameworks underpinning climate change resilience, food security, and sustainable agriculture. The review revealed that the research on CDF focused on beneficiary participation, legislative frameworks, and budgetary management. It is evident that the existing empirical research about the impact of CDF on local development in Zimbabwe has not been effectively used. This review therefore highlighted the effect of the community participation the development and expansion of community empowerment and livelihoods programs, in Makonde Constituency in Mashonaland West Province.

In Chapter three the study brought to surface the methodology and research design employed in conducting the research showing data collection and analysis methods.

Chapter four looked at the findings of the study. The study's findings revealed that the CDF has had both positive and negative impact on the local residents within the constituency but mostly positive. The chapter demonstrated and made clear the significance of local residents' involvement in the selection, execution, and oversight of CDF initiatives in their communities. It identified absence of knowledge, campaigns about implementation, insufficient information and socio-economic obstacles for lower community involvement in programs. The research shows insufficient awareness for CDF specifics regarding project costs, funding allocated for particular projects and opportunities for participation in CDF processes.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Increase in democracy

It is clear that development efforts must adopt new approaches that foster authentic community participation and empowerment.

5.3.2 Inclusivity of Project Implementation

It can be seen from the experiences of community members that inclusivity in the utilization of CDF funds is vital to project buy-in and success. The stakeholders should have adequate knowledge and skills that help the society to be united and cooperate. Stakeholder's unity on CDF projects help reduce exclusion in the community.

5.3.3 Barriers to community growth and expansion

Deteriorating community socio-economic conditions may improve if locals take part in development processes to ensure effective cooperation and involvement in projects. The researcher argues that the success of an effective Community Development Fund depends on recognizing and applying key principles such as inclusion, equal partnership, transparency, shared power and responsibility, empowerment, and cooperation. Since the People-Centered Approach to development emphasizes grassroots participation throughout all stages of the community development process, excluding the grassroots inevitably leads to limited cooperation and reduced participation. Therefore, evaluating community involvement in development projects, as this study has done, is crucial for ensuring genuine empowerment through active community engagement. The researcher recommends fully implementing the principles of the participatory approach to overcome the various obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of the Community Development Fund. Communities should be empowered to identify their own issues and solutions, carry out activities, and monitor and evaluate progress independently, without external interference.

5.4 Recommendations

- Organizations have to be aware of the structures that govern social relations in societies. This help to avoid conflicts among stakeholders regarding CDF projects.
- Community members should partner with organizations that have the skills and knowledge of CDF for effective implementation of the projects.
- There is need for awareness to educate people about CDF projects. This ensures effective participation of local residents in implementation of projects in community empowerment.
- There is need for local governments and NGOs to boost awareness on importance of community development .This can be done through education on importance of effective participation of locals in development projects.

5.5 Areas of further studies

Future studies could explore the long-term effects of CDF in communities and socio-economic benefits for local residents. Additionally, further researchers could investigate the sustainability of CDF, including the role of government policies, and community engagement. Furthermore, further studies should also focus on being able to establish a correlation between CDF and socio-economic progress in Zimbabwe.

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APPENDIX 1

Interview Guide for local residents

My name is Sharon B. Nyarugo, a student currently studying an Honours Degree in Peace and Governance at Bandura University of Science Education. I am conducting a research entitled "Impact of community development fund in the growth and expansion of community empowerment and livelihoods projects", *I politely ask you to partake in the research by answering questions with reliable and recent information.*

All information provided will be kept private and confidential, to be used for purposes of academic enrichment and fulfillment of this study.

What do you understand about community development fund?

The CDF was implemented to promote growth and expansion of local communities. Do you think the CDF has successfully enhanced its mandate in empowerment of local communities? Give an explanation to your answer.

There are many challenges harboring the functionality of the CDF. What do you think are the major obstacles being encountered in implementing the community development fund?

With the unstable political environment in Zimbabwe, what are the implications of politics to the operation of the CDF in its quest to improve livelihoods projects in local communities?

Do you receive any information from the Community Development Committee regarding CDF projects?

How often does your representative report to the community on issues relating to CDF?

Do you think your MP and councilors are doing enough to create awareness of CDF in your community?

8. In your view, who do you think has more power in the identification, allocation and implementation of CDF in your constituency?

APPENDIX 2

Interview Guide for Committee Members

My name is Sharon B. Nyarugo, a student currently studying an Honours Degree in Peace and Governance at Bandura University of Science Education. I am conducting a research entitled "Impact of community development fund in the growth and expansion of community empowerment and

livelihoods projects”, I politely ask you to partake in the research by answering questions with reliable and recent information.

All information provided will be kept private and confidential, to be used for purposes of academic enrichment and fulfillment of this study.

Name of Respondent.....

Gender.....

Position of Responsibility:

Date.....

1. What CDF information is currently made available to the public?
2. How is the information on CDF made available to the public?
3. Do communities know about the availability of CDF funds and how do they need to apply?
4. How do communities participate in CDF processes? Explain the methods of participation.
5. Are communities made aware that they can monitor CDF projects?
6. What are challenges associated with CDF with reference to community participation?

7. What needs to be done in order to increase community participation in CDF projects?

APPENDIX 3

