

Strengthening the Role of Communities in the Management of Land Based Resources – Nyangoma Resettlement Area

Thematic Area 1: Sustainable agriculture, food safety and food security

by

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1. Introduction

Zimbabwe Women's Bureau is the implementing agency for the Zimbabwe project of the Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN), regional land reform project that was coordinated by ZERO in four Southern African regional countries (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique starting in 1999. The project focuses on strengthening community based natural resources management structures and the role of communities in the management of land and land based resources at Nyangoma Resettlement scheme in Karoi in Mashonaland West Province.

The project aims to promote sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation of poor families by increasing their abilities to improve their social and economic conditions through collective empowerment, rights promotion for effective advocacy and lobbying, coordinated service provision and skills development of men, women and youths in the rural and resettlement areas. This approach is based on the premise that the poor and disadvantaged have ideas about uplifting themselves. They have to be provided with an enabling environment to facilitate their own development.

Background of the Nyangoma Resettlement Area

ZWB commissioned a participatory situational analysis process to gain insight into the real life situation in Nyangoma Resettlement area including problems, needs, current socio-economic situation and resource management structures for effective intervention strategy development.

The Government of Zimbabwe, for the purpose of resettling people, resettled the people of Nyangoma between 1989 and 1991 following purchase of commercial farms in the area. People who were resettled in the area were coming from various backgrounds including those who did not have basic knowledge of farming. One other peculiarity of the farmers was that they had varied cultures and did not have a traditional leadership structure in the resettlement areas. Nyangoma Resettlement Area is located in Pote 3 (Ward 6) in the eastern area of Hurungwe district in Mashonaland West province of Zimbabwe. The area is made up of five former commercial farms, namely Nyangoma, Nascot, Chiyambe, Nyamahape as model A resettlements and Mwala, a model B resettlement together forming 13 villages with 398 stand holders, 4 leases and 11 cooperative members occupying the model B farm. Further east is the Angwa River that forms the border with Chinhoyi.

Nyangoma Resettlement Area is in natural farming region II with sandy clay loam soils and receives an average annual rainfall of up to 750mm a year. The main crops that are grown in the area include maize, cotton, tobacco, groundnuts, and sunflower and Soya beans while livestock farming is an integral part of their activities.

The area has two primary schools, one incomplete and an unregistered secondary school, a clinic; three dip tanks and seven dams of which only two hold water as well as a very poor road network.

Upon resettlement the Nyangoma people selected committees that look after community interests and other general issues to operate at village, VIDCO and Ward Development Committee (WADCO) levels as a government requirement. These committees are common in all resettlement areas of Zimbabwe since they are meant to take up the roles of traditional community leaders like village heads and chiefs found in communal areas. The village committee is the lowest structure, the VIDCO committee the middle and the WADCO is the highest community structure overseeing the needs of their various areas and coordinated by a councilor who represents local government, the rural district authority of the area. This means that the only leadership that was active was the political leadership and the VIDCOs and WADCOs were mainly concerned with political mobilization but not development.

Apart from the government-introduced committees, existing on the ground in Niangua are a plethora of other committees formed on the advice and following certain specific developmental interests such as Aertex, Natural Resources Board (NRB) as well as development agencies such as ZERO and ZWB. For example, in Niangua ZWB has its own committee looking after its women membership needs, animators (trained personnel in certain skills for community development) and a coordinating committee that oversees the general community needs of the area.

Generally, all the above committees including the government-introduced ones are concerned with the development of Niangua although the emphasis differs. As a result of the numerous committees in place, there is confusion and conflict of interest among community members and some of the committees. According to the people, it is therefore necessary that the various committees are rationalized and an overall coordinating authority structure representing all the various interests and community members be established. The structure could transform to become a community-based organization (CBO) that would be tasked with general development coordination, liaison, fundraising, networking and streamlining project activities for Nyangoma.

Through the participatory rural appraisal the main issues that came out were that the community needed to develop their own community structure to mobilize and manage their resources and collaborate through working together and sharing information. They needed to agree as one community on the issues around the poor road network, setting prices on their prices so that middlemen will not exploit them, AND mobilize resources.

To this end the Nyangoma, Nyamahape, Chiyambe Development Association (NNCDA) was established to serve as a CBO for the area. Having been initiated at the advice of ZWB and ZERO, NNCDA would serve to ensure that this project and others live on long after ZWB and ZERO have pulled out. With the experience of working with ZWB and ZERO, the CBO should be able to spearhead future development for the area. NNCDA has the advantage that it is local, people-driven and evolves out of the community's desire to develop. Once its management structures are fully developed from village level, NNCDA can replace the other various village level committees identified along initiating organizational lines such as ZERO or ZWB village committees.

Following amalgamation of former rural and district councils, the roads serviced by the Karoi Rural District Council (KRDC) are better serviced and therefore in a better condition than those serviced by the District Development Fund (DDF) that has taken over all the rural areas roads. Previously, the entire road that serviced the five commercial farms, now Nyangoma Resettlement Area, used to fall under the KRDC and was regularly serviced unlike now that they are under the DDF. The stretch servicing Nyangoma is in such a bad state that the only public transport service that used to ply the route withdrew, leaving the people to walk about 20 kilometres to the Harare-Karoi main road to catch buses.

It is important to note that despite the current bad state, the poor road used to be in a very good state, but due to its use as a cattle trek to the dip tank and silting up of storm drainage ditches, the road was eroded. Cattle treks resulted in loose topsoil that is annually washed away by sheet erosion to form gullies. The storm drainage ditches that used to divert rainwater from the road were not maintained over time and subsequently silted on one hand while opening up of fields on the road sides also saw discontinuation of the drainage ditches, as they were taken up by the fields, on the other hand.

Linked to the poor road network problem are a host of other problems. Marketing of agricultural produce by the people of Nyangoma is a serious issue that is compounded by the poor road. The 8-kilometre stretch from Nyangoma temporary clinic to village 5 in VIDCOs 3 is the worst part of the road. Transportation of produce to the market is undertaken by private transporters who charge exorbitant prices to compensate for likely damage to their vehicles in the process. The community has been repairing the road by filling gullies to enable their produce to reach the markets. But they have now communicated with the DA with assistance from ZWB and the DA promised to assist them by building the Road.

Another serious problem linked to the poor road network is the issue of poor access to health services. The only temporary clinic in the area is not easily accessed to the majority of the residents who rely on ox-drawn carts or rarely private transport that endures the bad road to ferry seriously ill people. The village community workers are given tablets for malaria to give community members who are attacked by malaria but the issue still remains for qualified personnel at the clinic. There are 40 000 bricks that were moulded by the community to build nurses houses at the abandoned clinic. There is a problem of snakebites as there is no drug at the local clinic but one has to travel 35km to the hospital for the drug.

Also related to the poor road is a poor and low bridge over Jeché River, close to Village 6. During rainy seasons, the low bridge is over-flooded resulting in people, especially pupils, failing to cross it. Depending on how long the floods last, communication for those attending school, meetings and other services is effectively barred.

Socio-Economic Challenges

Although the people were resettled on suitable agricultural land, they have been living on food handouts and subsistence farming and the area has had the following challenges:

- Inadequate fresh water and water supplies for irrigation;
- Poor road network;
- Inadequate social support services and inappropriate technology;
- Limited knowledge base of farming especially among women who constitute more than 50% farmers and land rights;
- Inadequate financial support services and high cost of inputs;
- Social problems including HIV/Aids challenges;
- Increasing desertification due to overpopulation and over use of trees, which are used in the tobacco curing process; and
- Lack of community based organizations, which facilitated networking activities information sharing and advocacy at local level.

Project Objectives

The overall goal is to promote sustainable use of land and land-based resources through strengthened community-based natural resources management structures in Zimbabwe. This rationale is premised on the observation that for rural communities to benefit from agriculture and natural resources more accountability should be placed on the rural people themselves as direct beneficiaries and they should own the process.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To improve the understanding of communities in the role they play in policy implementation of land and land-based resources;
- To build the capacity of communities in the assessment of traditional and innovative ideas and approaches to land and land-based resources;
- To establish and/or strengthen democratic community-based land and land-based resources management structure; and
- To improve the ability of communities to dialogue with decision-makers on the value of integrating community needs in land reforms and recognizing locally derived decision-making structures.

2. Review National Actions and Processes Taken To Address the Issue(s)

The project falls within one of the Agenda 21 objectives of poverty eradication, hunger and promotion of sustainable livelihoods and the Beijing Platform for Action in which country specific projects to eradicate poverty were to be undertaken. The project was initiated by ZERO after the Zimbabwe Land Reform Programme was launched in 1998 and it was aimed at providing land reform best practices in Zimbabwe.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) provided the world with an Agenda 21, a Plan of Action and fundamental principles for achieving

sustainable development. One of the objectives of Agenda 21 is the eradication of poverty, a problem that has increased than decreased. This is despite the implementation of structural adjustment programmes that were meant to turn around the poor economies of developing countries. Two other aims of Agenda 21 which include: participation of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) at local level in support of National Action Programmes, identification and dissemination of relevant local technology, knowledge, know-how, practices and assistance of local communities.

This approach is based on the premise that the poor and disadvantaged have ideas about uplifting themselves. The project strategy used a holistic approach which recognizes that all sectors of the community need to have a common understanding and the disadvantaged groups, women and youths take part in the decision making processes effectively while information is shared among all members of the community.

With the support of local representatives of Non Governmental Organisations members of the Community Based Organisations in Zimbabwe and within the Southern Africa Region established a Community Based Organisations Regional Network (CORN), which has organized a regional CBO workshop for CBOs to feed into the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in July 2002 in Durban South Africa. The CBOs are expected to develop a common platform/position on the WSSD.

The workshop on promoting sustainable livelihoods in Southern Africa comes at a time when the African Union is being launched and at the inception of NEPAD. This Conference is unique in that it will provide a chance for the communities and their community based organizations to discuss issues on sustainable development and how best they can address their own issues and input into the decision making process of the WSSD. The main problem is that the communities and especially women are not consulted to speak for themselves and decide on their own situation in their own respective countries and provide answers to their own problems.

3. Institutional Capacity

In order to improve livelihoods of the rural poor, community-based organisations in the SADC region together with a few NGOs came together to form a regional network the (CORN). Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) in the Southern Africa Region from Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola and Mozambique went through a process of establishing their own regional and national community-based organisations, which started in 1997. The regional secretariat of the CORN is ZERO while the regional CBO representatives constitute the majority of the Trustees of CORN.

The process, which included a series of meetings, workshops and conferences, resulted in the registration of the Community Organisation Regional Network (CORN) in the year 2001. The main thematic areas of CORN which is a registered Trust include; Land, Cross Border Trade, Capacity Building, HIV/Aids, gender, food security and environment as cross cutting issues.

The Zimbabwe CBO-Network is the umbrella body for CBO's in Zimbabwe who are members of CORN. The Zimbabwe CBO-Network has established structures starting at village level to the National Executive level. The Zimbabwe CBO-Network has a 10 member steering committee comprising of representatives from Zimbabwean CBO's and its national Secretariat is Zimbabwe Women's Bureau. Other NGOs who supported the establishment of the Zimbabwean CBO-Network include; Jekesa Pfungwa Vulinqondo, Kunzwana Women's Association, IRED-ESA, Zimbabwe Environmental Regional Organisation, Intermediate Technology Development Group and Norwegian People's Aid.

Thematic issues that were established by the Zimbabwean CBO's after a three day strategic planning workshop that was held in March 2002 include; Land, Cross Border Trade, Capacity Building with HIV/AIDS, Gender, Civic and Human Resources, Education, and Environment as cross cutting issues.

Organisational and Management System

To this end the Nyangoma, Nyamahape, Chiyambe Development Association (NNCDA) was established to serve as a Community Based Organisation for the area. Having been initiated at the advice of ZWB and ZERO, NNCDA would serve to ensure that this project and others live on long after ZWB and ZERO have pulled out. With the experience of working with ZWB and ZERO, the CBO should be able to spearhead future development for the area. Women's participation in decision-making has been promoted as 50% of the Trustees of NNCDA are women. The association represents five communities. The NNCDA developed a constitution and registered a Deed of Trust with the Lawyers in 2001. The NNCDA contributed about \$50 000 while ZERO contributed \$300 000 to the revolving loan fund which provides a source of funds to members for micro-business development. They opened an account with the AGRIBANK, a thing they never dreamt of. The NNCDA has a management committee in place and which has undergone several training including resource mobilization, environmental management, tree planting, leadership and governance and other programmes.

The structure of NNCDA comprises of the Board of Trustees, management committee, WADCOs, VIDCOs and the community members.

NNCDA has the advantage that it is local people-driven and evolves out of the community's desire to develop. Once its management structures are fully developed from village level, NNCDA can replace the other various village level committees identified along initiating organizational lines such as ZERO or ZWB village committees.

The communities through their community based organizations can now advocate for their own issues given the fact that the Agritex and the Ministry of Health are now working more closely with the communities more than before and the government

officials are now executing their duties understanding the reason that they are there because of the people.

Through the processes of awareness raising and situation analysis members became aware of the roles of government extension workers in their area and have been holding them accountable for their activities in the area. The Health Technician in the area has been actively assisted by the members to build 40 toilets in the area in three months by the end of December 2000 while the agricultural extension worker has started farmer training as well as supporting the organic farming nutrition garden projects, which were established through the facilitation of ZWB. To date one of the nutrition gardens in the area has won the Ministry of Health's "Nutrition Garden of the Year" award in Mashonaland West Province for two consecutive years. The village community workers are given tablets for malaria to give community members who are attacked by malaria but the issue still remains for qualified personnel at the clinic. There are 40 000 bricks that were moulded by the community to build nurses houses at the abandoned clinic. There is a problem of snakebites as there is no drug at the local clinic but one has to travel 35km to the hospital for the drug. The community can now hold the government extension workers accountable and they now can demand for services from the extension staff resident in the area.

They now source for inputs and market their produce in bulk as a group thereby influencing prices.

The achievements of the project can also be witnessed through the number of organizations who are now working with this community including Farmer Development Trust, Women Land Lobby Group, The Ministry of Health, The Zimbabwe Ecumenical Loan Fund, Forestry Commission and The Agricultural and Technical Extension Services (AGRITEX) are working together with the community.

There is a huge scope to work with other organizations such as Africa 2000, Humana People to People (DAPP), Give A Dam Campaign, and Women Land Lobby Group (WLLG) with the advantage that they complement ZWB's work in this respect and hence such collaboration helps all participating organizations achieve their various objectives while at the same time building the Nyangoma people's capacity.

The organisations provide specialized services that can enhance the understanding of gender issues and meet some of the people's farming needs. All concerned parties would best work out the best approach to such collaboration. The existence of these organizations, their services, mandates and how the Nyangoma people can benefit from them enhances information and networking needs for the community.

Information is now shared amongst the family members and the community. The community can now analyse their own situation and act on their own. They have repaired some of their roads so that they can transport their produce to the nearest market; they have also repaired one of their boreholes and fenced their gardens on their own. During the last farming season they managed to source for inputs from SEEDCO with assistance from Women and Land in Zimbabwe and ZWB.

Financial constraints have been experienced to follow up on the issues raised during the Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs). The main aspect that has made this community to develop is their motivation to develop their own area. The community is networking with other areas through exchange visits. NNCDA has been mobilizing for resources and through their revolving loan fund they are earning interests and their seed money is growing.

Efforts were made to involve all the stakeholders including the political leadership to support the initiative and there were no problems encountered. They even promised to follow up on the program and assist the community on the issues raised.

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Another form of resource mobilization structure in Nyangoma is the Cotton Marketing Board (CMB) seed sale project. CMB is operating a community-based cottonseed project through one of their best farmers who requested to run the small business for his cotton-growing community. The service is proving to be viable given that the cost of seed is lower than that of outlets in Karoi town. The farmer is paid on commission of sales made. If similar ventures were promoted for each crop, the Nyangoma community would be greatly assisted in accessing seed, although the cash-basis sale requirement in place is a constraint for most people unable to raise immediate cash.

4. Capacity Building

With all the gaps and identified issues affecting the people of Nyangoma, there is need for capacity building in the various areas discussed in order to achieve sustainability in their livelihoods and natural resources management. Issues that adversely affect the people's lives need to be addressed to pave way for long-term capacity building that will see the community solving its own problems using local structures, financial and human resources.

With enhanced capacity and viable management structures, the community should be able to identify its problems, mobilize members and resources, plan, implement and manage its own projects and programs with minimal or no external intervention. For successful project implementation, community programme sustainability and improved livelihoods, it is necessary to ensure community cohesion, mobilization, ownership and operation of locally driven activities and projects aimed at community development.

With respect to training needs in fulfillment of the community's developmental objectives, the people are committed and desire to prove their farming capability. There is need to enhance their farming capacity, strengthen local management structures and enhance community understanding of its role in their own development.

Some of the specific areas that need capacity enhancement to improve management structures leading to the community's raised standard of living are the following:

- a. **Farming:** Given that first and foremost the community members are farmers and their livelihood depends on it for income, food requirements and a better standard of living, it is necessary that their farming skills continue to be developed in order to sustain their economy and help develop other aspects and areas such as road network, paddocks and water scarcity. In this manner, the people's desire to become viable small-scale commercial farmers would be realized while general development and local management structures are enhanced.
- b. **Project planning and management:** Once a CBO and its lower structures are in place, development projects for targeted groups such as women's sewing clubs and soap making as well as other general community projects could be identified, initiated and implemented by the local people with minimal outside help. In order for this to happen there is need to build capacity in the area of project planning and management, skills necessary to ensure project success and without which the projects would fail.
- c. **Leadership and Management course:** Training in general business and enterprise development issues is necessary, particularly for community leadership and NNDA as a CBO aimed at coordinating external intervention efforts and projects with the needs of Nyangoma. It is anticipated that once the CBO is in place and properly constituted, it could initiate development activities resulting in increased demand for its services and challenging leadership. A leadership and management-training course would ensure the survival of development initiatives through local people and sustainability of enterprise ventures beyond this project.
- d. **Adult literacy education:** Education holds key to personal development of Nyangoma people whose attitudes and perception determine overall development that could eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living. With high illiteracy levels, the people of Nyangoma will not be able to fully develop their capacity for farming and managing development programs in their area. There is therefore need to embark on a locally developed adult education program that will raise literacy.
- e. **Indigenous knowledge systems:** For a materially poor community, the Nyangoma people need to develop alternative technology that is affordable and locally available if they are to engage in farming without high technology inputs such as treated seeds, fertilizers and pesticides that are costly. The option of organic farming, using local resources, is an area in which the people need capacity. Training of local trainers (animators) and exchange visits are effective methods to enhance capacity in this area.

- f. **Water Management:** With the perennial water problem in the area, there is needed to find a lasting solution to both drinking and farming water scarcity. Capacity for repairing broken down boreholes, scooping silted dams and watershed management is a prerequisite for sustainable farming, sanitation and water management.
- g. **Awareness Campaigns:** In the areas of gender, natural resources management, soil conservation and homestead development, on-going awareness raising is necessary. Local people and enhancement of extension officers' mobility need capacity enhancement for effective addressing of these issues.

The major activities included:

- Awareness raising workshops, information sharing and exchange visits among members of the community facilitated by ZWB and ZERO.
- This was followed by a participatory situation analysis process in October 1999 to gain knowledge of the real life situation in Nyangoma resettlement area including problems, needs, the current socio-economic set up, resource management structures in the area and to establish effective intervention strategies. The PRA exercise included as many members of the community as possible including all the government extension workers who are working in the area and other development agencies. ZWB, ZERO and Women Land Lobby Group took part in facilitating the situation analysis exercise, which was led by a consultant who produced a training needs report.
- Further activities included workshops on women's land rights, training of Master Farmers most of whom were women, training of farmers in areas of need including organic farming and permaculture, leadership and governance, civic and human rights. Community trainers (animators) have been trained so that they continue training others within the area at low cost. These workshops were conducted by ZWB, WLZ, Agritex, ZFDT, ZERO and Ministry of Health
- Members of the five areas established a Nyangoma Nyamahape, Chiyambe Development Association so that they work together as a community.
- Among the issues that the Association identified as areas of need were the issues of access to resources such as finance, access to markets high input costs. They then further established a Trust Fund for the Association with registered Trustees. ZERO provided them with \$300 000 while they contributed \$50 000 towards the fund. They use the fund as a revolving loan facility for members in the area.

Legislative support

ZERO initiated the project after the Zimbabwe Land Reform Programme was launched in 1998 and it was aimed at providing land reform best practices and to showcase a sustainable process of best practices, which is to be used as a lobby position in Zimbabwe. New legislation has been passed including the Public Order and Security Act, Access to Information and others and there is need to raise awareness of the community on this new legislation.

Recommendations

The issue of entitlement between men and women is a thorny issue that privileges men at the expense of women. Just like marriage is registered in the name of the two contracting parties, land should also be registered in the names of both husband and wife as a continuation of marriage (in property this time!). Under the current system and policy where land is registered in the name of husbands only, in the case of married women, women are disadvantaged since they are allocated smaller pieces by men where they grow crops for family consumption while men grow cash crops on huge pieces of land.

The registration of the men's names only goes beyond land to crop marketing cards and payments, resulting in men solely deciding what and how much is grown and what to use the produce money for while their wives and children languish in poverty. However, it is important to note that mere registration of land in the name of both husband and wife does not automatically result in equal sharing of land and decision of what crops to grow on the part of women. There is need for further guarantee provisions or equal split of the allocated land between men and women to reduce some of the gender inequalities.

There is need for comprehensive teaching on land use planning and management and natural resource management before and during resettlement to instill a sense of resource ownership and responsibility among community members as opposed to plundering. Monitoring and evaluation should be an on-going exercise to ensure the success of resettlement through high standards of living on the resettled farms. Policy coordination at ministerial levels as well as coordinated implementation at departmental level should be periodically reviewed to avoid gaps and coordinate needs, services and resources.

There is therefore need for continuous awareness raising on gender, the need for gendered development, equal rights for men and women as well as boys and girls. This way both men and women will be liberated from gendered constraints to development. It is important that in the latter phase of the project, components of gender training, awareness campaigns and conscientisation be incorporated.

The gender issue has improved, as women are now attending meetings and participating at the meetings and joint decisions are being made. The boy and the girl child are being treated equally.

The use of gender as an analytical tool for all development projects to be implemented is important to help identify gendered effects of such projects. Given the patriarchal nature of the Nyangoma community and the already culturally gendered division of labour, particularly at household level, it is important to use this as an entrance point by giving a value to each task performed in the home, the impact of its nonperformance and compare it with other tasks performed by men.

Women in decision making need a platform and support services on marketing and HIV/Aids. The issue of development of networks is very critical especially of rural women (Farmers) for information sharing and capacity building.

Community-based organizations should be given space to input into national, regional and international decision making processes especially now that NEPAD and the African Union have been launched. CBOs need to prioritise their own issues as they affect them. There is need to build capacity of local women to help themselves by identifying their needs, plan, develop and manage their ideas into projects that they can operate their specific programmes with little or none external intervention. This enhances sustainability and help associate women and their projects with success stories to change current negative perceptions. A deliberate strategy to work with men as a special group, to deliberate on the implications and costs of gender blindness, violence and abuse at marital, family, community and national levels may be a good way to bring men in. The establishment of local chapters of men and women's forums to deliberate on gendered development and campaign against gender violence, abuse and for equality in Nyangoma is one way of instilling sustainable gender consciousness.

5. Sustainability of the Project

The project has created a sense of ownership through community-focused projects. The program further assists communities to identify and utilize locally available resources and skills through open dialogue and use of locally available animators. It is a project that they develop themselves and have mobilised their own financial resources. Training is given to all members of the family and community members so that they all develop common understanding of issues that affect them or of locally available resources that they have and need to use and preserve.

It encourages members to make use of available local resources to improve their livelihood in the harsh economic times that they live. Community-based organisations are trained to lead, mobilise resources and manage communal activities for the community. Animators are local so knowledge is localised and readily available for ongoing coaching, mentoring and on spot training.

Conclusion

The case of Nyangoma provides very important and useful insights into community development issues obtaining therein. It also provides an opportunity for resettlement planners to review their policies and consult with stakeholders involved. The objective of resettlement should be clearly enunciated and all the necessary support and infrastructure put in place so that the policy objectives are realized. Gender issues remain part of the challenges needing redressing in the community's progress towards sustainable development.

While the case of Nyangoma illustrates a community raring to engage in its own development, the basic needs of any thriving farming community need to be put in place

so that all the other needs are met. Without transport communication networks, access to health, education, finance and inputs, the people of Nyangoma will remain caught up in a vicious circle. Over and above farming, the people need to and are responding to other development initiatives inter-linked with their land and related resource use and management.

In line with the above point, there is need for coordinated development to streamline internal needs and resources with external intervention. This way the community's development interests are kept within check and matched with any external intervention in a way that promotes community participation and ownership of development projects and programmes. To this effect, there is need for institutional development in the form of a CBO that works in liaison with the rest of the district authorities for Hurungwe East. A CBO helps put in place the necessary institutional mechanism and framework that streamlines development assistance and mobilizes local resources.

While government policy has always been to resettle the landless and unemployed peasants, the policy has not fully realized the desired material and farming expectations. The weakness of this approach has been that the resettled peasants have not been helped access capital and other farmer support services. The objective of merely owning a piece of land without being able to fully utilize it to earn an income that sustains the family and future farming activities is not adequate and flies in the face of human and economic development.

It is therefore important to put in place criteria for resettlement whose size of piece of land is determined by capital and farming expertise. Settling people for the sake of it results in waste of land leading to desires of further resettlement as is happening in Nyangoma today among some farmers (unsuccessful ones for that matter) who are demanding to be moved to newly demarcated farms in their area.

Under the current system and policy where land is registered in the name of husbands only, in the case of married women, women are disadvantaged since they are allocated smaller pieces by men where they grow crops for family consumption while men grow cash crops on huge pieces of land.

The registration of the men's names only goes beyond land to crop marketing cards and payments, resulting in men solely deciding what and how much is grown and what to use the produce money for while their wives and children languish in poverty. However, it is important to note that mere registration of land in the name of both husband and wife does not automatically result in equal sharing of land and decision of what crops to grow on the part of women. There is need for further guarantee provisions or equal split of the allocated land between men and women to reduce some of the gender inequalities.

The use of gender as an analytical tool for all development projects to be implemented is important to help identify gendered effects of such projects. Given the patriarchal nature of the nation and the already culturally gendered division of labour, particularly at household level, it is important to use this as an entrance point by giving a value to each

task performed in the home, the impact of its nonperformance and compare it with other tasks performed by men.

From a natural resource management perspective, the model 'A' settlement plan has not been very popular because of its social problems and leaving some resources to common property ownership and management with no clear controlling local authority. For example once the resettled people have been allocated homestead stands, fields and grazing area there are open spaces (forests and land) that are not allocated to any specific individuals resulting in competition to mismanage and deforest the resources.

From the villagisation system, common with model 'A' plan, social problems such as thefts, witchcraft, witnessing of family fights and unpleasant neighbours result from homesteads that are too close to each other. Rather there should be self-contained plots as in model 'C' since this ensures private ownership and better natural resource management. Besides the villagisation system under model 'A' plan resembles the colonial 'keeps' where local people were forced to reside, even though there are no fences under the plan. A related problem to the villagisation system is the issue of mixing up people from different areas with differing levels of education, cultures and farming experience that results in social incoherence and socio-fabric mix up.

The issue of entitlement between men and women is a thorny issue that privileges men at the expense of women. Just like marriage is registered in the name of the two contracting parties, land should also be registered in the names of both husband and wife as a continuation of marriage. Under the current system and policy where land is registered in the name of husbands only, in the case of married women, women are disadvantaged since they are allocated smaller pieces by men where they grow crops for family consumption while men grow cash crops on huge pieces of land.

There is need for comprehensive teaching on land use planning and management and natural resource management before and during resettlement to instill a sense of resource ownership and responsibility among community members as opposed to plundering. Monitoring and evaluation should be an on-going exercise to ensure the success of resettlement through high standards of living on the resettled farmers. Policy coordination at ministerial levels as well as coordinated implementation at departmental level should be periodically reviewed to avoid gaps and coordinate needs, services and resources.

Community based organizations should be given space to input into national, regional and international decision making processes and prioritise their own issues as they affect them. There is need to build capacity of local women to help themselves by identifying their needs, plan, develop and manage their ideas into projects that they can operate their specific programmes with little or none external intervention. This enhances sustainability and help associate women and their projects with success stories to change current negative perceptions. A deliberate strategy to work with men as a special group, to deliberate on the implications and costs of gender blindness, violence and abuse at marital, family, community and national levels may be a good way to bring men in. The establishment of local chapters of men and women's forums to deliberate on gendered

development and campaign against gender violence, abuse and for equality in Nyangoma is one way of instilling sustainable gender consciousness.

The case of Nyangoma highlights the issues that are also relevant to other resettlement areas and communities and this reflects that there are a lot of lessons that are to be shared with other non-governmental organizations, communities and the government both national and regional. This case will also be used to lobby the government especially on its policies relating to sustainable development. The role of civil society in these processes is to assist the communities by capacitating the rural communities for them to be able to advocate for their own issues, lobbying, critique and input in the decision making of the national authorities.

It is vital to note that once the communities are provided with a level playing field they participate and become open on the issues that affect them as with the case of Nyangoma. The community is ready to contribute to their own development in terms of human resources, financial as well as their time as reflected in the case study. It is also very important to consult and involve the communities and especially women to speak for themselves and decide on their own situation solutions to their problems. Women should be given space to participate and network at national, regional and international if they are to make any meaning input into decision making processes of important functions like the World Summit on Sustainable Development and especially for them to represent themselves and not be represented by others.