

Established 2000

# Midlands State University



## Department of Politics and Public Management

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Faculty of Social Sciences  
BSc Politics and Public Management

### DISSERTATION

A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Politics and Public Management, Midlands State University (MSU), in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Politics and Public Management Honours Degree.

2018

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Topic

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF DONOR AID TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF ZHOMBE EAST, 2013-2017.**

Supervisor

**Dr T. Mude**

**DECLARATION**

**I PRAYER KUZIVAKWASHE MUJURU (R144422Q)** do hereby affirm that the work contained in this thesis is my own work with the exemption of quotations and references that have been acknowledged and referenced. I further proclaim that this work has by no means been previously submitted to any university and is now being submitted as the partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University.

.....  
**PRAYER K. MUJURU**

.....  
**DATE**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank the Almighty God for the sufficient grace, which enabled me to finish this dissertation. I was able to do all things, through Christ who strengthened me.

Many salutations to my family, Mr. and Mrs. Mujuru, my two sisters and brother. Thank you for all the encouragement and support, I wouldn't have made it without them. May our good God keep on blessing you in all that you do.

My gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Mude, for his sincere hard work; advice and guidance throughout this research. May God continue blessing, guiding and protecting you, until we meet again stay blessed.

## **DEDICATION**

I devote this dissertation to my mom and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Mujuru as well as my siblings Kumbirayi Mujuru, Zvikomborero Majora, Esther Bandika whose unwavering support and appreciation always encouraged me.

## **ABSTRACT**

The research aimed at analyzing the contribution of donor aid to rural development in Zimbabwe, taking Zhombe East as the case study from 2013-2017. This study was undertaken so as to have an evaluation on the work being done by donor organizations that are in Zhombe East on the rural community. Most of the development socially and economically in the area has much to do with donor organizations like Plan International however, there has been debate that these organizations have a hidden agenda. The researcher used the institutionalism and realism theories, this was employed in the bid to have an enhanced perceptive on the correlation between donor aid and rural development. Together qualitative and quantitative research methods were used in order to get the desired data for accurate conclusions. The study concludes that donor aid essentially contribute to rural development given the projects and programs that are being implemented in Zhombe East that are developing the rural community. In the area of Zhombe East there has been improvement in the education, employment Health, availability of nutritional food, school dropouts and awareness campaigns against early child marriages through the help of donor organizations. The researcher calls for the improvement of policies by the government that encourages more donor agencies to operate in Zimbabwe and for the government to work closely with donor organizations so as to come up with desired results. The study also recommends that donor organizations should engage more donor countries and institutions to get funding to enable them to carry out projects and programs that benefit more people in rural communities.

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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The involvement of donor aid in the improvement of rural communities has been topic of lots of debate. Much of the debate has been centralized on the precepts of sovereign perception which pinpoints the hidden agenda behind donor aid at the expense the benefits of donor aid especially in developing countries. Basically, proponents of the realist paradigm of development have seen nothing important in donor aid and it has been seen as a way of fulfilling the Western countries' mission in Africa and other developing worlds across the world. However, with the position of institutional arrangements across the global governance system, NGOs and donor aid agencies have been gaining popularity in terms of their role in such sustainable development goals as 2 and 17, food security and also in rural development of most developing countries. Hence, basing on the precepts of the institutional theory, it is critical to have more research on the role of donor aid in rural community progress. This is not only important during reviewing how donor aid should be perceived, but it is also a means of seeking best ways of positioning donor aid so that it benefits the intended communities, which also brings the desired development. It is critical to note that rural development is a procedure of improving the quality of living and economic welfare of people livelihood in the rural areas.

### **1.2 Background of the study**

In recent years most African countries have been trying to push for the improvement of rural community, raise the rural standards for livelihood and thus they have embraced donor aid or donor assistance. Donor aid has been seen as a way of capacitating developing countries in terms of resources for rural development. Despite their controversial roles, donors have of recent been highly credited in the pursuance of sustainable development even on international development platforms. Most countries have allowed that their strategic plans be matched with those global plans which speak towards the attainment of sustainable development goals. This had made donors and their implementing partners more relevant to the development discourse in the whole world. In Zimbabwe, the role of donors has also been subjected to a lot of introspection.

However, the need for rural development has never materialized without the influence of donor aid organizations. A lot is being done in rural communities by NGOs and donors which is perceived to be leading to rural development. Since independence in 1980, the

administration of Zimbabwe has adopted a numeral of policies to foster rural development. After independence the new government under R G Mugabe promoted socialism partially relying on international aid. During the first decade following Independence, Zimbabwe promoted development and lessen inequities all the way through intensified economic controls and amplified social expenditures. This resulted into social advancement but at the cost of unsound fiscal deficits and there was little growth. Land allocation remained extremely uneven in the country. The government in 1991 launched ESAP which had unfavorable conditions to speed up growth through enhanced fiscal organization and market liberalization. This for the most part was unsuccessful because of outside shocks and unsound policy. Social development became slow, per capita income declined, and the amount of people existing in extreme poverty was greater than before. AIDS at this time affected a large number of the adult populace and life expectancy fell. According to Kawewe and Dibiye (2000) SAPs that were recommended by the WB and IMF and adopted by Zimbabwean administration was excellent for western industrialized nation and thus had a overwhelming crash on HIV and AIDS.

Expectations for land reform increased in 1998 due to the agreement reached during a Donor conference. Conflicting views involving the administration of Zimbabwe and the donors led to no accord. Frustrated, in 2002 by a short of financial support as of donors, the legislative body adopted an amendment to the Constitution which set that if donors did not give funds intended for land purchase, the Government might get hold of farms compulsorily with no compensation. A gesticulate of invasions began in the country, prearranged by war veterans and supported by the Government as propounded by Tom (2015). The government went on to obtain major commercial farms in the Fast Track land reform program. Aid from the West seized due to the program and the lack of accountability of the government on the funding they received from the West. The Land Reform Programme and other programmes like Millennium Economic Recovery Plan did not benefit the rural community of Zimbabwe but rather placed the people in the situation they were in the colonial period. This was because the top officials are the ones who benefited from these economic policies.

Furthermore, after independence the government established growth points to limit rural/city migration and spread out employment creation and opportunity however economic and political challenges in Zimbabwe stand to be barriers to rural growth. The core of the Growth Points was to deal with economic challenges and imbalance that were formed as a result of the colonial legislation. The idea of growth points that had come up was unfruitful due to

economic problems such as inflation, climate change and sanctions. These challenges hindered the hard work of the government to set up successful growth points, thus the rural areas still remain lagging behind.

In 2008, according to Besada and Moyo (2008) Zimbabwe had high inflation. Outbreak of cholera, Fall in life expectancy, dependence of Zimbabwe, the former grain exporter in Africa, a collapsing education system and health service provision were the new realities in this year. The people in the rural areas were the most affected by this economic crisis. In this period NGOs focused on addressing these issues in order to develop the rural way of life. In 2010 there was the creation of Zimbabwe Programmatic Multi Donor Trust Fund (the Zimfund) by a group of donors in order to support Zimbabwe to recover from the crisis. This is evident that Zimbabwe has always been depended on donor aid to develop and in times of crisis like in 2008 donor aid has been of rescue. Up to date the Zimbabwe is still relying on donor aid especially in rural areas in terms of food security. This is as a result of the continuing economic, political, social and environmental challenges that the country is facing. Therefore it can be seen that the existence of donor aid in Zimbabwe in the field of development is to augment the role of the government's rural development strategies thus this research seeks to evaluate the role of donor aid in rural development and in this study, Zhombe East will be used as the case study.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

So much has been said about donor aid championing the development of rural communities. However, scholars still have no specific answers on the actual position of donor aid in improvement of rural marginalised communities. They question the efficacy of donor aid in causing the transformation of rural communities. Some scholars point that, "there is massive land degradation and undesirable backtracking in terms of development in areas where donor aid is dominant in Zimbabwe. People continue to suffer, without enough food, the environment continue to be degraded; through actions such as land clearances, resource gathering, ground preparation for weirs and gardens causing deforestation, soil erosion and reduction of traditional specie and siltation in rivers despite having access to donor aid all the time. Some rural communities have been characterized by poor education, inadequate health facilities, abuse of women and the girl child and environmental challenges. These are all indicators of underdevelopment, which have prompted this research which aims at assessing the role of donor aid within rural development.

#### **1.4 Research Objectives**

- To examine the role of donor aid in rural development in Zhombe East
- To assess the efficacy of donor aid in enhancing rural development in Zhombe East
- To assess the dynamics of donor aid in rural development in Zhombe East

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What is the role of donor aid in rural development in Zhombe East?
2. How effective is donor aid in enhancing rural development in Zhombe East?
3. What are the dynamics of donor aid in causing rural development in Zhombe East?

#### **1.6 Justification of the Study**

This research examines the role of donor aid in rural communities in Zimbabwe. While there is fair literature on donor aid globally, this research can contribute towards donor aid in rural areas of Zimbabwe, particularly in the programs of non-government institutions aimed at development. It could also assist organisations to progress their practices in rural development efforts and nourishment which has turn out to be very key and influential in global development. Furthermore, sustainable development is ever more central to development dialogue in general and donor NGOs are becoming more and more significant in its operation, Welling- Hall (1994), vital assessment of how NGOs manoeuvre the idea of sustainable development relative to rural development is relevant. In addition it can contribute to the protection of rural communities for present and future generation.

This study helps the researcher to contain a deeper understanding on issues of donor aid and rural development thus the researcher will be able to make conclusions and proffer recommendations in rural development. Also the study will be of academic help to the researcher who is currently studying Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University. Students in this institution will have access to this research and it will help those who want to study on rural development to draw their own conclusions and debates on the topic.

This study can be used as a monitoring and evaluation tool for the individual donors, international institutions and Non-governmental organizations and the donor community as a whole. The government of Zimbabwe will also be able to evaluate if donor aid has helped in rural development and will be in better position to proffer solutions. Policy makers will also

be able to formulate new policies using this study that can be used to ensure rural development.

## **1.7 Literature Review**

Literature review entail the assessment of different and comparison of the study to facilitate one's investigation to the existing literature. It gives eminence, weight, sense and significance to the study. It also points out the loopholes so as to relate to what has been obtainable and written by other scholars relative to the research under study. In this study, literature from a variety of articles, scholars and analysts are used to give details and give a critical examination on donor aid and rural development.

Copp (1972) sets out that the first and most important feature of rural improvement is the accessibility and utilization of infrastructure services such as improved housing, electricity, schools and industries. This is also supported by Myrdal (1972), who considers stipulated that infrastructure is not just necessary but extremely necessary. Furthermore, Pratap (2001) emphasizes the need of infrastructure amenities for the development of agriculture and other rural improvement activities. Zhang & Fan (2001) also are of the view that although there are arguments about the role of infrastructure in rural development most of the rural communities do not have infrastructure at all. These scholars emphasized more on infrastructural development leaving the human or individual development in the rural areas. Hence this study seeks to look into all forms of development in Zhombe East.

However, other scholars considered human or individual development as important. Goulet (1971) is of the view that development begins within social systems and touch the person towards some situation regarded as in any way improved. The development procedure does not influence from outsider and individuals should shift towards self-sustenance. Consequently, it's a progress towards socio-economic change. Ball (1974) had comparable analysis that development concerned change in grassroots life. Also, Mc Namara (1973) is of the view that development is worthless if not concentrated with the individual being particularly the poor populace.

World Bank (1975) puts forward that rural development is approach designed to progress the economic and social being of a precise set of people, rural poor. This involves extending the remuneration of development to the poorest amongst those who try to find a livelihood in rural areas. World Bank and other international agencies and institutions have put stress on

escalating production, raise productivity, growing employment and mobilizing land, labor and capital factors of production were accessible. Rural poverty and inequalities can be reduced through the participation and involvement of the poor people in development actions and decision-making. These scholars, however, did not provide the means in which the rural societies are supposed to develop whether infrastructural or human development; a gap this study seeks to fill.

Hunt (2008) puts forward that studying the pattern of distribution of foreign aid from a variety of donors to a receiving country, significant proof show that course of foreign aid is governed by political and strategic consideration, more than by the social and economic desires and policy performance of recipient country as portrayed by donor counties. Aid excepted by developing countries which are poor, can be aid with conditions. In this kind of aid the donor nation profit economically from that same aid at the cost of the recipient country. This occurs as the receiving country is bound to buy goods or services from that donor country as a stipulation for receiving assistance and more aid. For instance in constructing a dam, the donor country can be resolute that their companies, experts and equipment be used during the dam construction project.

Therefore, aid highlights the hegemonic control of the donor countries over the poor recipient countries. Thus conclusions can be made that foreign aid comprises of mixed results of problems and success at the same time. This has led to some scholars like Dambisa Moyo (2013) to argue that aid profit the donor countries more than it profit the recipient country. This is also supported by Ajayi (2000) whose argued is that the dependent pose of most African countries make them vulnerable and exposed to machinations of Western countries as well as Breton Woods Institutions like the IMF and the World Bank. These arguments are to be analyzed in this research to see if they outweigh the benefits that comes with donor aid in rural communities.

According to Yaw A Badu and Andrew Parker (1994), non-governmental organizations have turn out to be an significant partner in the development course of the third world, actions of the NGOs serve up to ease the price of developing countries like Zimbabwe institutional weaknesses which frequently comprise administrative short comings and incapability to professionally carry out necessary development responsibilities that include providing social services or caring for the environment. However, according to Clark (1991) some literature also recognizes that potential shown by some NGOs cannot claim collectively to have made a

contribution to development. Other scholars argue that donor aid that comes with NGOs are only treating symptom of underdevelopment not the source of African problems thus causing a dependence syndrome amongst the masses of Africa. According to Milner and Tingley (2015), foreign aid is vital in foreign policy for a lot of countries, for the reason that aid resources are fungible, it is difficult to pin point by means of goals what aid really achieves, however aid has constantly had geopolitical ramifications.

According to Veiderpass and Anderson (2007), when connecting country effectiveness in development to aid we, however, obtain a to some extent ambiguous picture. While some of the most efficient countries appear to have comparatively low aid share, it is also evident that countries with a relatively little aid share are found amongst the more and also among the less efficient ones. The majority of large aid recipients appear to be found in the middle of the “efficiency spectrum”. They are also of the view that, at times the relation linking aid and efficiency, conclusion must be considered as inconclusive. This reality clearly points to the worth of a continued study covering a considerably longer period of time, extra extensive data set and possibly the addition of different aid procedures. Therefore this study seeks to draw out conclusions on contribution of aid to efficiency development in rural communities.

Donor aid has a constructive impact on development in developing countries with high-quality economic, monetary and trade policies however it has slight impact on countries in which these policies are poor. More so, donor aid on its own has insignificant impact on growth except aid together with good policies has a constructive impact on development. Vu Minh Duc (2002) is of the view that policies are more significant on aid efficiency in lesser income countries. Gong and Zou (2001), stated that aid depress domestic savings, and typically channel it into expenditure and have no connection with investment and development in developing countries. Donor aid funded projects are liable to have modest or no considerable impact in poor policy environment and when projects are not integrated. According to Knack (2006), a donor is more expected to pay no attention to the possible unconstructive externalities on recipient country.

In view of that, the role of NGOs in the development course is for the reason that their recognized good organization and effectiveness program delivery and meeting the requirements of the poor. This is compared positively with the failure of the states, work to advance development. Attack (1999) is of the view that, NGOs have development capacity

that governments are short of and are suitable as an essential element of the development course. Steinberg, argue that NGOs are not democratic institutions in addition to, have no democratic answerability, however some literature brings out that , NGOs encompass an advantage in grassroots accountability, sovereign assessment of problems faced by the local people, provision and distribution of information, awareness campaigns and nearness to their beneficiaries. Thus this study seeks to analyze the contribution of these donor funded NGOs to development of the rural community of Zhombe East.

Worldwide, donor aid has amplified however there is lack of the capability to reach the poor thus concern has been expressed regarding the impact of donor funding to NGOs. Even though their funding has improved very much, their visibility with the public has never been higher. Their authenticity and relationship with funding agencies raise concerns. Some scholars have showed that, there is growing debate that NGOs have turn out to be implementers of donor countries and institutions policies and their association with donors compromises the effort of Civil Society Organizations. An NGO is at most accountable to its particular funding donor agency or its members; therefore this study seeks to find out if NGOs reliance to funding agencies affects rural development in Zimbabwe

## **1.8 Research Methodology**

The researcher used both quantitative and qualitative research designs which involve the collection, analysis and the interpretation of data by observing what people do and say. The only tool used for quantitative design was a questionnaire, as it helped to get individual perceptions of the situation in Zhombe East. However, the greater part of this research's method has been qualitative because it is subjective and uses different methods of collecting (information) data which are qualitative in nature. The researcher used this method also due to that it enabled the researcher to get information which is based on reality rather than quantitative research which dwells only on numbers thus cannot interpret information concerning donor aid and rural development.

### **1.8.1 Sample Design**

In sampling, the researcher used a mixed sampling technique, thus used purposive sampling which is also known as judgmental or expertise opinion sampling. Apart from a purposive sampling, the researcher also used stratified sampling as this allowed her to put the

respondents into key groups and structure questions accordingly as the groups have different roles and views in relation to the issues of rural development and donor aid. The researcher laid down the criterion for the subjects to be incorporated in the sample who ever congregate the criteria can be chosen in the sample and this allowed the participation of both the youth and adults in the research. This helped in the quality of the information was collected since the respondents were taken based on expertise and gender rationalization rather than just picking individuals who don't understand the issue under study. Subjects to participate in the research include:

**Table 1. Samples drawn from respondents groups**

<b>Participant Category</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
ZRDC	10 respondents
Plan International	5 respondents
Kwekwe Social Welfare Department	4 respondents
DA's office	2 respondents
Ministry of Youth, Gender and Empowerment	4 respondents
Traditional leaders	5 respondents
Donor aid Beneficiaries in Zhombe East (direct and indirect)	100 respondents
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>130</b>

### **1.8.2 Data collection methods**

#### **1.8.3 Sources of Data**

The researcher used mutually primary and secondary sources of data in the research. This is because it gives the researcher a wide range of sources to collect data and this will help in providing accurate conclusions to the research.

#### **1.8.4 Secondary Data**

Bryn and Bell (2000) define secondary data as information that before existed somewhere, having been collected for another reason. The researcher used secondary data obtained from Plan and other stakeholder records, budgets and manuals. The information was as well obtained from external sources that include textbooks, journals and newspapers with information correlated to the topic under study. Secondary data was collected first before primary data for the reason that without it, primary data would provide information that

already exists in secondary sources. Data from these sources was not as much as of an expensive and less time consuming to gather.

### **1.8.5 Primary Data**

Bryn and Bell (2000) define primary data as original (new) data gathered to suit the reason of the current study. Primary data in the study was gathered through the use of interviews; field observations; and questionnaires. Data was collected from informants targeted in issues of donor aid and rural development. Primary data collection had some disadvantages. It was costly to efficiently carry out data collection. It was time consuming and required proper planning and efficient utilization of time. However the data collected fulfilled the purpose of the research.

### **1.8.6 Research Ethics**

Ethics in research pertains toward the moral principles guiding research from the time of inception to completion, publication of outcomes and beyond, (Morgan 1980). Consent from participants was sought after through the council observing every protocol structure. Confidentiality was prioritized in this research as well. The researcher in addition explained the reasons of the study so as to safeguard against the background of a number of possible misconceived expectations from the people, for example the expectations that the researcher might solve their development problems. Morally, it is not good to lie to the respondents intended for the reason of gaining information.

### **1.9 Research Instruments**

This section outlines the instruments which were used for primary data collection in this study. Instruments used were questionnaires; interviews and field observations. The researcher used questionnaires because it targets a large number of people and they can provide quantifiable answers for the research. Interviews were used because they provide respondents own words, personal feelings, opinions and follows ups can be made to incomplete answers. On the other hand field observations gave the researcher access to real situations and in-depth understanding in Zhombe East.

#### **a. Questionnaire**

Zikmund (2000) define a questionnaire as a formal set of questions or statements intended to get together information from respondents so as to achieve the goals of the research. A questionnaire is a quantitative technique of data collection. The questionnaires in this

research had a mixture of open-ended questions to permit the respondents to objectively and subjectively give their opinion without being restricted. Closed ended questions have also been used and they incorporated all possible answers hence guiding the respondents on the range and boundaries of the research in case some individuals would go off course if the entire questions are open-ended. Questionnaires were issued randomly to respondents believed to have knowledge on issues under study. The researcher distributed enough questionnaires to all the sub groups of respondents. This means that each group had a relative representative population in these questionnaires. The questionnaire responses were used to determine the opinions of people about the situation on the ground, their perceptions and what they think about Zhombe East in relation to donor aid and rural development. The questionnaires were also issued to people who were above 18 years because they were believed to be mature enough to answer them.

#### **b. Interviews**

Structured interviews were used by the researcher. Kumar (1999), puts forward that an interview is a two way conversation initiated by the interviewer to get hold of information from a respondent. The researcher prepared interview guides which helped to remain focused on area of study and to keep away from irrelevance. In this study interviews were done with respondents from all sample categories. The researcher used cell-phone calls to create appointments with the key informants who had depth understanding concerning donor aid and rural development in Zhombe East. Interviews had an advantage that they provided immediate feedback therefore tallying with what Zikmund (2000) observed on the subject of interviews. Moreover the information gathered was more accurate as the interviewer would get chances of seeking clarity. Questions were explained so that the responded can recognize what is being asked of them. The researcher had all the time to observe nonverbal responses during the interviews despite the fact that conducting interviews was time consuming.

#### **c. Field Observation**

Observational research techniques exclusively involved the researcher making observations. There were numerous positive aspects of observational research approach. According to Kumar (1999) observational research findings are typically flexible and do not necessarily need to be structured around a hypothesis. The researcher chose field observations to examine the projects that were implemented in Zhombe East by donor aid organizations. Also

structures were observed, analyzing their quality, their sites and also various standards especially those which require more technical expertise like dip tanks, schools and even nutrition gardens. In this case, a digital camera was used to take photos to reveal materials used; structures, products and nature of buildings.

### **1.10 Pre-test of Data Collection Instruments**

Best and Khan (1993), state that the validity and reliability of results relate directly to the ability of an instrument to make pertinent results to the topic in study. The researcher discussed with the supervisor concerning the relevance of the questions and whether they would measure and express the expected results.

### **1.11 Data Collection Procedure**

Kumar (1999), data collection process entails how the primary and secondary data was collected. These were the steps used by the researcher during data collection. Questionnaires were hand delivered to the respondents who filled them in three days' time and were collected afterward by the researcher. As for persons who were not busy during the time of data collection, questionnaires were filled as the researcher waited for them. Interviews were completed whenever the researcher met an appropriate informant and had time to carry out the interview. Cell phone calls and physical visits to offices were used to make appointments with officials of the council, Plan International and other stakeholders.

### **1.12 Data Analysis and Presentation**

After data has been collected, it has been presented in a manner that communicates the information and enables conclusion to be drawn. Comprehensible; accurate and suitable ways of presenting data were selected by the researcher. These included tables and pie charts. The data composed by the researcher was analyzed by means of the inductive and deductive analysis techniques. Inductive analysis is an approach to the analysis of data in which the clarification of the phenomenon is by examining the data collected with no hypothetical manipulations (Bryman and bell 2000). Inductive analysis is from precise observations not broader generalizations and theories. Deductive analysis thus allows the borrowing of concepts from the Realistic perspective and Institutionalism and represents the commonest nature of the relationship between theory and research.

### **1.13 Delimitation of the Study**

This research is restricted to the operations of Donor Aid Organizations in rural community development, resilience, food aid and emergency programs and other programs and projects,

with precise reference to donor aid programs being implemented in the Midlands province of Zimbabwe. Data collection was being done in Zhombe East within program areas of Plan International. There are numerous operations of non-government organizations in Zimbabwe; this research only focuses on exact aid programs associated with rural development programs and within the confines of the certain contextual framework of this research. The framework of this research is limited to the researcher's desired parts of theory that most excellent help the researcher discuss and relate to issues of rural development and Donor Aid.

#### **1.14 Limitations of the Study**

According to Leedy and Omrod (2001), limitations are described as features of research plan or procedures that place bounds on the presentation or explanation of outcomes of the study that is confines and usefulness of findings that are the outcomes of the device of plan or method so as to set up internal and external validity. Data collection from key informants was not easy, bearing in mind that the district is distant from where the researcher stays and studies. It is more than 180 kilometers from Harare where the researcher stays to Zhombe where data collection was made in particular from communities and recipients who are benefiting from the donor aid programs. To prevail over this problem the researcher had to look for impermanent residence in Kwekwe. This reduced expenses of frequent travelling throughout data collection and enhanced full commitment to the process. Several field necessities were also a strain to the field research. These comprise transport costs (to and from Kwekwe district), stationary costs for research instruments and all other research requirements for field data collection.

Due to the political environment of Kwekwe district, it was not be easy to access information from field informants. Some people will be skeptic that they can divulge confidential information, hence some will be tempted to give prejudiced information, not reflecting the accurate picture of what is on the ground due to terror of victimization and distrust. To alleviate this limitation the researcher was given authorization to carry out the study by the university and the implementers of donor aid programs. The researcher explained the reasons behind undertaking the research, benefits related with such a research and further motivates respondents by informing them that the research is strictly intended for educational purposes and no respondent was asked for their personal details throughout or after the research. The respondents were assured that the information would be extremely confidential. No data collection method is error free since it can be influenced by attitude of persons providing the

information; for this reason the researcher had a great deal of synchronizing research tools so that they would bring into being correct results.

### **1.15 Chapter summary**

In this chapter, the researcher introduced the research topic under study that is an analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development using the case of Zhombe East between the periods of 2013-2017. The researcher also gave the background of the study and the statement of the problem. Research questions and objectives to guide the study are as well provided for in this chapter. The researcher also gave a justification of the study that is reasons for carrying out such a research. Literature by other scholars on the topic under study was reviewed in this chapter. Finally the researcher explained in detail her research methodology, she intended to use in the research at the same time as delimitations and limitations of the research.

## **CHAPTER TWO: THEORATIACAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter introduces and explains the theories which inform this study. Theories explain, predict, and understand phenomena and also challenges and extend knowledge about the topic under study. Realism and Institutionalism theories are used in this research to explain variables and defining the specific points, the research will take in analyzing and interpreting the data to be gathered.

### **2.1 Realism**

Analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development using the realist school of thought, this theory premises the judgment of national interest that is distinct in conditions of survival, security, power and virtual capabilities. In issues of development nations are the main actor thus success of rural development through donor aid is tied to the state behavior in the international arena. The state is responsible for signing treaties, entering into agreements and international institutions that directly affect rural development. According to Waltz, the international arena is defined by chaos that is the lack of a central authority, states are independent and as a result are sovereign of each other, no inbuilt organization or society can come out or yet survives to regulate relations between states and are only bound by means of force or permission. This means that development at home through donor aid is centered on the relations of the state with other countries

Zimbabwe is associated to numerous international organizations which include, IMF, African Development Bank, The World Trade Organization and the United Nations. These organizations help in issues of rural development, however due to the presidential elections held in 2002, the commonwealth perched Zimbabwe from leadership council for a year this was because the election observers from the commonwealth established that the manner in which the elections were conducted was gravely unsound. After the suspension, the former president of Zimbabwe R. G Mugabe withdrew the country from commonwealth. Also the IMF in 2004 recommended for Zimbabwe's obligatory removal from their institution. Due to Zimbabwe internal policies such as the Indigenization and Empowerment Programme and Land Reform Programme which were mainly aimed at safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, donor countries and investors from the international arena have shun Zimbabwe. Therefore one can see that the fate of rural development through donor aid is in the hands of a few government officials or ruling parties of the time since they are the main actors in international relations.

Mearsheimer (1994) puts forward that realists assert that survival is the major objective of every State. Outside invasion is thus the mainly urgent threat that any state face. The Former President, R G. Mugabe once said “We have now a phenomenon of NGOs, or shall I call them phenomena, for they really are a type of government in the background of a formal government. I don't know whether this creature is for the better or for the worse, but in our country we have seen a situation where they have exceeded their terms of reference, and perhaps we might have to reconsider the advisability of having NGOs.” (Robert Mugabe 2008). From this it can be noted that state in international relations is always interested in survival thus Zimbabwe domestic policies and foreign relations have been shaped by this need to survive and keep its sovereignty at the expense of rural development.

Zimbabwe uses common law together with a well-built sway of customary law and traditions. With greater than before insist for democratic liberty and reforms in Zimbabwe, donor organizations became target of state aggravation by amplified legislative and administrative interference. This was done to protect the national interest of Zimbabwe given the fact that, it was a former colony. The political climate in Zimbabwe produced awfully demanding operational settings for the donor community. The challenges that resulted from such actions are political, legal, economic and social. Therefore this can be explained as being Zimbabwe prioritizing issues of high politics that is security and military issues at the expense of low politics of social, economic and development issues.

On the issue of balance of power, Walt (1995) is of the view that states balance power for just two reasons, the first being that states danger their survival if they be unsuccessful to restrain a possible domination earlier before it is strong. The recommended thing to do is to join those who cannot control their partners, so as to avoid domination by those states that can. Second, amalgamation with the vulnerable states to increase the new members due to that the weak side has larger need for support or assistance, allying with the stronger states by contrast reduces the new members' power since it adds less to the alliance. Alignment with weak states is the preferred choice. This explains why the government of Zimbabwe has chosen to ally with other donor countries and shun cooperation with others. Also donor countries tend to desire offering development assistance to the third world countries like Zimbabwe so as to have influence on the country's political environment. Thus rural development as a result of donor aid becomes an issue determined solely to the State.

Insecurity, being in short of information and resultant incapability to estimate the power necessary lead great powers to make hegemony. Thus, according to Mearsheimer (2001), states do not turn out to be dominate powers until they totally control the structures, He is also of the view that the most excellent manner for states survival in anarchy is in the direction of taking advantage of other states and increase influence at their cost. Certainly, still after achieving domination, the dominating power can yet remains discontented therefore hegemony will do their best to stop the ascending of other hegemony. Within such a world powerful states, that is the States with mainly economic lead and military power are decisive in international matters. Therefore, given this nature of international relations, Zimbabwe has been refusing to be dominated by the great powers in the west thus had to look east where rural development issues have not been given much attention because the Sino- Zimbabwe relations has faced critiques of being exploitative in nature.

The realist theory explains more the behavior and motivation of donor countries to give development assistance to Zimbabwe. Donor countries inspire their aid contributions on the foundation that such donations will influence the country's security, gain and influence in a constructive manner. This reality poses as a threat to the contribution of donor aid in rural development. Donor institutions can be said to be parasitic rather than being beneficiary to the developing countries. This research will also consider the classical realism which is more concentrated with the human nature that is humans are selfish, greedy and can be restrained by fear.

Classical realism have typically been stuck in a distrustful hypothesis of human nature that selfishness and self-interested behavior are not restricted to a few immoral or ill-advised influential leaders but are indispensable to everyone and thus, they will try to maximize their own power at the expense of others thus, state behavior is an extension of individual behavior which inevitably lead to conflict or to a threat of conflict. Human nature can contribute greatly to donor aid activities since the programmes are carried out or implemented by human beings who according to Hobbes are greedy and selfish. Funds to implement projects that promote rural development in rural areas mostly comes from international institutions and USAID who gives the funds to donor organizations such as Plan International. These donor organizations are entrusted to carry out projects using funds from donor country or institution. This raises issues of accountability, transparency and assuring that the targeted beneficiaries benefit on the project considering human nature thus this theory explains why

other rural areas with donor activities are not developing. This concept of human nature is also found on the part of the beneficiaries in the rural community who have disputes amongst themselves and thus some beneficiaries in the community end up not benefiting from the project.

Realists highlight that anarchy and influence lead to a faint sight towards international law and international institutions. Without a doubt, realists suppose such area of international politics is simply epiphenomenal, as a result they support the idea of balance of power, but they do not limit or manipulate State behavior, within an anarchic system in the midst of no hierarchical power. They are also of the view that law will merely be imposed through State and States can decide to apply its power on enforcement only if it has meaningful material interest in the result. Therefore states can make international law as well as international institutions, and might put into effect the regulations they codify, though, it is not the set of laws themselves that establish reasons why a State act in a particular manner, but in its place the fundamental material benefit and power relations. Therefore, realists are of the view that international institutions do not work but rather are used to achieve goals of states hence donor aid from international institutions for development can be said to have a hidden agenda.

Donor organizations contain an international reputation outstanding to the political state in African countries; they have become source of information to the world. They are consulted on current situations in Zimbabwe since they are considered as supplementary on point and are less likely to be biased by the international institutions and community. Donor organizations in addition convey new perspective through so much knowledge in issues disturbing the country for instance grassroots development, poverty and most prominently protection of the human rights. However this in the past has been a source of conflict between donor organizations and Zimbabwean government. The new government of President ED Munangagwa has however pledged to welcome all forms of foreign aid and investment but that will be exposing the country to international community scrutiny thus there is likelihood of the undermining of the state sovereignty.

## **2.2 Institutionalism**

This paper is premised on the institutionalism school of thought; this theory forms the conceptual framework of the research. Institutional hypothesis is a philosophy that stands for the deeper as well as more resilient issues of rural development and community structures. It

consider the process through which structures, involving development schemes, norms, rules and routines, turn into established dependable guiding principle for social actions. Different ideas of institutional theory give details on how these fundamentals are formed, diffused, adopted, and then modified over space and time; as well as how they fall into decline and neglect. However, this research will vastly recognize Scott's (2008) expression of the institutional point of view that, Institutions are societal structures that facilitate have a high level of resilience. Institutions are also made up of cultural-cognitive, normative, and regulative elements that, together by means of associated actions and resources, give constancy and sense to social life. Institutions are transmitted through a variety of types of carriers, including figurative systems, relational systems, routine, and artifact.

Institutionalisms rely on microeconomic theory and game theory to arrive at a conclusion that co-operation among nations or actors in international relations is probable and achievable. The insight is that co-operation may be a rational, self-interested approach for countries to follow under certain conditions. Co-operation among states makes rural development through donor aid possible because it can help solve joint problems and share knowledge and best practices. At national stage, cooperation among states can be able to sustain and reinforce national hard work on rural development as well as also improve perspectives on most excellent policies and lesson learnt in other countries. Such co operation has led to donor aid from developed nations and international organizations to grow to be a significant resolution to the development of human and material resources to alleviate the problems of underdevelopment. Donor aid has already become a universal panacea in development.

Furthermore, some studies have shown that cooperation among states in terms of donor aid is beneficial to both the donor country and recipient country. According to Keohane and Martin (1995), institutions are formed basically to answer to state interests and their nature is controlled by the existing division of capabilities. This is evident because by assisting another country, diplomatic affairs will be nurtured and as a result of showing gratitude the country which would have received aid in which ever form will also be open to assist the donor country in its times of need, it could be in military assistance. Thus it can be seen that institutions foster cooperation among states which leads to rural development through donor aid.

Institutionalism puts forward those institutions; which are distinct as set of rules, norms, practices and decision-making measures that form prospects can prevail over the doubt that

undermine co-operation. Having well developed policies and procedures can provide benefits for the countries involved. These rules enable the member states of the institution to be acquainted with what is anticipated of them in regard to standards of the expected behavior as well as performance. Navari (2009) is of the view that the moment co-operation amongst states is institutionalized, they would be unwilling to remove themselves from it, in fear of what possibly will occur.

Furthermore, Institutionalists are of the view that institutions augment information concerning State behavior. Institutions gather information in relation to State behavior as well as frequently create judgment of compliance or non-compliance to the given rules. States therefore recognize that they cannot succeed if they do not comply with a given rule. This kind of monitoring will enable rural development to take place. For instance Zimbabwe is a signatory to the United Nations thus there are expected to formulate policies and to work with donor agencies to fulfill the sustainable development goals. Navari (2009) is of the view that it is through institutions that donor aid come to Zimbabwe thus when the country failed to comply with the Common Wealth rules and regulations on elections, it was removed and aid assistance to Zimbabwe was stopped. Therefore institutions take part in the contribution of donor aid to rural development

Institutionalists make note that institutions know how to significantly augment efficiency as it is pricey for States to negotiate and bargain with each other. Institutions can reduce the transaction costs of co-ordination by providing a central round-table in which states will be able to meet. Institutions also provide focal points as a result established rules and norms that allow a wide collection of states to quickly resolve on a certain course of action. Institutionalisms thus provide a justification for international co-operation based on the similar theoretical assumptions that lead Realists to be cynical of international law and institutions.

This theory is very significant in this research as it explains that donors and NGOs Plan International and others are part of the highly renowned model of the global institutional economy and their position in institutionalized economy should be realized. This theory helps the researcher on the topic of donor aid organizations as the influential in advocating for rural development and creates the leading voices in accommodating this new norm in global affairs. Their cooperative distinctiveness is corresponding to the hard work required to curtail challenges of rural development. Even the sustainable and millennium development goals are

entrenched in effective cooperation between the state and other partners like NGOs and donor aid organizations in addressing challenges of rural development, climate change and drastic food shortages that is disturbing the world today. The underlying principle of international cooperation between the state and NGOs is to pursue international development and in this research the focal point on rural development has emerge as not just a hot issue in Zimbabwe but transversely the whole world. Therefore the institutional theory in this case develops a satisfactory basis to look into the contribution of donor aid rural development. In addition its role to control the behavior of the government of Zimbabwe to work towards the attainment of sustainable development goal 2 and 17 just to mention a few through the precepts of the institutional theory.

Sustainable Goal 2 of the Development Goals is zero hunger which will be done through means of promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting small farmers, so as to minimize the number of people who go to bed without food in the whole world, attaining this goal is very important to create access for everyone to adequate and healthy food the entire year. Goal 5 is about gender equality in which there is need to attain gender equality and empower every women and girl child. The sustainable development goals also include issues to do with clean water and sanitation, climate action and goal 17 which is partnership in order for these goals to be realized. This can indeed be achieved through institutions partnerships with the government of Zimbabwe which will create structures, together with development rules, norms, schemes and routines, to become recognized as dependable guiding principles for social behavior thus enhancing rural development.

### **2.3 Chapter Summary**

This research will be premised on the concept of cooperation by institutionalist. Co-operation among states makes rural development through donor aid possible because it can help solve joint problems and share knowledge and best practices. On national level, cooperation amongst states can be capable of supporting and reinforcing national hard work on rural development and also augment perspectives on paramount policies and lesson learnt on other countries. Such operation has led to donor aid received from donor countries and international organizations to turn into a significant participant in the development of the human and infrastructural resources to alleviate the ills of underdevelopment. Institutions are created simply in response to state interests and that their character is structured by the prevailing distribution of capabilities. Therefore this theory will be used in analyzing the contribution of donor aid to rural development rather than the realist theory which put

forward that cooperation is not possible since it is premised on the reason of national interest that is distinct in provisions of survival, security and influence or power that hinder meaningful cooperation among state.

## **CHAPTER THREE: DONOR AID IN ZHOMBE EAST (PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS)**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter reviews activities which are being carried out in Zhombe East and being funded by donor aid agencies. Previous researches by various scholars have indicated that many assumptions have been made about donor aid, especially in rural communities. Among them are that Donor Aid agencies are not trusted, not merely because they are alleged to be part of the political strategy of donor governments, whether openly through organisations like USAID, DFID or NORAD, or not directly through a variety of arms of the UN and also donor communities manoeuvre food aid to gain political concession (Hanlon's analysis of NGOs work in Mozambique (1991)). However, this research views much of the arguments as based on a centralised opinion that states or nations tend to protect their national interests, thus viewing any foreign actor as a suspect of its instability. Dreher et al (2015) puts forward that in various developing nations receiving donor aid, poverty is still looming, and underdevelopment persists whilst concluding that there is no vigorous proof that aid affects development. Alemu and Lee (2015) in their research on the comparative analysis of the impact of Foreign aid on Middle and Low-Income African countries concluded that aid has an important constructive impact on low-income countries they argue that condemnation of foreign aid is unsound; this is in tandem with the idea against realistic thinking.

In this regard, the activities being carried out in Zhombe East reflect a wider spectrum of work, which is worth to be analysed and give value to the current trends of politics and development in rural communities. A number of projects are being implemented in Zhombe East by Non-Governmental organizations like Plan International, this range from development projects aimed at injecting short term and long term development projects, education projects, health projects, and emergency aid programs.

The data presented in this chapter has been gathered by the researcher in Zhombe East during the process of data gathering. It has been derived from interviews, questionnaires and discussions as well as observations where pictures and quotes were also gathered. The reviewed projects and programs will help to determine the context in which development can be realised from donor aid programs and as well, where bottlenecks are in terms of implement of donor aid projects in rural communities

### **3.1 Projects under Donor Aid in Zhombe East**

#### **3.1.1. Plan International - Kwekwe Unit**

A number of projects have been and are still being implemented in Zhombe East. These projects are being implemented by various Non-Governmental Organizations in Kwekwe, Zhombe, organizations like Plan International. Plan International constructed classroom blocks all over Zhombe; they have helped hundreds of children complete their studies. Also they've ensured thousands of Zhombe family units remain intact by implementing various psycho-social projects targeted at strengthening family ties in rural communities.

Plan International Zimbabwe has helped and continues helping the Zhombe folks in more ways than one. The Plan International Kwekwe Programme Unit was set up in 1990 and supports drought prone communities of Zhombe and Silobela. In 2016 and 2017, Plan implemented a drought response program dubbed the Zimbabwe Joint Response 1 and 2. The program had four components namely, mobile cash transfer, schools feeding, rehabilitation of nutritional gardens and capacity buildings through training. The program was being implemented in four wards the whole Kwekwe- Zhombe\Silobela district.

**Fig 1: Nutrition enhancement in Zhombe through Nutrition Gardens**



**Photo taken by Prayer K. Mujuru (2018)**

According to the Program Coordinator, Mr. Phiri, the programme targeted 8250 mobile cash transfer beneficiaries, 2500 school children from 10 primary schools in Zhombe and Silobela to benefit on the schools feeding and 1000 individuals to undergo trainings on Disaster Reduction Management.

The impact of the El-NINO drought in Zhombe East was not limited to water only. Rural communities are reliant on mutually animal husbandry and crop production. Families existing in poverty spend most of their insufficient household resources on food, mostly grains. During seasons when weather is good, the farmers grow maize that serves as staple food for the families.

Over 500 livestock deaths were recorded during the drought in Samambwa area of Zhombe East. With a lot of boreholes that have dried out, cattle price has been reduced from approximately \$450 to \$300. Farmers resorted to selling their livestock with the cheap price instead of losing the cattle due to lack of water and food.

Plan, along with partners, provided help through the cash transfer program, livelihood and best farming practices, schools feeding, livestock feeding, irrigation projects, construction and rehabilitation of water sources, fisheries project support, savings group start up, emergency food packs and production asset creation. The emergency response has reached out to over 60 000 people in Zhombe and Silobela.

**Fig 2: Productive Assets through donor aid**



**Photo from Plan Files (2016)**

### **3.1.2. Education**

Plan Kwekwe programme unit maintains a close partnership with the Ministry of Education in promoting children's education. With many students dropping out due to school fees, the programme unit has in 2017 supported 459 boys and 556 girls with paying school fees, the

programmes supported donors from Netherlands, United States of America and Norway. Plan works with partners, children and their families in developing frameworks for making schools safe, happy, inclusive and participatory. The programmes ensure children are protected from harm including bullying and natural hazards. Training in disaster management where children learn basic skills of reducing the impact of disasters and how to react are prioritised. Children participate in fire and evacuation drills.

### **3.1.2. Protection**

Plan International Kwekwe unit together with police, the Department of Social Services and ChildLine Zimbabwe work closely to strengthen child protection structures in schools and at village level. Emphasis is on ending child marriages. Child protection awareness campaigns and follow-up on reported cases of child abuse are of the key elements of the project. There are more than 6221 sex workers between the age of 10 and 24 in Midlands Province, statistics have revealed. When the launch of the Campaign against child prostitution in Kwekwe District at Rio Tinto Zhombe High School was held in 2017, the child Member of Parliament (MP) for Zhombe Honourable Tariro Shava said boys of school going age in Kwekwe are stealing groceries from their parents to pay for the services rendered to them by sex workers. The campaign against child prostitution in Kwekwe district was launched in Silobela and Zhombe by Plan International in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare Kwekwe, community leaders and other stakeholders.

### **3.1.3. Safe environment**

Clean water, effective sanitation services and proper personal hygiene are essential to realising the goals Plan is pursuing. The programme unit has facilitated a water and sanitation project, which saw various boreholes in Samambwa, Donjani and other areas in Zhombe East being rehabilitated. The boreholes were also supported with solar powered pumps and Community nutrition gardens and toilets in communities and at various project sites, especially at gardens and schools. The project has improved access to safe water, adoption of good hygiene and sanitation to some 35,500 people. Plan, through the water and sanitation programme, has facilitated training of 47 village pump mechanics who will maintain boreholes.

Plan International Zimbabwe is dedicated to supporting the community to expand their living and income sources, predominantly to create more resilient to the effects of bad rains during the drought seasons. From 2013, Plan worked in coalition with families to increase food and

cash support programmes, in corporation with other stakeholders like, World Food Programme.

There is still high unemployment and general situation of income challenge persist to present challenges for households to give their children food, therefore Plan and other donor aid organizations continue to enable communities towards installing irrigation systems, dip tanks and inspection shelters, as a result improves livestock, crop and vegetable production, and improving access to education for farmers, together male and female.

Plan International Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring that all children receive a basic, quality education, and it has been working in close partnership with the government to support capacity enhancement programmes that promote quality and improved teaching and learning environments for boys and girls. The Performance Lag Address Programme (PLAP) programme, for example, is now showing results in terms of high performance in public examinations.

In addition, it has been working together with schools to expand school governance programmes, concentrating on improving the ability of School Development Committees (SDCs). Plan is working strongly with communities in Zhombe and Silobela to improve their early childhood care and development services, enabling them to set up new centres and supplementary feeding programmes, as well as training new teachers. In this way, they are working together to change children's futures, with added children enrolling in early childhood centres, better turnout and quality learning.

#### **3.1.4. Mainstreaming children's and young people's safety through standards**

Plan in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Child Welfare have put principles in place to drive in and put into practice safeguarding. This is of the most significant tools for forming a child and youth safe organisation. These standards evidently state what is accepted in relation to implementing the guidelines, offer a standard and a foundation for accountability, give targets and assist in minimising risk to children, staff, young people, and the organisation.

#### **3.1.5. Monitoring and evaluation**

Plan International monitors the degree to which safeguarding methods are in place, evaluate their efficiency and do safeguarding reviews/audits. In addition, it takes up staff survey to watch attitudes in the direction of consciousness of protection of children and young people.

Plan works across the globe, with children and young people, as well as with considered partners to convey collectively Plan International's thematic and programme knowledge to examine key issue and create public policy position form the basis of advocacy in a variety of issues that have an effect on vulnerable communities, children and young people. Build up and implement advocacy strategy for precedence issues, campaigns as well as influencing aspects of Plan International's partnerships and communications. Plan International works among children and young people to make sure that their voices and ideas be heard and engaged. Direct the organisation's commitment with important multilateral organisations and worldwide advocacy partners. Facilitating and strengthening of advocacy transversely in the global organisation

### **3.2 Chapter summary**

This chapter basically outlined activities by donor organizations in an effort to enhance rural development such as Plan International in Zhombe East in order to enhance rural development. In this chapter the researcher looked at programs and project being done to address issues in education, protection, safe environment and also looked in to mainstreaming children and young people's safety by means of standards. Lastly, the researcher looked into how donor organizations such as Plan International monitor and evaluate their programs and projects.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DONOR AID AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZHOMBE EAST**

### **4.1 Donor aid**

Donor is a person or organization that gives money or any material intended to benefit the recipient. Eastely (2006) define aid like a charitable transfer of funds or resources from one country to a different country, prearranged as partly with the aim of benefiting the beneficiary country. The donor can be domestic that is from the recipient country or foreign and donor aid comes through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other International Institutions or even the recipient government. Other scholars are of the view that, it is fitting to define aid as association of developed countries in the economies, politics, military and societal sector of developing countries, both openly or by means of international agencies.

Donors put in place objectives, and problem-solving operations they are prepared to sustain, for their country programmes. When creating these plans and objectives they are to confer with the partner government on uniformity of the planned operations with the government's strategy as well as national agenda and discuss proposals for support from partner government, other donors operating in the country and civil society. Donors, plan their aid assistance spread over a certain period of time that should be in line with the receiving country financial budget. More, so there should be transparent about conditions under which the aid assistance is coming. Donors and receiving government have to agree on performance indicators that are clear, measurable, prioritized and easily provable. Performance indicator agreed on by mutually governments and donors will be used.

Aid issues have received a lot of attention through the years. In 2015, the international community established certain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) to be achieved by 2030: alleviation of poverty, good quality health and well-being, promoting gender equality, quality education, climate action, ensure environmental sustainability and increasing a global corporation for development. Most countries leaders have recognized that objective achievement depends on augmented resource transfers and enhanced aid efficiency by means of donor co-ordination. Since Zimbabwe is a member of the United Nation, the government seeks to achieve these goals as well and this can be done through donor aid from the developed countries.

Most of the donor aid to developing countries is being channeled through Non-governmental organizations and these are most active in Zhombe East, due to that they better understand people's needs and can work in the periphery unlike governments. NGOs have an advantage over governments in areas such as promotion and participatory model of development that center attention on the development of the human life, they have been extremely effectual in showing that poverty, regardless of how widespread, can be dealt with by connecting and engaging with project beneficiaries in their planning, implementation of their projects. These donor organizations have obtained grassroots accountability; they have sovereign evaluation of challenges and problems, knowledge, recommendations, provision and distribution of information and increasing awareness on pertinent issues on rural development.

The muscle of NGOs is in their nearness to the beneficiaries and there is high involvement of people and participation in their activities as is in Zhombe East. They take steps to watch over and as a promoter for human rights as well as good governance, NGOs frequently undertake issues that government are not capable, powerless or reluctant to address. NGOs have well-organized, inventive and less expensive approaches to problems of rural development and in a number of cases, NGOs give direction in producing and promoting public policy and function in spheres anywhere government are forced by technical or political issues. Due to these factors every UN agency works with NGO's and they consider them valuable development partners. However these organizations have to work with the government because they are projects they cannot do on their own and need clearance.

#### **4.2 Rural Development**

The idea of rural area has over the years been addressed in a variety of ways by diverse scholars depending on varying context. Rural areas have large and remote areas of an open countryside with small populace. Functionally, rural is a geographical area characterized by primary activities such as extraction of minerals and farming among others. In issues of development the rural area such as Zhombe East has also been lagging behind.

Rural improvement has been a characteristic playing field of policy and practice and research in previous years. Harriss (1982) is of the view that rural development is either a state-led motion or a center for development policy or a broader procedure of transformation in rural communities, which may or else might not involve state involvement. Rural development can

not only be explained in terms agricultural growth even though agriculture is a very significant measurement of rural development, it is however not adequate to guarantee economic augmentation in the rural communities. Other dimensions that are to be considered are to ensure rural developments are good health facilities, quality education, political consciousness and economic activities such as mining, buying and selling rather than just agricultural activities. Rural development should be diversified in all sectors. However this research is focused more on economic and social development

Rural economic development influences augmentation of an economy to improve the economic security of a rural community. This type of rural development comprise of policies and programs to facilitate services that include creation of tarred roads, creation of employment, and enhancing access to health care to the poor as well as programs that are aimed at civilizing the business environment by means of precise efforts, business investment, marketing community goods, district development, grassroots local business growth, expertise and technology transfer and others. The major objective of economic development is advancing the economic welfare of a rural community by efforts that involve job creation and improved quality of life. There is no solitary description for economic development; there is also no solitary plan, policy, or program for realizing flourishing economic development. Communities are different in geographic as well as political strength and weakness. Each community, consequently, have a exclusive set of problems that undermines economic development and in this study we look at Zhombe East

Morris (2010), puts forward that social development is a package of technological, survival, organizational, as well as cultural activities by which community feed, dress, house, and reproduce, give explanation of the world surrounding them, decide disputes in their communities. Health issues, education, resolution of conflict, empowerment of women, girl child and the poor, poverty reduction, sustainable social structures, good governance are all vital goals in social development. Social development has new departments in governments donor countries and agencies, therefore has led to the beginning of new processes and structures intended to augment the fairness and efficiency of the development course by mounting the involvement of people in the development procedures. NGOs now put across a real concentration in harnessing home-grown knowledge as to improve rural livelihoods.

Another central concern in rural development is environmental protection, the matter is of great significance in rural development, because many economic activities, particularly agriculture and mining, is reliant on the natural resources in the rural communities, and has impact on these natural resources, for instance through deforestation, soil degradation as well as loss of biodiversity. One of the major problems, even in the future, is associated to climate change. Climate change is likely to have a main impact on the climate and natural resources of rural communities, affecting equally the production of rural resources and the livelihoods of the community who are dependent upon the natural resources. Agriculture being the main contributor to the greenhouse gases that facilitates for climate change and will be affected by potential efforts to decrease carbon emissions.

Rural development approaches, in stipulations of stated goals, have had, and still continue to have a strong poverty center of attention. Many scholars including Harriss (1982), viewed the issue of poverty as a characteristic trait of the research and dedication to achieve rural development, setting it apart from traditional approaches to development which were generally worried about macroeconomic growth and how to encourage output in the productive sector of the economy; they thought that poverty would go down automatically as long as those issues had been addressed. Intervention in rural development has over and over again been centered more directly on the predicament of poverty for instance, by addressing the essential needs of the poor in provision of food, health and education, and improving the efficiency of production activities that the poor are involved in.

Concentration on poverty issues in the field of rural development has a great deal to do with the high prevalence of poverty in rural areas. The majority of the poor exist in rural areas and it is in the rural areas that poverty and connected deprivations are at their most extreme. The Millennium Development Goal objective of decreasing the number of people living in poverty by 2015 places interest on the mainstreaming of poverty as a center of policy and the UNDP on Sustainable Development Goals has continued on hard work to alleviate poverty on goal 1 of no poverty by 2030. IFAD (2010) show that, the occurrence and harshness of poverty continue to be high in rural areas in comparison with urban areas, so that even though the number of urban people in the whole world overtook the amount of rural people a bit in 2010, the number of poor rural people remain higher than the number of poor urban people.

### **4.3 The impact of donor aid in rural development**

A number of researches have been done in order to explain whether donor aid contributes in rural development or not, the answer which this research seeks to find. Donor aid can have a positive impact in rural development since developing countries like Zimbabwe struggle to develop rural communities because of lack of resources which donor countries and international institutions can provide to facilitate development. Impact of donor aid in rural development can also be determined by policies and legislation in the environment that donor aid projects will be carried out. Thus policies and legislation in the recipient country in this case Zimbabwe plays a major role in making donor aid encompass a constructive or unconstructive impact. Furthermore, nature or type of donor aid matters in determining the impact of donor aid in rural development. Donor aid comes in different forms that are in monetary form or as commodities thus there will be need to analyze if the type of donor aid addresses the need. The impact of donor aid in rural development in Zhombe East will be analyzed in chapter five.

### **4.5 Chapter Summary**

The chapter basically explains in a greater detail the concepts around issues of donor aid and rural development using the researcher understanding and other literature. In this chapter, the different forms of rural development that is economic and social development were explained as well as donor aid that comes through NGOs in Zhombe east. Also determinates of the impact of donor aid in rural development were briefly outlined.

## CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION

### 5.0 Introduction

The chapter will produce conclusions through the presentation of data and summary of findings that the researcher obtained in the period of the field study. Data analysis is of chief importance in this study as it will permit the examiner or in this case researcher to summarize the information collected. In this chapter the data will be helpful in identifying variables and predict results of the study thereby proffer answers to the research questions. Data is the original information which is gathered, kept, accessed, used and inclined throughout the course of the research. The essential step in analytical procedure includes recognizing issues, determining the accessibility of appropriate data, evaluating and communicating the data.

**Table 2. Questionnaire Response rate**

Target respondents	Questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires completed	Response rate
ZRDC	10	10	100%
Plan International	5	4	70%
Kwekwe Social Welfare Department	5	5	100%
D A's Office	2	1	50%
Ministry of Youth, Gender and Empowerment	4	4	100%
Traditional leaders	5	5	100%
Donor aid Beneficiaries in Zhombe East	100	100	100%
Totals	126	122	89%

### 5.1 Questionnaire Responses

The researcher had a high response rate from the respondents who completed the questionnaires as compared to the respond rate from interviews

#### a. Role of donor aid in rural development

Questionnaires given to respondents showed that the beneficiaries were very much aware of the programs and projects that were being implemented by donor organizations especially Plan International. Donor aid beneficiaries also indicated that school feeding, rehabilitation of

nutritional gardens and cash transfers were helping in improving their livelihoods. Most of the respondents who completed the questionnaire understood the concept of donor aid and rural development thus they were of the view that donor funded projects were of great significance to the development of the rural community. Most of the respondents indicated that there should be more donor aid organizations that should come in Zhombe East to enhance development.

#### **b. Efficacy of donor aid in enhancing rural development**

Most of the respondents linked recent development in Zhombe east to donor aid. This is due donor organizations such as Plan International programme unit that has facilitated water and sanitation projects, which saw various boreholes in Samambwa, Donjani and other areas in Zhombe East being rehabilitated. The boreholes were also supported with solar powered pumps to supply water to Community nutrition gardens and toilets in communities and at various project sites, especially at gardens and schools. The projects also improved access to safe water, adoption of good hygiene and sanitation to a lot of people. Plan, through the water and sanitation programme, has facilitated training of village pump mechanics who will maintain boreholes.

The respondents also indicated that there has been an increase in the number of children in schools and few drop outs due to donor organization campaigns for child protection and paying school fees for some of the children who could not afford on their own. Hence, this shows how significantly important donor aid is in enhancing rural development

#### **c. Dynamics of donor aid in rural development**

The respondents argued that although donor aid contributed to development in the area there were challenges as well in that the donor projects in the area at times could not accommodate everyone in Zhombe East, some were still being left out due to limited funds of the donor organizations as they are told. The respondents also indicated that there is still need to train the beneficiaries on how to effectively sustain the projects after donor organizations depart from the rural community.

However, a significant number of respondents on the list of positives indicated that the strength of donor aid in developing the rural community of Zhombe east is that of their proximity to the beneficiaries since they get into the grassroots and address the needs of the people through projects that are aligned to the needs of the people. They were of the view that donor aid complements the government efforts to enhance rural development. On the

question of community participation, the respondents indicated that they were well involved in the donor funded projects. For instance some were in committees that assisted in the Zimbabwe EL Nino Joint Response 1 and 2 thus they were highly involved.

**Table 3. Interviews**

<b>Targeted Respondents</b>	<b>Interviewed</b>	<b>Not interviewed</b>	<b>Rate</b>
ZRDC Officers	10	0	100%
Plan International	3	2	60%
Ministry of Youth, Gender and Empowerment	2	2	100%
Traditional leaders	2	3	40%
Donor aid beneficiaries	86	14	86%
Totals	103	21	83%

## **5.2 Interview Responses**

### **a. Traditional leaders**

The researcher managed to have interviews with two traditional leaders that are the Chief and Village Head.

#### **i) Chiefs**

In the interview, chief alluded that he was aware of donor aid activities in his area and that they were working together to ensure development in Zhombe East. The Chief also said that the community has seen high rate of girl child attending school due to the follow ups to child abuse cases that was done by donor organizations which is a huge step to development of the rural community. He also spoke on the inability of the donor funded projects to involve everyone and he made reference to the Zimbabwe EL Nino Joint Response which only had beneficiaries in two wards. However, he said donor aid beneficiaries are now depending solely on donor funded projects and shun agricultural activities that also help in development of the rural community.

#### **ii) Village Heads**

The researcher interviewed village head Samambwa at his home and in his responses he showed that he had understanding of rural development, he spoke of food security through agriculture, low student drop outs in schools and good health facilities and services as the

form of development needed in his area. The village head eluded that donor organizations in Zhombe East are the hope for such rural development since the government was failing on its own.

#### **b. Donor aid beneficiaries**

Most of the respondents were very much aware of donor organizations activities in the area and projects that were currently being carried out in their rural community. A great number of the respondents were of the view that donor funded projects had been largely effective in Zhombe East due to the positive change they had brought on their livelihoods. During the interviews a certain lady cried while explaining the role that had been played by Plan International to her family. The respondents alluded that they would appreciate it more if donor organizations could extent the duration of their projects so that they keep on benefiting from them to ensure development in their rural community.

#### **c. Plan International**

From this donor organization, the researcher only got to interview three respondents, two of them at their offices in Kwekwe and the other one in the field in Zhombe East. Some of the targeted respondents were difficult to reach due to their non-flexible work schedule. The interviewed respondents alluded that their project in Zhombe east are focused on rural development because they carry out surveys in which they obtain adequate information about what a rural community needs to develop thus their projects become aligned to development goals of the community. They work with stakeholders who include ZRDC and Ministry of Youth, Gender and Empowerment when carrying out a program since they will be working under their jurisdiction and they described their relations as vital and necessary for them to achieve their desired outcomes in the rural community. The respondents alluded that their programs and projects are mainly aimed to enhance quality education, expertise, young people activism, sexual health and human rights, early childhood and ending domestic violence which lead to rural development.

Furthermore, the respondents were of the view that their organization has a major role in issues of rural development in Zhombe east due to their well-crafted and organized programs and projects in the area. They also went on to say that their effectiveness in rural development is due to their proximity to the grassroots thus they address the actual needs of the rural community of Zhombe east hence allows for development. However, the respondents alluded that they at times fail to operate freely due to the political environment in

Zhombe east and they also face challenges of inadequate resources and funding from donor countries and international institutions that finance them.

#### **d. Ministry of Youth, Gender and Empowerment**

Interviews from this ministry were difficult to secure thus the researcher interviewed two respondents instead of the targeted four. The respondents that were interviewed showed an understanding of donor aid and they greatly appreciated the role of donor funded projects in enhancing development of the youth and the girl child through various campaigns. They also went to indicate that they work with such NGOs so that they bridge the gap that is left by the government ministry due to lack of adequate resources and access to the grassroots level. The respondents revealed that they are consulted by donor organizations before they take up projects in order to fuse them with the ministry's development objectives in the district. One of the respondents highlighted that there need for more projects and programs to address the issue of gender based violence and early child marriages in Zhombe east thus there is need to partner with NGOs to deal with such problems.

#### **e. ZRDC**

The response rate at ZRDC was 100% mainly because the researcher had access to the respondents since the researcher did her work- related learning at the organization. The researcher interviewed E.O HRA&SS, Assistant E.O HRA&SS, E.O Natural Resources and Agriculture. E.O Natural Resources & Agriculture, Mr. Kuwa alluded that although donor aid is effective in rural development, there is still more to be done by the donor community in order to assist the district in development since the Council is receiving low revenue collection due to economic hardships in the country. The respondents also alluded that NGOs such as Plan International have Memorandum of Agreements with the council to guide their activities in the district and during their field operations, Council sends a representative to observe and engage in the programs. Most of the respondents at the Council were of the view that donor aid is effective in rural development thus there is need to invite other NGOs into the district.

### **5.3 Comparison between questionnaire and interview responses**

The response rate from questionnaire was high as compared to that from the interviews. This was because interviews were difficult to secure due to tight working schedules of the respondents and some of them did not cooperate due to the fear that the research could be a cover up for political agenda. Some of the interviews were carried out in the presence of the

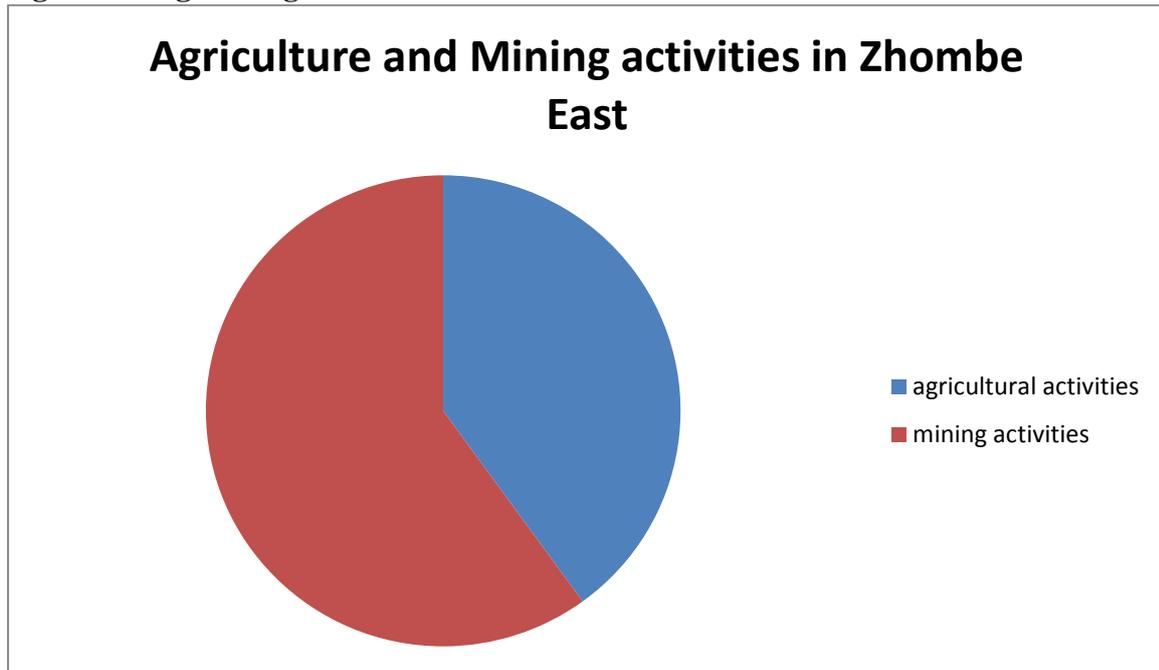
respondents superiors thus they withheld some due to fear of their superiors. On the other hand questionnaires had a high response rate due to that the researcher had assistance from the local leadership who gave her some youth to interpret and help those who could not read and write and some of the respondents took three days completing the questionnaires before the researcher collected thus gave them adequate time to complete them.

#### **5.4 Field observations**

The researcher in this study chose to carry out field observations in order to obtain data on the area under research. During field observations the researcher observed that a lot of people in Zhombe east had bags, caps and t-shirts that had the Plan International log on them show that the donor organization was operating in the area and the community was involved in their projects. The researcher had the opportunity to be present at Samambwa Primary School as there were being feed through the school feeding program and a great number of the children benefit from the porridge meal. It is during these field observations that the researcher meet with a Plan field officer who was monitoring the rehabilitation of nutritional gardens. The garden had different kinds of vegetables and the beneficiaries were present

Furthermore, the researcher observed that most of the people in Zhombe east are involved in illegal mining rather than agricultural activities that provide food security for their families. Most of the land is unutilized in the rural community. Due to this there is a high level of sex workers like in most mining townships thus there have been campaigns on sexual health by donor organizations. Plan International has been making efforts to empower the girl child through education. Donor funded project in the area have been trying to make people in the rural community engage in proper agriculture activities that are sustainable.

**Fig 3: Mining and Agriculture activities in Zhombe East**



Source: research findings

### **5.5 Conclusion of the research**

After carrying out the study, the researcher is of the view that donor aid significantly contribute to rural development in Zhombe East. This has been arrived to because most of the development in the rural community is through NGOs who are donor funded and carry out programs and project to enhance rural development. From 2013 to 2017, Zhombe east has had significant social and economic development due to donor aid, through NGOs such as Plan International. The government has been failing to achieve their development objectives due to lack of resource and finances thus donor aid has been complementing and assisting in their efforts in order to facilitate for rural development. Therefore, there is great need for more donor funded projects in the area of Zhombe East to facilitate development.

### **5.6 Recommendations**

#### **a. Academic Community**

The researcher recommends all probable and existing researchers to uphold non bias and impartiality whilst undertaking their research in the topic under study or other related topics. In this respect researchers should get into the area under study and obtain data rather than relying on the media and other written literature which are prone to misinformation, prejudice and forged interpretation. Reliable, authentic as well as unique research can just be realized if

researchers directly engage the entire respondents that can give information about the topic under study

#### **b. Donor organizations (NGOs)**

These organizations should engage donor countries and international institutions to fund them so as to carry out programs and project that accommodate more people thus increasing the number of beneficiaries of donor aid in Zhombe east. Donor organizations should be aware of their important role in rural development therefore seeking funding should be their top priority.

#### **c. Donor aid beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries from donor aid in Zhombe east are now developing dependency syndrome to donor organizations since they expressed that the time frame donor funded projects should be extended in order for them to keep on benefiting from the project. The researcher wishes to recommend that the beneficiaries should not only rely on donor aid as NGOs come and go but they should rather engage in agriculture which is the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy.

#### **d. Government**

The researcher wishes to recommend the government of Zimbabwe to change into favorable policies and legislation in order to facilitate and attract more donor aid activities in the country. In this regard there has been a light towards such change; the current president E D. Mnangagwa has been making efforts to improve foreign and diplomatic relations so as to attract more donors to Zimbabwe. However, there is still a lot to be done by the government to ensure such a transition happens so that the benefits that come through donor aid to rural communities may be realized.

### **5.7 Chapter Summary**

The researcher in this chapter presented and described the data obtained from questionnaires, interview and field observations, and the data was analyzed. Conclusions of the research were given in this chapter as well as recommendations to the government, donor organizations, academic community and donor aid beneficiaries.

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## Appendix 1



### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

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**Topic: An analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development: the case of Zhombe East. (2013-17)**

#### **Introduction**

Thank you for taking your time and agreeing to contribute in this questionnaire; I am Prayer K Mujuru, a Politics and Public Management Honours Degree student at Midlands State University. My research is centered on understanding the contribution of donor aid in the development of rural communities, with reference to community programs and projects that are being implemented by NGOs like Plan International in Zhombe area. You have been recognized as a key stakeholder in issues related to donor aid and development of Zhombe rural area hence the appeal for you to contribute in this key informant questionnaire.

To guarantee that I do not overlook any details you may want to contribute to this research, you are allowed to give as much detail as you can on all the questions. Should I overlook anything, I may request that we return to the question. All the responses will be reserved confidential and will only be used for the reasons of this research and academic reports. Bear in mind that you don't have to converse about anything you are not comfortable with. You have the right of pulling out from this survey and by taking part to participate in this questionnaire; you consent to what we have discussed. Our questionnaire is expected to take just about 15-30 minutes.

**Section 1 - General**

**General Identification of respondent**

Female...../Male..... (Yes on the correct part)

a. Your Age group (Tick the correct age group)

18-30 .....

31-45 .....

46-60 .....

61 and above .....

b. What is your position in your village, ward or organization?

.....

c. Please may I know your village/ward or the name of the institution (if any) for which you are completing this questionnaire.

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**Section 2 – Projects and Programs under donor aid in your community**

**Question 1**

May you please list any projects which are being implemented by donor aid organizations in Zhombe East community?

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**Question 2**

Are these projects contributing to the development of Zhombe East rural community?

Yes...../No..... (Tick applicable answer)

And for each answer, the reasons are:

Reason 1:

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Reason 2:

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Reason 2:

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**Question 3**

Do you understand what is meant by Donor aid and rural development? Please give your answers?

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Donor Aid

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Rural Development

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### **Section 3 – Rural Development in Zhombe East**

#### **Question 4**

What are your views about the state of development in Zhombe East?

Please rank your answers starting with Number 1 being the outstanding point

View 1:
View 2:
View 3:

#### **Question 5**

Would you link any development in Zhombe East to donor aid projects?

If so:

How?

.....

.....

Or if not: Why?

.....

.....

**Question 6**

What do you think are the challenges of donor aid in your community in relation to development? And what are the solutions you might suggest for those challenges?

Challenge:

Solution:

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Challenge:

Solution:

---

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Challenge:

Solution:

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**Question 7**

How do you want donor aid to come to Zhombe East rural community?

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**Question 8**

List any positives you have had in Zhombe East from donor aid projects since 2013? If possible give a description of how the project is benefiting the community.

1.

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2.

Benefit:

---

3.

Benefit:

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### **Question 9**

Please provide any suggestions you have on how the government must utilize donor aid funding

Suggestion 1:

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Suggestion 2:

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Suggestion 3:

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### **Section 4 – Community Participation**

#### **Question 10**

What is your responsibility in the all donor aid projects that are being carried out in your community?

Role Number 1:

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Role Number 2:

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**Question 11**

What is your feeling about how the general community members are being engaged in community development projects, especially donor aid projects?

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**Question 12**

Do you think communities need to more active roles in such projects?

Yes..... /No.....

Reason:

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**Section 5 – Conclusion**

**Question 13**

Please provide any additional information you feel is important in this research

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Thank you for taking your time to contribute in this questionnaire.

...The end...

## **Appendix 2: Key Informant Interview Guide**

Target group:

- a. Government Ministries

**Topic: An analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development: the case of Zhombe East (2013-17)**

### **Introduction**

Thank you for taking your time and agreeing to partake in this key informant interview; I am Prayer K Mujuru, a Politics and Public Management Honours Degree student at Midlands State University. My research focuses on understanding the contribution of donor aid in the development of rural communities, with reference to community programs and projects being carried out by NGOs like Plan International in Zhombe area. Your department has been recognized as a key stakeholder in issues associated to donor aid and development of Zhombe rural area hence the request for you to participate in this key informant interview.

To ensure that I do not overlook any details we discuss in this interview, I will be making notes as the interview progresses. Should I fail to notice any notes, I may request that we revisit the question. All the responses will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of this research and academic reports. Remember that you don't have to talk about anything you are not comfortable with. You have the right to withdrawal from this interview and by proceeding to participate in this interview; you consent to what we have discussed. Our interview is estimated to take just about 15 and 30 minutes.

### **Questions:**

1. What do you understand by the term donor aid?
2. Who are the main stakeholders you deal with and how do you interact with them when donor aid programs and projects are being implemented in Zhombe?
3. How are you involved in making sure that NGO funded projects fuse into your development objectives as a district?
4. What practises do you appreciate most in donor funded projects?
5. What are the challenges with donor aid and what do you think are the causes?
6. How do you feel about the state of the rural communities in Zhombe in relation to the number of donor aid projects implemented since 2013?

7. In what ways do you think the community can best be engaged to promote the development of their areas through donor aid projects?

8. What are your roles in making sure that the district gets the best out of donor aid?

Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions on this topic?

Thank you for your time. I will be analyzing the findings from the interviews and I will be glad to provide you a copy of our findings. If interested in these results, kindly provided your contact details:

Name & Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Appendix 3: Key Informant Interview Protocol**

Target group:

- b. Plan International Kwekwe PU

**Topic: An analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development: the case of Zhombe East (2013-17).**

#### **Introduction**

Thank you for taking your time and being supportive to participate in this key informant interview; I am Prayer K Mujuru, a Politics and Public Management Honours Degree student at Midlands State University. My research is centered on understanding the function of donor aid in the development of rural communities, with reference to community programs and projects being implemented by NGOs like Plan International in Zhombe area. Your organization has been identified as a key stakeholder in issues related to donor aid and development of Zhombe rural area hence the request for you to partake in this key informant interview.

To ensure that I do not miss any details we discuss in this interview, I will be making notes as the interview progresses. Should I overlook any notes, I may request that we revisit the question. All the responses will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of this research and academic reports. Bear in mind that you don't have to talk about anything you are not comfortable with. You have the right to pull out from this interview and by proceeding to participate in this interview; you consent to what we have discussed. Our interview is expected to take approximately 30-45 minutes.

#### **Questions:**

1. What do you understand by donor aid and rural development?
2. Are your programs and projects focused on rural development? If so, how?
3. Who are the main stakeholders you deal with and how do you interact with them during your operations in rural communities?
4. What is the nature of your programs and projects?
5. What challenges do you usually face in implementing projects in rural?
6. How would do you want to relate your work to rural development?
7. What key issues can you highlight about your work in Zhombe East rural?

8. How do you feel about the state of the rural communities in Zhombe East in relation to your work?
9. In what ways do you think the community can be engaged to promote rural development?
10. What challenges are you as an organization facing in working with other stakeholders?

Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions on this topic?

Thank you for your time. I will be analyzing the findings from the interviews and I will be glad to provide you a copy of our findings. If interested in these results, kindly provided your contact details:

Name & Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

----- The end of our interview -----

## **Appendix 4: Key Informant Interview Guide**

Target group:

- c. Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries of donor Aid in Zhombe East.

**Topic: An analysis of the contribution of donor aid to rural development: the case of Zhombe East (2013-14)**

### **Introduction**

Thank you for taking your time and agreeing to participate in this key informant interview; I am Prayer K Mujuru, a Politics and Public Management Honours Degree student at Midlands State University. My research focuses on understanding the contribution of donor aid in the development of rural communities, with reference to community programs and projects being implemented by NGOs like Plan International in Zhombe area. You have been identified as a key stakeholder in issues related to donor aid and development of Zhombe rural area hence the request for you to participate in this key informant interview.

To ensure that I do not miss any details we discuss in this interview, I will be making notes as the interview progresses. Should I miss any notes, I may request that we revisit the question. All the responses will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of this research and academic reports. Remember that you don't have to talk about anything you are not comfortable with. You have the right to withdrawal from this interview and by proceeding to participate in this interview; you consent to what we have discussed. Our interview is estimated to take approximately 15-30 minutes.

### **Questions:**

1. What do you understand by development or your area?
2. What is your role in the development of Zhombe East rural community?
3. Do you know of any donor aid projects being or previously implemented in your area?
4. What is being done? And how do you get involved?
5. Is what is happening the way you want it happening?
6. What are the challenges associated with those projects and programs?
7. What do you think can be done to minimize the challenges?
8. Are the projects and programs maintainable when organizations implementing them depart from Kwekwe?

9. How do you feel about the state of the rural communities in Zhombe East?

10. In what ways do you think the community can be engaged to promote rural development?

Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions on this topic?

Thank you for your time. I will be analyzing the findings from the interviews and I will be glad to provide you a copy of our findings. If interested in these results, kindly provided your contact details:

Name & Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

----- The end of our interview -----