



Fairtrade
Support Network
Zimbabwe



ABSTRACT

A report on Borehole committee training workshops and water sourcing activities carried out in Binga District between June 2023 and July 2023

Activity Dates: 8 June 2023 -18 July 2023

Report Developed by: Shamiso Mungwashu

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ACRONYMS

DDC- DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

FSNZ- FAIRTRADE SUPPORT NETWORK ZIMBABWE

KAITE e.V- KAITE Verein

RDC- RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OA- ORGANIC AFRICA

SDG's- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Water has become more and more a scarce resource in the world and communities in semi-arid regions are facing the dire effects of climate change even more because of poor rainfall patterns. The lack of access to sanitation and clean and safe water to drink is closely linked to poverty. The work that FSNZ carries out in rural areas around Zimbabwe is to improve the livelihoods of the communities through linking them to markets that offer them competitive prices for their products. Binga district which is in Matebeleland North is one of the districts that FSNZ has been operating in for the past 15 years. Through our work we have seen great economic growth and communities coming together to work but the challenge of accessing of water is still there. From the age of 7, a child walks an average of 5 km looking for water in Binga district and often resort to drinking water from open wells that are often patronized by livestock as well as wild animals making it very unsafe to drink. These distances that children must walk in search of water have prejudiced the female children a lot as they end up looking for water in lieu of attending studies.

BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe Trust (FSNZ) was founded in March 2014 with the aim of sustainably improving the living conditions of smallholder families in Zimbabwe.

FSNZ focuses on:

- Empowering smallholders to achieve Fairtrade certification through compliance with the standards.
- Improving community cohesion through community partnerships.
- Social, economic, and environmental activities that improved the livelihoods of the rural communities.
- Production quality assurance through constant agricultural advice.
- Training collectors of wild species in sustainable collection.
- Ensuring market access for the products of small farmers and wild collectors.
- Advice on how to use Fairtrade, Fairwild and Fair for Life premiums for social, community development projects.

1.2 Key Actors

In the implementation of these activities, FSNZ Partnered with KAITE e.V in Germany to provide training on borehole committees with farmers in Binga in preparation for borehole installation in the district. Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe also worked with the Binga District Development Coordinator, Persons responsible for water and sanitation at the Binga Rural District Council, The police and traditional leaders. Water in Zimbabwe has cultural and traditional significance and a multi stakeholder approach was used in this process.

The communities that were selected for participation were in Sinakhoma ward in Chivwetu, Chininga and Nsungwale villages were Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe has been working with Rosella producers since 2014.

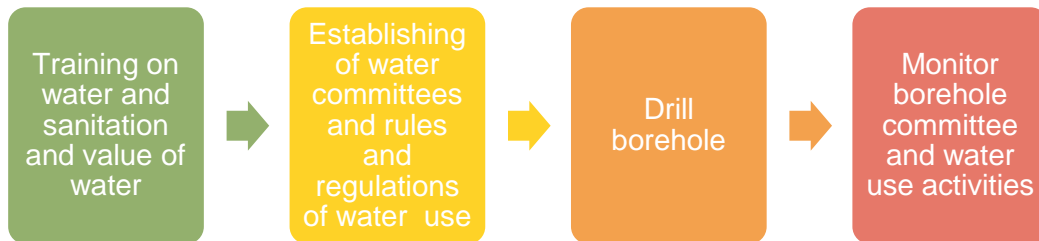
The clearance to conduct borehole committee meeting was sought from the Traditional leaders, Rural District Council, District Administrator, The Office of the President, Police internal security intelligence (PISI).

1.3 Objectives

Traditionally, Non-governmental organizations have been providing access to clean water through drilling boreholes or building of water reservoirs. This activity usually takes place within a project cycle, after eighteen to thirty-six months the organization leaves the community to look after the borehole that has been drilled with the hopes that they can continue to have clean water post project cycle. The trend has been that, once the organization departs, the borehole begins to fall apart due to lack of maintenance, parts of the borehole are stolen because of lack of security or there are water conflicts that start between the supposed project beneficiaries and some other members of the community.

To avoid such scenarios, FSNZ and KAITE Verein proposed to start the process of borehole drilling by setting in place training on water and establishing water committees in the communities that had potential to drill the boreholes. Establishing the committees allows for partnerships with the community and fosters ownership as rules, responsibilities and obligations are established before the borehole is in place and potential conflicts are identified and addressed beforehand.

Process



Chininga village inception meeting for borehole drilling

2.0 PROJECT AREAS

Binga District, Zimbabwe

- Binga is a district on the south eastern shore of Lake Kariba in the province of Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe. The district falls in natural region 4B and 5 which is often characterized by low rainfall and high temperatures. This offers the perfect climatic conditions that allow Rosella to thrive.



3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Trainings

Training was conducted at cluster level with a group of villagers. The trainings were broken down into three categories.

- Water and Sanitation
- Roles, rights, and responsibilities
- Establishing of a water point management committee

The trainer used the USAID water point management committee training manual as a guide in conducting the training and the training was conducted in Tonga and Ndebele (local languages from Binga)

Water and Sanitation

This training was conducted by way of establishing an appreciative enquiry that establish what is available for the communities and where the water is currently sourced. For most of the farmers, they had to walk long distances to collect water for cooking and drinking and this did not guarantee that the water would be available as often the farmers would arrive to the borehole, and it would be dry or over patronized by people living close to the water source. Some resorted to fetching water from the river, from open wells and digging along the riverbed for what is known as “mufuku” where the sand sips out residual water from a dried-out river.

From this training the farmers were able to establish that:

1. Access to clean water is low.
2. Sanitation and health are strongly related to access to water.
3. There is need to have access to water.
4. Water is a key element in poverty reduction.
5. Access to water improves productivity as less time is spent looking for water.

Roles rights and responsibilities

Where there is access to water, it is important to establish the roles and responsibilities of the members of the community as well as to affirm the rights to water.

According to the Traditional leader’s act, water is a communal resource so access to the water could not be limited to rosella farmers who partner with Organic Africa but also include other members of the community. This means that the responsibilities of the maintenance of the borehole included all the members of the community. To ensure that the borehole would be used sustainably all households who would be serviced by the borehole committed to paying a monthly fee that went into the community pocket that would serve as savings to cater for the borehole repairs that need to be carried out in the district in the future.

Roles established.

1. The water is a communal resource that is shared by al members of the community.

2. The Environmental Health Technician from the Rural District Council of Binga oversees overseeing that health standards are maintained at the borehole and that the borehole is running smoothly in the village.
3. All households that are serviced by the borehole are responsible for the cleaning of the yard and security of the borehole to make sure no livestock enters the borehole area and vandalism is avoided.



Shamiso Moving from group to group giving targeted feedback per group

Establishing of a water point management committee

The villages selected water point committees that are responsible for the monitoring of the water point, the security and to schedule the repairs when needed. One of the most important activities that the community had to draw out was a schedule of water collection and to monitor water usage through the assistance of the Environmental Health technician to ensure that every family has equal access to water and a small group of community members do not prejudice other members in the community.

The traditional leaders and other members of the community who serve as leaders were not allowed to serve in these committees instead, they serve the purpose of providing advisory services to the committees and the community. The justification was that people

that already have positions of leadership that can be politically or socially aligned should not have positions of leadership for a shared resource that involves other members of the community.



The traditional leaders participating in the water point training meeting

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 TRAINING RESULTS

The tables below detail the training statistics for the trainings conducted in Binga disaggregated by training group or ward.

Group Name	Male	Females	Total
Nsungwale	11	81	92
Chivwetu	5	221	226
Chininga	38	152	190
Total	54	454	508

5.0 PROCESS

After the establishment of the water committees, the trained communities agreed on the sequence of drilling that would take place, the most vulnerable communities in terms of

access to water as perceived by the community were ranked and the Chininga scored the highest.

Chininga Borehole

The Chininga farmers agreed that they would use their premium for the year 2023 to contribute towards a partnership with an organization to drill a borehole. Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe partnered with Organic Africa and managed to drill a borehole with the farmers in Chininga village. Despite challenges in accessing ground water to drill, the drilling company managed to drill a borehole in the ward and this borehole is currently functioning well.

The Ministry that oversees water also did a test to see how prolific the borehole was post drilling and they established that the borehole was prolific and the water table high enough to sustain the community with water even in the dry seasons.



Miss Masi Mudimba doing a water test to see if it is prolific.

Nsungwale Borehole

The Nsungwale borehole committee and the establishment was funded by the KAITE Verein. To reduce costs, Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe decided to take advantage of the fact that the drilling company that was working on the Chininga borehole was already in the community drilling a borehole and drill the Nsungwale borehole after the first borehole had been finished. To minimize costs.

The borehole citing was carried out using the expertise of the RDC representatives as well as the drilling company however the drilling company after drilling the first 75meters met with a dry hole (no water was found). A second place was sited for the drilling to take place and there was no water that was found. Each of the holes that were drilled despite

being cited for water through other organizations such as the USAID and the RDC and the expertise of the drilling company all turned out to be dry holes.



soil samples taken at every 5 meters of drilling.

Each of the holes took a minimum of twelve hours to drill and the community members sat waiting anxiously for water.



Drilling taking place with community members onlooking.



Women watching the drilling taking place.

After trying to drill for water for a week in three different communities, the drilling company suspended the drilling as it had become too expensive, and they had to attend to other tasks and contracts outside of Binga. The community members were highly disappointed with not being able to access water but were satisfied that all that the drilling company exercised their due diligence in trying to assist them to access water. As this exercise had been futile and costly and close to election season, Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe suspended the activities. The drilling company refunded FSNZ for the borehole hardware but the costs for the drilling and costs incurred during the drilling process were expensed to FSNZ.

5.1 PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FSNZ AND KAITE E.V

The partnership that FSNZ and KAITE Verein was very important as it cultivated the ground for the communities to organise themselves and participate financially and physically in the drilling of the boreholes. The groundwork of the trainings encouraged Chininga to use some of their own funds to partner with Organic Africa to install their borehole. Such trainings encourage partnerships, promotes ownership of a resource by the community. Water conflicts in an area that struggles with accessing water are often very high but the work that was conducted by FSNZ through the KAITE Verein funding allowed negotiations and discussions to take place without conflicts and all misunderstandings were solved during the preparatory work before the borehole was set in place.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

6.1 Recommendations

The training of communities prior to establishment of boreholes is important so that the roles and responsibilities of community members are defined before the water is in place. In the same way, it is vital that communities have ownership of the process through going through all the stages of the drilling transparently. The siting of the borehole should be agreed by all members of the community so that they feel that they are part of the process.

Water and borehole drilling is a multi-sectoral approach, it is important to include the leadership of the community in the process.

6.2 Sustainability Plan

To ensure that boreholes and other assets are maintained and kept safely, FSNZ together with the communities developed a sustainability plan the sustainability plan included the following activities.

- A roster to clean up the borehole area to make sure it is maintained in a sanitary way. This duty roster includes all households that will be serviced by the borehole.
- The families contribute USD 2 per month as a contribution to the repairs of the borehole.
- The Environmental Health technician monitor the borehole regularly to make sure that it is run well.
- The communities use part of their premiums annually to invest in water and sanitation so that they can partner with organizations in installing boreholes.

WAY FORWARD

Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe will continue working with communities giving them capacity to build various assets that improve the livelihoods of rural communities. We do

so by encouraging community members to partner with organizations and individually physically and financially when there is an asset being established in the community.