

Community Health Clubs on the wheel.

Name: Esnath Lunga

Age: 40 years

Status: Married

Number of children: 5



My husband and I used to walk 10 km to Gokwe Town in search of casual labour. This was our day to day routine though at times we would return home empty handed. As a result we would quarrel and fight in front of our children, we could not afford to send all of them to school, dress them and even feed them.

However, one day I decided to attend a training meeting facilitated by Welthungerhilfe on community health clubs. After the training I volunteered to be the CHC facilitator who always move around training and monitoring others on hygiene issues. In 2015 I received a t-shirt, a bag and a bicycle. The availability of the bike has made the monitoring exercise be frequently done. Again a number of households can be visited regularly. Before the intervention of CHC component people in my village were used to relieving themselves in the bush. Now SIMBA beneficiaries understand the issue of having impermanent toilets as well as prioritising the construction of standard toilets.

Construction of standards toilets used to be a myth in my village, people thought toilets were for rich people only. It has been my passion to change what people think towards usefulness of toilets. Thanks to WHH SIMBA Project for the support towards bringing such a transformation in the lives of many. Anyone can now see whether a person is active in SIMBA by merely looking at the household set-up. Surely WHH has skilled many people from my village.

As a facilitator I also decided to be active in all the activities which are being implemented by WHH visa-vie conservation agriculture hence more yield for family consumption and excess for selling, from nutrition gardens I grow various vegetables like which I sell and get money for daily use and for my monthly subscriptions for my savings group (ROSCAs). From the conservation farming I harvest different farm produce like maize, cowpeas, groundnuts, round-nuts, millet and sorghum, which I sell through market linkages which were introduced to us by Agriculture Partnership Trust. My family is now a model family since I am able to pay for the fees timeously. My family is now having not less than three a day. As you can see from the picture I now live a healthy life.

Bringing urban lifestyle to the village through WHH



I am Esnath Magadhi from Simbe in Njelele 3. Looking back in my life I never thought I would own property and assets like a four roomed house, a set of sofas, five cows just to mention a few. People in Njelele 3 used to mock at me for staying in the grass thatched huts made of dagga and poles. With the coming of Welthungerhilfe there is a complete turn - around in the lifestyle I am now living. From the picture above one can easily see that I no longer envy people who stay in town because they have some mortgages to pay but with me I leave freely and happily in the rural area. I also possess the furniture and equipment which is more or less similar to that owned by the town dwellers. Thumps up to WHH and EU who introduced me to conservation farming, market linkages and ROSCAs. I have been able to save money through the savings group, I am also now engaged in contract farming of sesame of which IETC the Sesame buyer has prices which farmers in my village appreciate. In 2016 I received US\$460 after selling my sesame produce. I do not need a big piece of land for a high yield, my conservation agriculture plot is sufficient enough all crops. I am looking forward to a better yield this season because I'm practising conservation agriculture principles.

I am also a member in farmer field school groups. This means that my farm produce is readily marketed and I receive money which I use for my day to day up keep. I can now plan for my yearly activities from January to December, from land preparation to planting, harvesting, grain banking and marketing farm produce. Then nutrition gardens preparation, planting and harvesting of produce, then CHC component thus improving my house hold set-

up using some of the funds that I would have banked and that I get from on-going income generating projects. I have a tight schedule all year round all because of WHH.

Combatting diseases through Nutrition gardens



Beans and pumpkins are some of the vegetables I grow in the nutrition gardens that are being advocated by WHH. Despite the vegetables easing the scarcity of relish beans and pumpkins are also said to fight against diseases. Before joining the nutrition gardens my children used to suffer from kwashiorkor and marasmus, but now because of the well balanced diet I rarely visit the clinic.

From the previous harvest I get seven by twenty litre tins of sugar beans, of which I sold five by 20 litre tins to Cheziya High which is a boarding school close by my village. Living the rest for my family consumption.

The money I got from the sales was used to build a new two roomed flat which is still under construction. The project will continue as soon as I sell maize as well as sesame seed to IETC of which I am a contract farmer. However the

selling of the two products cannot be done straight away since the market is flooded and the prices are currently not in favour of the farmer. WHH has also constructed some granaries to bank the maize hence I have banked my maize in one of the granaries which I affiliate to. These granaries are only opened on set dates unless a buyer has been sourced. My community used to lose most of the farm produce to ‘*makoronyera*’ in vernacular meaning black marketers. This challenge has been overcome by WHH.

Age is just but a number with WHH.



Granny Moyo 62 years old but ululates to WHH for having changed her way of living. She used to lead a poor lonely life since all her three daughters had married and left her behind. Since she joined WHH activities she now belongs to farmer field school group, grain banking group and ROSCA groups. Members from all these groups team up to help granny Moyo in her field work. She also used to be a lone ranger, now she found not only friends but a family amongst SIMBA beneficiaries. There she is proudly posing for a photo whilst showcasing her sweet potato plot.