

# Food-for-Peace Success Story

## Nodzima Dam brings relief from Water Challenges in Bulilima



Ward 4 residents dancing at Nodzima Dam Commissioning Event

Bulilima district is one of seven districts in Matabeleland South Province with a total population of around 89,104 people. According to ZIMSTATS 2015, the area has an overall poverty prevalence of around 86.2%. There are 22 wards in the district which lies in the south-western part of Zimbabwe. This part of Zimbabwe is largely semi-arid and receives an annual rainfall of between 300 and 600 millimeters and because of this, the main, viable economic activity is livestock farming.

Mr. Brian Tshuma, who resides in Ward 4 shared his experiences of what life was like before Nodzima Dam was constructed. “In the dry season, we would walk up to 12km with our livestock to get to the nearest water point which was tough on both our animals and us. This also meant that we would sometimes be forced to sleep in the bush because both we and our animals would be too tired to walk back again the same day.”

Crop production in the area is limited because farmers relied on the often low and poorly distributed rains which are characteristic of the drought-prone area, making the general population food insecure. Amalima facilitated DRR committees within communities to agree that the establishment of a new weir dam, now known as Nodzima Dam, would play an important role in helping to reduce the distances walked by people in the area together with their livestock to get to the nearest water points during dry seasons. Establishing a water source within the community also significantly reduced livestock losses normally experienced during these dry seasons. The rural communities settled around the dam catchment area to serve mixed farming such as small and large livestock rearing and cropping. The dam serves four villages (Tokwana, Tjehanga, Nyele, Mnigau) with a total population of 400 households and over 5000 cattle.



Water levels at Nodzima Dam

Construction began on the 21st of May 2019 and concluded on the 20th of August 2019. A total of two hundred and thirty-eight (238) workers (138 females and 100 males) from surrounding villages took part in the dam's construction, redefining stereotypical gender roles. Nodzima Dam has a capacity of 55,000 m<sup>3</sup>. At the official Nodzima Dam commissioning event held on the 13th of February 2020, Ward 4 residents could scarcely contain their joy, as they danced in celebration. The event was planned and sponsored by the community itself. Mr. Dingumuzi Phuthi, Bulilima West Member of Parliament and a native of the area said, “It is pleasing to see that Amalima as a development partner has ensured that they brought unity among the community and built a dam. This unity among the community should not end here but continue onwards to facilitate the dam becoming a cash cow for the villages it feeds.”