

Food-for-Peace Success Story

Amalima Celebrations in Gwanda



District Administrator Mrs Mbedzi giving her remarks

CNFA and partners under the Amalima program with beneficiaries; private sector actors; government actors; and traditional leaders conducted an Amalima Day on 13 June 2019 in Simbumbumbu, Ward 7, Gwanda. Organised by the communities, Amalima Days are celebrations of the energy, hard work and determination of Amalima communities, women, men, volunteers, and partners. Amalima works with over 56,000 households to leverage community-led approaches to sustainably improve household food security and nutrition by strengthening access to and availability of food, community resilience to shocks, and nutrition and health among mothers and children.

Gwanda District Administrator, Mrs K Mbedzi commended the program for economically empowering women in Gwanda and increasing their climate resilience. She also acknowledged Amalima's contribution to the country's "Vision 2030" which aims to position Zimbabwe as a middle-income economy by 2030. *"Amalima has contributed so much in the areas of food security, nutrition and health, community resilience to shocks, and gender equality and has played a key role in rebuilding the agriculture sector which is pivotal to economic revival and the attainment of Vision 2030."*

The event featured also testimonials from partners and beneficiaries. For example, Thandiwe Ndlovu, part of the livestock management intervention said, *"ever since the project made it easy for small farmers like us to own livestock and helped us to access credit for our poultry projects, we can now afford to look after our families."* The beneficiary testimonies demonstrated ownership and internalisation of the interventions underpinning the Amalima design.

Key stakeholders visited project sites and appreciated the work of Amalima, including the Simbumbumbu Community Clinic. *"Before Amalima, as a clinic we were failing to meet required health standards and basic sanitary needs of men and women in our community. With the solar panels, water pump, latrines and running water from the handwashing stations, our hygiene standards have improved."*

The event concluded by honouring the work of volunteers. According to Amalima Deputy Chief of Party Mr. Nqobile Ncube, *"these volunteers are inspiring and deserve much commendation for their hard work. Though Amalima is coming to an end in 2020, its work is not going anywhere because you have these volunteers who have been doing the work within your communities."* He also stressed the need for continued collaboration between critical actors to sustain project's gains.

This celebration is one of the 14 Amalima Days conducted this year. These celebrations strengthen relationships between communities, government, and private sector. They also continue co-learning between communities on best practices and behaviours necessary to support communities' productivity and ensure lasting food security.



Stakeholders View WASH facilities at Simbumbumbu Clinic



Mr. Nqobile Ncube handing certificates to volunteers