



RUFUNSA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Concept: Our Development Operational Area (DOA) includes the 10 villages of Zone 16: Kakupwe, Mpokota, Nswana, Pongolani, Elliot, Ponda, Mwendakuseka, Manchishi, Mwakapandula, Shebeleka and Mulofwa. All of these villages are spread across many kilometers with all medical, educational and commercial services being at least 10 kilometers from most residents. Blessed Land Foundation (BLF) intends to help alleviate that problem by initially building a community preschool, non-urgent health clinic, community center and farming and trades training facility within our 21-hectare operational center in Kakupwe titled Malo Odala. This center is our first and our breakthrough site that will set the course for providing services to the other 8 communities.

Another key issue within our DOA is access to clean water. BLF plans to install 4 community boreholes in every village included in our DOA.

Plan of Action

Clean Water Initiative:

- 1) Drill 1 borehole in each section of Kakupwe (three completed)
- 2) Drill 4 boreholes in in Mpokota (two completed)
- 3) Drill 4 boreholes in, Nswana, Pongolani, Elliot, Pondo, Mwendakus, Manchishi, Mwakapand, Shebeleka and Mulofwa respectively
- 4) Install 2 commercial boreholes for a community school, clinic, and agriculture on BLF Campus at Malo Odala (Completed plus one residential borehole)
- 5) Drill 1 commercial borehole on land on the main road where we plan a Zone 16 Central Market for the 4,600 residents to sell and purchase items to reduce travel to Chitemelesa and Chongwe. Our goal is to create a zone 16 economy that is self-sustaining and improves the lifestyles of the residents.

Community School

Developing a plan for open-air school buildings (pavilions) that will provide shelter but also provide plenty of ventilation for hot months while allowing for enclosure during cold months.

The Community School will provide space for early learners, ages 6-8 years old, who cannot make the walk to the primary school. This will give them a baseline education in preparation for primary school. Based on metrics this concept can be expanded to higher grade levels with approval from the council.

In addition, the same school will have separate facilities for sewing training for women and construction skills for men in the village to build a business to improve monthly income

Agricultural Education

The plan is to develop a minimum of three hectares of land for use in training villagers in better agricultural techniques (Farming Gods Way) to increase harvest yield and build a sustainable program. Additionally, the training will focus on high value crops instead of just maize which is traditionally grown in the area.

The method will be training the trainer, where the instructor will teach topics for one day and the student will apply learning at the school garden and repeat the process for each day of class until harvest is completed.

There will be two tracks:

- 1) Vegetable Gardens
- 2) High Value Crops

Upon completion of training, the student will be able to teach his / her family or friends the techniques to expand the benefits across the entire community. Students will receive 60% of the harvest for their family or to sell for income. BLF's 40% share will be reinvested into the program for tools, seed, and other requirements.

Non-Urgent Clinic

We are designing a moderate, non-urgent clinic that will assist the locals with access to medications and other medical care needs. The clinic will assist in fostering health- related issues by educating the locals on family planning, malaria, and other health-related issues.

Community Center

An additional plot for a 12mx10m pavilion that will be built to act as a central place for people to gather in the community to discuss decisions, distribute information from tribal leaders, announce health initiatives, the government or have a church service. Also on weekends, the Gathering Place can act as a local marketplace for villagers to sell their goods.

BLF will sponsor a youth football league across the villages and provide team jerseys and footballs. A tournament will be devised to provide a special prize to the winning team. This initiative will act as a deterrent to bad behavior development.

Women's Empowerment Cooperative:

BLF has implemented a **Women's Empowerment Cooperative** which has equipped 60 women with financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. These women are not only empowered with knowledge but also provided with loans for business startup capital. This support jump-starts their businesses, enabling them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and increase their income. The villages of Mpokota and Kakupwe were the first to receive such training, but it is intended to be implemented across all of Zone 16 as funds allow.

Zone 16 Central Market

Developing a plan and design for a 20m x 10m covered pavilion to act as a central point for people to sell their goods and provide for a closer place to buy essentials like fresh vegetables and mealie meal along other items deemed appropriate by the local council. This will allow for the building up of the local economy and a self-sustainable economic base.

Blessed Land Foundation / Mpokota Cooperative

Blessed Land Foundation is working hand in hand with the people of Mpokota by forming a multifunctional cooperative titled BLEMPO which will enable us to collaborate across multiple projects and programs to help the vision outlined above become a reality. Our combined forces will be able to garner the economic muscle required to build out our first site titled Malo Odala. This first site will become the model that can be replicated across Bunda Bunda Chieftdom and all of Rufunsa District.

While building strong bonds among the locals and their leadership, BLF has included civic stakeholders in the vision including the Ward Area Counselor and Rufunsa District Commissioner to ensure that all leaders are in agreement with the vision.