

rural  
women  
in action

Associated Country  
Women of the World



## FACTS & FIGURES

Hwange District,  
Zimbabwe

128 direct  
beneficiaries

930 participants  
so far

Builds resilience,  
capacity, and  
income

## ACWW Project Fact File: Ensuring Seed Security through Community Seed Banks Hwange District, Zimbabwe

The aim of this project is to support community seed banks as a sustainable way of improving access to high-value seeds, creating viable community-based businesses and maintaining biodiversity. The project also contributes to farmer adaptation to climate change, and indirectly enhances household income diversification, community climate-smart seed systems, and gender outcomes in three wards in Hwange district, Zimbabwe. The project is delivered with partner organisation Ntengwe for Community Development

2 ZERO  
HUNGER



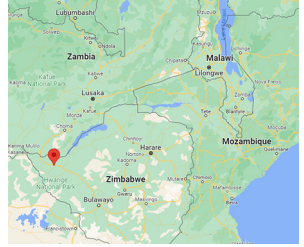
### Objectives

- Educating women smallholder farmers on the need for improved farming methods and crop diversity.
- Improving reserves of indigenous or climate smart seed varieties that are drought resistant.
- Improving storage facilities for smallholder farmers to reduce wastage.
- Improving marketing opportunities for community seed exchange and income generation.

# So how does it work?

This project focused on three key elements:

- Training participants on the importance of Climate Smart Agriculture to ensure commitment to the programme.
- Use of evidence-based data and information on the current state of crop diversity and local systems to inform best practice for the development of community seed banks.
- Community participation, informed by Agritex, vital to establishing community seed banks which work for each local community.



## Tell me more...

### Women's empowerment and knowledge sharing:

A group of women farmers from Jambezi ward visited the Chidobe community seedbank to learn about the availability and exchange of ecologically adaptive seeds, taking this knowledge of local experimentation back to their own community. Upon their return the women called for a community meeting to raise awareness on agricultural biodiversity conservation and management, diversity of crop species and the role of local seed exchange.

### Collaboration between community and Agricultural

**Extension Workers (Agritex):** The Agritex officer on the ground in the rural communities assists the farmers with all the modalities of seed banking and storage, as well as supplying various seeds from other farmers which are suited to local conditions; creating awareness and education on the importance of crop genetic resources for current and future food and nutrition security; adapting crops to climate change; and organizing meetings between farmers for farmer-to-farmer exchange of seeds and knowledge.

## Why are drought resistant seeds and crops important?

Increased heat and unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change amplify challenges faced by farmers in the global south, particularly small-scale female farmers who do not have the resources to insure against a bad harvest.

Drought resistant crops, often indigenous varieties are often better adapted to local environments and hardy in the face of drought. This builds resilience for farmers, their income, and sustainability.



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