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Members of Matongoro Church work on the foundations of the home they are building for their pastor.
Photo: Diocese of Mpwapwa/Tearfund

DIOCESE OF MPWAPWA WINTER UPDATE 2019

PREPARED FOR ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH TONBRIDGE

REFLECTIONS FROM 2019

As 2019 draws to a close, those involved in the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process* remain busy.

They have reached the *Data Analysis* stage of the process. This sees facilitators and church leaders examining all of the information that has been gathered so far during the process. It helps them get a real picture of their communities' situation, so that they can decide what it is best for them to focus on, together, to bring change.

Meanwhile, people are working together on various projects. In Nolini they have constructed a building that will act as a church office and accommodation for visitors. While in Matongoro, as members of the church build a house for their pastor, others have roofed a classroom.

The Bishop of Mpwapwa shares a few of the things they are seeing as a result of the process...

'We have active prayer teams in 16 local churches. They met once per week. Church attendance has been increasing day after day in many local churches, which has led to an increasing amount of offerings. Through CCMP, new churches are being constructed and the old ones renovated.'

'We have been witnessing the local churches facilitating and working shoulder to shoulder with their immediate communities in development activities - like the construction of schools and village dispensaries.'

'Some community members who have access to water channels are engaging in irrigation agriculture, which enables them to cultivate produce throughout the year. This has led to the improvement of their life. Amongst other things, community members are able to pay school fees for their children, build new family houses, etc.'

Bishop Jacob Chimeledya

**'THIS YEAR WE HAVE CONTINUED TO WITNESS THE CHURCH MEMBERS GROWING
SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.'**

BISHOP JACOB CHIMELEDYA



A roof is added to a classroom in Matongoro.
Photo: Diocese of Mpwapwa/Tearfund

ONGOING CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Low rainfall affected a number of activities in the Diocese of Mpwapwa during 2019. It led to a loss of crops and poor harvests, leaving many people without enough food.

One of the key objectives for the communities in 2020 is directed at this issue. They will be using Self Help Groups to explore ways to mitigate against and adapt to the changing climate. It aims to build resilience and draws on support from a variety of key places, including the local government.

WAYS TO PRAY AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR

Give thanks for the way the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process* is bringing transformation in the Diocese of Mpwapwa.

Pray for all of the different elements that come together to keep the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process* running well. Pray for the team who facilitate the training, and share the process with communities across the Diocese. Pray for unity between pastors and leaders - and that they have a real sense of ownership of the projects. And pray that the process becomes sustainable in each place.

Pray that the communities in the Diocese of Mpwapwa receive enough rainfall. Pray for flourishing crops and livestock, and in turn good health, wellbeing and thriving livelihoods for every community member.



Joshua* waters the plants on his farm, where he has been using irrigation techniques
Photo: Diocese of Mpwapwa/Tearfund

HOW IRRIGATION IS BRINGING CHANGE IN NOLINI

Joshua* has multiple roles. He is a father to two beautiful children. And he is a farmer. He has grown sorghum and maize for many years. But life as a farmer can be hard, as he describes:

'...before CCMP [the Church and Community Mobilisation Process] life was so tough. We used to cultivate only during the rainy season. And in a year when we received no rainfall hunger was eating our stomach. It was very hard to finish the year.'

'...during drought season we only survived by eating one meal per day. And I remember it was at noon and the food portion was very small, so after eating you would have to wait 'til the next day at the same time to eat again.'

In 2018, during a service at his church in Nolini, Joshua heard about the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process* for the first time. For Joshua, that Sunday has become unforgettable.

As a result of what he heard, Joshua began attending CCMP sessions. They explored a number of different themes. One session focused on *resource mobilisation*. Joshua's group considered what resources they had access to - and how they might be used to meet a need within the community. Through it Joshua identified a resource he wasn't using - a local stream. It was a source of water that allowed Joshua to practice a new technique on his farm - irrigation.

By adopting irrigation techniques Joshua began cultivating his land throughout the year. He plants vegetables, including peppers, and maize, and says *'one of the biggest things that made me start irrigation agriculture is when I remember those [past] years - hunger was a disaster during those days - that has pushed me, even more, to start irrigation farming so that I can have enough food for my family and surplus to sell.'*

Now hunger is history for Joshua. He has money to send to his children, and covers their school fees and supplies too. He's bought a plot of land, and on it plans to build a better home for his family.

*name changed

PLEASE PRAY FOR JOSHUA

Give thanks for the change Joshua is seeing as a result of the techniques he has adopted on his farm.

Pray that Joshua's farm continues to flourish as a result of the irrigation techniques he has adopted.

Pray that more and more people in Joshua's community experience change like this as they adopt new techniques, including irrigation methods.

Pray for Joshua as he works toward his goal of building a new home.



Following Jesus where the need is greatest