



Completion Report

ZIM-SIM-GHV-P01
Reporting Period: April – December 2017

Growing Hope and Vegetables - Zimbabwe

Budget: \$12,230 – fully funded!

Update:

This report brings to completion a year-long Entrust-supported project working in three different communities in Zimbabwe's capital city Harare and a nearby rural village, where our partners are training very poor communities to grow food more effectively and sustainably. The result is that each family has better food security and surplus crops can be sold to further help the family.

The project doesn't just provide one-off training and then move on. The families are part of a six-month program where our partner walks them through learning, planting, and harvesting. Each community supplies its own land, labour and some farming equipment. Families are trained to prepare their land to a high standard. Each village has a farming "champion" which helps ensure buy-in from the local villagers and can be called on to advise and help. Building on a program completed in 2016 (also supported by Entrust) villagers can see that working collaboratively and supporting each other brings benefits to everyone. Demonstration plots planted in 2016 provided visible evidence of the large amounts of food that can be grown.

Twelve families in each of the three communities received training in composting, organic vegetable maize and herb planting and growing and have implemented what they have learned. Each participant has grown a small plot of spinach and rape and made compost, often assisting a neighbour as well. They have finished planting larger plots of maize using a zero-tillage farming method. Water is a real challenge and a well has been deepened after a crop of beans was lost due to lack of water. A substitute method of growing vegetables in sacks has produced good quality vegetables. A manual pump and piping has also helped.



Our partners said, "We have been working with a widowed lady called Amai Nyasha who lives in Hoply Farm, a very poor community outside of Harare. She takes care of her children on her own and with the help of the immediate community around her. To generate some income she collects used plastic bags and washes them out to sell for reuse. She is hard-working and is eager to learn. It has been great to work with her and watch her grow as she has attended composting, vegetable growing and maize planting workshops and has in turn implemented what she has learned. She says that she has "learned so many things and has started to think about having more hope for her life and the lives of her children." The communities feel empowered and it is impacting their families as they can now start providing food for themselves which is such a struggle for these families. They have also grown in motivation and autonomy with a sense of worth and ownership as a result of the project."

Zimbabwe continues to struggle through political ups and downs and people have been severely affected by the instability, recurrent drought, high unemployment, HIV/AIDS and food insecurity to name a few. Children are suffering stunted growth as a result. Thank you for your help in this impoverished part of the world!