



APRIL - JUNE 2012

A Quarterly e-newsletter for CARE Zimbabwe employees who care about organizational growth and responsive socio-economic development in the communities they impact.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers,

A warm welcome as end the CARE year this June and begin a new year in July.

In keeping in line with stories of women empowerment and service delivery (service delivery is an area of inquiry for our Impact Population 2 (poor urban women and older adolescent girls (15-49; productive age)), this issue features a recent story of a successful *service delivery* demonstration held by 700 high school students.

As we are also celebrating 20years presence in Zimbabwe we were fortunate enough to talk to a long-serving beneficiary Modesta Dube from Mberengwa District.

In this time of winter, don't forget to keep your vegetables frost-free by regular watering and shielding them from the wind, CARE has several knowledgeable Agricultural Specialists available for consultation!

Finally, a short announcement... as we all know by now, Carol Sherman (outgoing CD) will be leaving CARE Zimbabwe on the 22rd of June. Carol has been a supportive, constructive reader and we hope she can continue to do so even after leaving the CARE Zimbabwe country office.

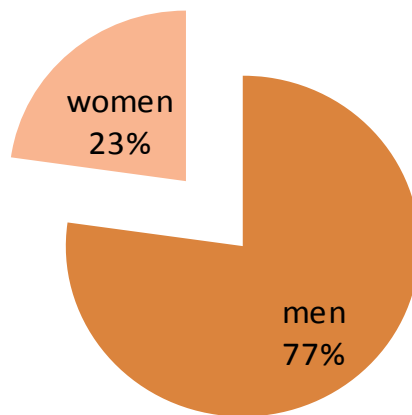
For comments, email the Editor: editorbc@carezimbabwe.org

- This issue's main topic.
- What you would like to see discussed in next quarter's issue.
- The poll question.
- Any announcements you may wish to make!

DISCLAIMER: Some of the opinions and views reflected in this publication are those of the Editor or respondents, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of CARE Zimbabwe as an organization. In these instances, it will be specified. Further, all information contained in this newsletter has been verified and authorized by the Program Quality Manager prior to the newsletter being sent out. All content is discussed and approved by the Program Quality Editorial team.

GENDER – EMPLOYMENT WATCH

CARE Zimbabwe staff



As of 31st May 2012, CARE Zimbabwe had a total of 202 employees. Of this number, 46 are women and 156 are men. Therefore approximately 23% of the workforce is comprised of women.

Changes :

2% increase of female employees —from 21% to 23% (since April 2012). This 2% fluctuation has been consistent over a one year period.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

On the 1st May we commemorated “Worker’s Day”

Dates to *note in the coming quarter are:

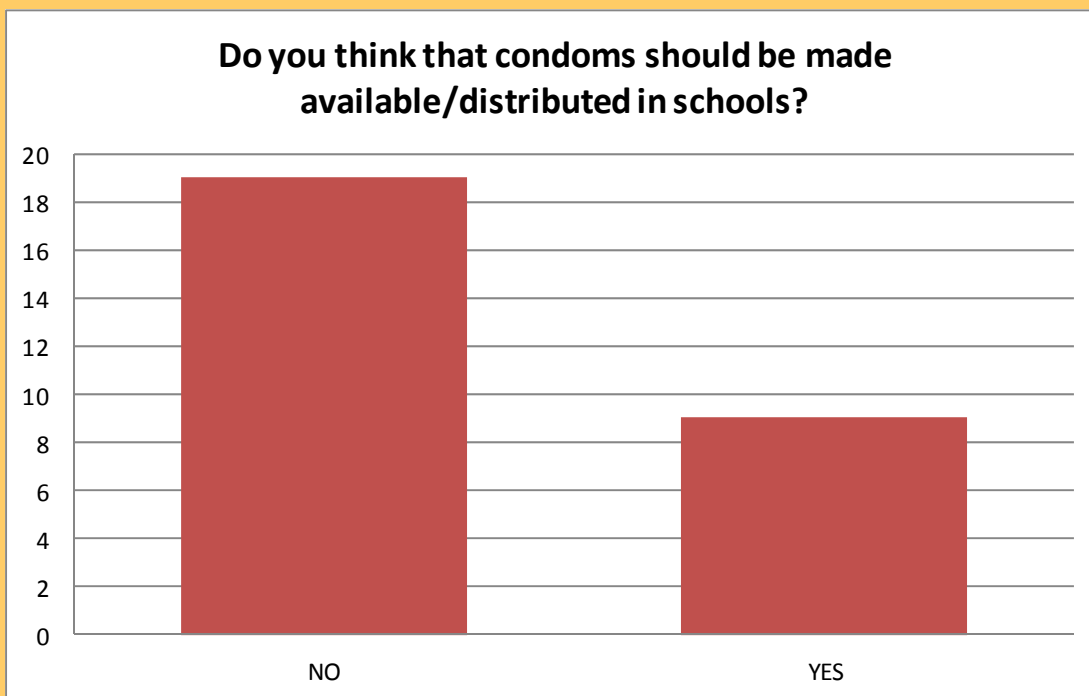
12th August—International Youth Day

13th August—Heroes’ Day

14th August—Defence Forces Day

26th September—World Contraception Day

* Always confirm with Human Resources which dates are public/CARE holidays

POLL RESULTS

This was an interesting one and many thanks to those who responded! It should be noted that four respondents who said “No” added that condoms should be made available in Colleges/Universities/ Tertiary –level institutions.

Some additional comments from respondents :

- *Yes, but should not be the ONLY measure— Innocent Takaedza*
- *Yes with support services to ensure the school children make informed decisions. - Sylvia Sithole*
- *No they should be focusing on books and learning! - Takudzwa Chatora*
- *Secondary Schools , YES, as already there is indisputable evidence of active sexual indulgence after form one level or grade 8. Primary School a big NO.—Shelton Hwande*
- *Yes, but they should be made available to secondary school students. This is important in that students start learning about Sexual Reproductive health from as early as primary level, so why not give them the complete package (information with the condom). Students have the right to knowledge so that they make informed decisions. There is also need to put measures against mischievous students from abuse and misuse.—Cathrine Bwerinofa*

POLL QUESTION

This issue, we continue to investigate: What role do you think that CARE Zimbabwe can play vis-à-vis (in relation to) urban debt?

Human interest story: *From the very beginning...*



Musuki Irrigation, Enord Village, Magamba Ward 9, Mberengwa district.

Fifty-seven year old Modesta Dube proudly displays the CARE , PRIZE, USAID and SIDA logos branded on the dress and hat that she is wearing. She is a fully engaged, actively participating community member, as, when she is asked how long she has been involved in the Musuki garden irrigation project she interjects that she has been with CARE projects “since the very beginning” - in 1992, when CARE first came to Mberengwa district. Modesta recalls the previous EMOP, PRP and C-SAFE projects, how they were executed professionally by CARE staff and served their purpose in ensuring food security in the drought-prone, food-insecure community. The green SIDA uniform that she is wearing was for her role in the village savings and lending (VS&L) intervention, to which she still serves as a Cluster Facilitator, ensuring that groups continue to save together, correctly.

On this particular day, as per their three times a week routine, the community garden members have gathered to water their plants and clear the beans crop that occupies the western part of the garden. Near the front section, a thriving herb garden is Modesta's pride and responsibility and she authoritatively shouts out to every passer-by to devote some time to watering this section today. In full bloom are lavender, coriander, thyme, mint and many other herbs. She explains with ease and confidence what each herb can aide – body odours, flavouring for meals, preventative herbs for colds and flu in this time of winter.

Asked what differences she thinks PRIZE has brought to the community, she is quick to talk about how beneficiaries have learned to be self-sufficient and help themselves. While the community needed food aid and *handouts* in the past years, these exacerbated dependency. It was not *shameful* to be known as the most vulnerable person in the community, it was a “privilege” – a sure guarantee of getting a handout. Today however, everyone can work for themselves – the young, old and vulnerable.

Modesta is a devoted community worker, extending herself beyond the garden and leads an HIV/AIDS support group formed through the Lutheran Church. The Support group has 150 members and also reaches out to schools and three child-headed homes for children.

This is a woman with so much to say but concludes on a grateful note saying that she feels CARE staff are all dedicated and professional – as if they were born of the same parents/belong to same family! For the CARE projects to succeed in the ward, she also attributes this to the supportive, involved nature of their Councilor Mr. Chinyoka.

Photo: © David Snyder for CRS 2012. Story: Nyasha Mutongwizo

Recently in The Herald: Friday, 08 June 2012 12:00 **700 schoolgirls stage demo over food, water**



Mukaro Girls High

NEARLY 700 Mukaro High School pupils sneaked out of their dormitories early yesterday morning and walked to the district education office to protest against water problems and poor food at the school. Authorities at the Catholic-run girls' boarding school were stunned when they woke up to find the dormitories deserted.

All the pupils from Form One to Form Six walked 20km to Mpandawana Growth Point in Gutu in protest over food and water woes. They braved the chilly weather and marched from the school at 2am and arrived at the district education office at Mpandawana around 6am.

When news filtered that the pupils had besieged the education offices, a school bus was rushed to ferry them back to school. The bus reportedly made several trips to and from Mpandawana. According to the pupils, the school authorities' insensitivity to their plight prompted them to seek the intervention of the Education Ministry. They said acute water shortage at the school posed a danger to health... "I was part of the group that marched to the growth point. We started the march at 2am and arrived just before 6am," said a Form One pupil who refused to be named. "We walked to the district education offices singing and sometimes we would run. The water that we drink comes from Chimwamombe Dam and gets straight into the taps without purification. That is the water we use for laundry and sometimes drink." A Form Four pupil said: "Imagine that we sometimes go for over seven days without water.

As I speak right now, we last got water last Sunday. "We end up using dirty water for drinking, laundry and bathing and of late quite a number of pupils have been suffering from diarrhoea."

Saturday, 09 June 2012 12:00 **Normalcy returns to Mukaro High School**

Normalcy returned to Mukaro High School in Gutu yesterday after pupils demonstrated against authorities over water and food on Thursday. Water supply improved slightly and the authorities pledged to address the quality of food. Students at the girls' high school run by the Catholic Church reported for classes at 7:20 am, but gave the school authorities a two week ultimatum to respond to their grievances or risk another protest. When The Herald visited the school yesterday morning, the pupils were in classes and water was filling up in tanks that had been positioned at strategic points around the school. By yesterday afternoon the school had already installed several 1000-litre plastic tanks to improve the water supply especially at the hostels. The pupils welcomed the development. Mukaro High School headmaster, Mr Acquanos Chizhunga, said the school will address the issues raised by the girls. He admitted that some of their grievances were genuine. "We have already installed several plastic water tanks to improve the supply of clean water at the school.

"They are now running around and a new water tanks are being built. These problems were raised by students a long time ago and they kept on ignoring them. Can you imagine that sometimes workers at the school dining hall would be ordered to go to the villages and carry buckets of water on their heads to supply water to this school; that is unheard of," added the staff member

Summary notes of interest

Mukaro is an all-girls school (said to have a few boy learners) therefore the leaders of this demonstration were girls.

At most, the oldest girl could be up to 19 years of age.

All the girls demonstrated—they were united in their cause

They walked for over four hours –early morning, in cold weather

They knew where/to whom to air their grievances

They received an *immediate* favourable response

Farewell

This month, we say farewell to Carol Sherman, the outgoing CARE Country Director. Carol joined the country office in 2009. We wish her safe travels and much success in her future endeavours.

Vaccination dates (children under 5 years)

Parents with children under 5 years are reminded to take their children to a health facility for Measles and Oral Polio vaccination between 18—23 June

Remember, your various announcements are welcome. Simply send an email to
editorbc@carezimbabwe.org

Looking forward to your feedback!
'Til the next communication...
...keep CARE-ing!!!