

PEACEBUILDING THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS: A  
CASE STUDY OF DONOR FUNDED PROJECTS IN MUTASA DISTRICT,  
ZIMBABWE

BY

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study sought to assess the importance of sustainable livelihoods to the success of peacebuilding. The study was conducted at Mutasa district. It examined the projects being implemented by NGOs with a view to assess their contribution to peacebuilding and development. The findings revealed that sustainable livelihoods projects have significantly contributed to peacebuilding. They improve the source of income for those who involved in such projects and promote peacebuilding and community development. The income generated from the livelihoods projects has been used to pay school fees, health facilities, buy assets, food and invested in other projects. Thus, the study chronicles the relevance and importance of sustainable livelihoods in peacebuilding processes. As such, this study begins by highlighting the background of conflicts, economic deterioration and effects of environmental shocks that have impacted negatively on livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The study also reflects on the sustainable development theory and integrated model of peace building by Lederach, so as to substantiate the claims provided and illuminate on the relevance and importance of peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects.*

**DECLARATION**

I, Edwin Paidamoyo Gwinyai, do hereby declare that the work herein, is a result of my own work. The ideas presented here are original and my own work except where sources have been acknowledged. The work has never been submitted, nor will it ever be submitted to another university for the awarding of a degree.

Student.....Date.....

Supervisor.....Date.....

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## **DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to the Gwinyai family.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

DA	District Administrator
DAPP	Development Aid for People to People
DOMCCP	Diocese of Manicaland Community Care Programme
DFID	Department for International Development
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PLWH	People Living With HIV
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT .....	i
DECLARATION .....	ii
COPYRIGHT .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
DEDICATION .....	v
LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	vi
LIST OF TABLES .....	xiii
LIST OF DIAGRAMS .....	xiv
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	xv
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background of the study .....	1
1.1.1 Livelihood situation in Mutasa .....	2
1.1.2 Livelihood context in colonial era Zimbabwe .....	3
1.1.4 Livelihoods context in Zimbabwe (2000-2014).....	4
1.1.5 Intervention for food insecurity through livelihoods projects .....	6
1.2 Study Area .....	8
1.3 Statement of problem .....	8



1.4 Significance of study.....	9
1.5 Assumption of Study.....	10
1.6 Research objectives.....	10
1.7 Research Questions.....	11
1.8 Delimitations.....	11
1.9 Limitations.....	12
1.10 Definition of terms.....	12
1.11 Conclusion.....	14
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	15
2.0 Introduction.....	15
2.1 Theoretical Frameworks to the Study.....	16
2.1.1 Sustainable development.....	16
2.1.2 Relevance of sustainable development to the study.....	18
2.1.3 Integrated model of peace building: Lederach.....	19
2.1.4 Relevance of integrated approach to the study.....	22
2.2 History of development.....	22
2.3 The United Nation Agenda for Development.....	23
2.4 Sustainable livelihoods.....	24
2.5 Sustainable livelihood Framework.....	25

2.6 Livelihood assets.....	26
2.7 Importance of Assets in livelihoods.....	28
2.8 Connecting Sustainable livelihoods and Peacebuilding.....	29
2.9 The nexus between peace and development .....	30
2.10 Nexus between conflict and livelihoods .....	31
2.11 Donor funded projects.....	33
2.12 Strategies for sustainable livelihoods.....	34
2.13 The practical experience of donor funded livelihoods projects .....	35
2.14 Conclusion .....	39
<b>CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>40</b>
3.0 Introduction.....	40
3.1 Research Design.....	40
3.2 Study Population.....	43
3.3 Sampling .....	43
3.4 Sample size .....	45
3.5 Research instruments .....	46
3.6 Data collection procedure .....	47
3.7 Data Presentation and Analysis Procedures.....	48
3.8 Ethical consideration.....	49

3.9 Conclusion .....	50
CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS .....	51
4.0 Introduction.....	51
4.1 Donor funded livelihood projects aimed at peacebuilding in Mutasa .....	51
4.1.1 Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) .....	52
4.1.2 Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme (DOMCCP).....	53
4.1.3 SNV Netherland Development Organization .....	53
4.2 Key challenges of donor funded projects.....	54
4.2.1 Unsustainability of funds .....	54
4.2.2 Lack of knowledge.....	55
4.2.3 Market Accessibility .....	55
4.2.4 Institutional constraints .....	55
4.2.5 Linking livelihoods programmes with legal protection and advocacy .....	56
4.3 SNV and Smallholder Banana Production in Honde valley .....	56
4.4 Beekeeping by DOMCCP ward 15 Mutasa .....	58
4.5 Peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods projects in enhancing resilient communities .....	59
4.6 Livelihood assessment .....	63
4.7 Livelihood assets.....	63

4.8 Effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects .....	64
4.8.1 Generate income and employment opportunities .....	64
4.8.2 Improved sanitation and waste management .....	66
4.8.3 Improved health and nutrition.....	66
4.8.4 Support to children’s education .....	67
4.8.5 Improved Peace and order in Mutasa district.....	67
4.8.6 Development of community skills through training and exposure and raised awareness .....	68
2.8.7 Transformation Communal Farming to Commercial Farming.....	68
4.9 Towards sustainable development through donor funded livelihood projects .....	69
4.10 Traditional leaders and the politicization of donor funded projects .....	70
4.11 The ordinary villagers in Mutasa perceptions about donor funded project .....	71
4.12 Factors influencing sustainability of projects .....	72
4.13 Functions of Donors on livelihood development.....	73
4.14 Vulnerabilities of livelihoods assets and responses in Mutasa district.....	74
4.15 Significance of Integrated Approach model of Peacebuilding to the study.....	76
4.16 Conclusion .....	78
<b>CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>80</b>
5.0 Introduction.....	80

5.1 Summary ..... 80

5.2 Conclusion ..... 80

5.3 Recommendations ..... 83

5.3.1 Recommendations to Government and NGOs ..... 84

5.3.2 Recommendations to Community members ..... 85

REFERENCES ..... 86

Internet Sources ..... 90

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1 Interrelationships between livelihoods assets and conflict shocks .....	32
Table 2 Breakdown of the Sample size.....	45
Table 3 Vulnerability context and livelihoods assets in Mutasa District.....	74

**LIST OF DIAGRAMS**

Diagram 1 Integrated model of peace building..... 19

Diagram 2 Interpretation of integrated peacebuilding model ..... 78

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A Participant Consent Form.....	91
Appendix B: Interview guide for Directors or Coordinators of Donor funded projects..	92
Appendix C: Interview guide for beneficiaries of donor funded projects .....	93
Appendix D: Interview guide for Community Members and Local Leaders .....	94



## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Peacebuilding is a multidimensional phenomenon that can neither be explained by one indicator nor one utility. Conventional understanding of peacebuilding has always been viewed and done through processes such as peace education, capacity building and other relevant technocratic interventions such as demilitarization, demobilization, rehabilitation, reintegration and resettlement. However peacebuilding transcends such conventional analyses. Among the multidimensional underpinnings of peacebuilding is the nexus between sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding. The livelihoods are composed of different assets namely social, capital, physical, political, natural and human assets which should be in harmony at all times. Failure in one livelihood asset has a direct implication on peacebuilding. The study therefore, analyzes the link between sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding by examining the livelihood projects implemented by donor agencies and the subsequent impact on peacebuilding in Mutasa District, in Zimbabwe.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Sustainable development has received an overwhelming endorsement as a workable approach to ensure sustainable livelihoods in societies. As such, sustainable livelihoods are not an end in themselves but rather process and outcomes of continuous deliberation of peacebuilding processes. This is to say peacebuilding initiatives and sustainable

livelihoods are inextricably linked. Conflicts, social disruption of the social, physical, natural, political and human assets have a direct negative implication on peacebuilding and so are on sustainable livelihoods. It is against this background the study sought to analyze the nexus between sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding process in Mutasa district.

### **1.1.1 Livelihood situation in Mutasa**

The area of study was in Mutasa district the researcher selected this particular area because the district is currently facing livelihood failure. Food insecurity is more than 55 percent in the district according to 2013 studies by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC). The vulnerability context has increased by economic upheaval and high rate of unemployment in the country. This has disrupted many people in all aspects of their livelihoods and it is because of the government failure to find solution to the economy of the country.

Agriculture is the most common form of livelihood in the area. The major crops grown by the communal farmers are maize, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, sunflower, groundnuts, roundnuts and bananas. Fruits found include guavas, apples, avocados, mangos and paw paws. Before Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) 2000 residents in Mutasa used to work in commercial farms and plantations to enhance their livelihoods. Land reform made many people in Mutasa who worked in commercial farms and plantations

to be unemployed. Land reform coincided with the periods of floods and prolonged droughts led to trajectories in Zimbabwe (Mberekko, 2010).

### **1.1.2 Livelihood context in colonial era Zimbabwe**

During colonial Zimbabwe livelihoods were based on agriculture. The farmers practiced peasant farming. During the colonial era African peasant farmers practiced barter trade and selling their farm produce to the mine workers. The establishment of the capitalist economy forced Africans to pay tax and to work on white commercial farms, mining and manufacturing industry (Beach, 1977). The colonial period made Africans to derive their livelihoods from wages earned from working in industries. Livelihoods in colonial period were based on agriculture and wages employment (Rangers, 1993).

During the war of liberation in Zimbabwe, Manicaland province was one of the battle ground between Zimbabwe African Nation Liberation Army (ZANLA) and Rhodesian Security Forces (RSF). The harmonies among different types of livelihoods assets social, physical, natural, political and human assets were destroyed. The political asset was injured and it had ripple effects on the entire family of assets. The infrastructure was destroyed, the human capital was in tatters coordination of assets was no longer there resulting in livelihoods failure in country. Social unrest in the country made people not going to school and the human assets was destroyed hence sustainable livelihoods was difficult to be realized. Liberation struggle destroyed the entire family livelihood assets (Hove, 2012).

### **1.1.3 Livelihood Context in independent Zimbabwe (1980-1999)**

Since independence in 1980 Zimbabwe has been experiencing economic difficulties. The poor performance of the economy in 1980s forced government to adopt Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) in 1991. The implementation of ESAP like in elsewhere in Africa was a recipe for disaster to the livelihoods of people (Bratton and Masunungure, 2006). The government was no longer subsidizing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer which affected the livelihoods of people. The majority of the population in Zimbabwe depends on agriculture. This led into the increase of food price and other essential which people could not afford.

The implementation of ESAP was followed by serious drought of 1992. Drought has been recurring in the country owing to climate change which has serious implications to livelihood of people. Zimbabwe has to rely on food aid which is supported by international donors. Apart from economic decline and droughts the HIV and AIDS pandemic affected human assets and it had ripple effects to livelihoods. The contribution of human resources to livelihoods was limited hence it affected the contribution of other assets (Muruviwa et al, 2013). An estimated 34 percent of the Zimbabwe population was infected with HIV by the end of 1999 (UNDP, 1999).

### **1.1.4 Livelihoods context in Zimbabwe (2000-2014)**

The political events of (2000-2008) worsened the lives of people in Zimbabwe. Since 2000, the Zimbabwe government embarked on a controversial Fast Track Land Reform

Program (FTLRP) intended to correct the inequitable land distribution created by colonial rule. The period has been marked by the deterioration of the Zimbabwean economic situation. Government policies have been condemned in some quarters at home and abroad. Zimbabwe has been in the spotlight all for the wrong reasons such as violence, chaotic electoral processes, economic decline, unemployment and massive brain drain. For instance, since the sporadic, violent land seizures of 2000, punctuated by the violence during the elections in March 2002, March 2005 and March 2008, the ruling party and government have attracted international censure for their poor human rights record, which resulted in sanctions for the government of Zimbabwe imposed by US government and the European (Anseeuw, et al 2012).

Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) has affected negatively the livelihoods of people. Agriculture play important role in the economy of Zimbabwe more than 75 percent of population derives their livelihoods on agriculture. The process of land reform program me was done violently which destroyed commercial agriculture. Furthermore, land reform coincided with the periods of floods and severe droughts which undermined the livelihoods of people (Hartmack, 2005).

After 2000, there have been several projects to improve food security and promote sustainable livelihoods. Government and NGOs has been working together to improve food security. Implementing of sustainable livelihoods projects is necessary in order to

shift from aid dependency. Zimbabwe is endowed with resources for agricultural development in terms of land and water and conducive climate. If utilized properly the livelihoods of people will improve notwithstanding its contribution to revival of the economy (World Bank and Government of Zimbabwe 2010).

### **1.1.5 Intervention for food insecurity through livelihoods projects**

NGOS have positive attitude towards developing communities, thus make them want to assist government to implement sustainable livelihoods projects to enhance food security. The high incidence of poverty and food insecurity in Zimbabwe together with government failure to implement development initiatives provide opportunity for NGOs to partner the government to assist in sustainable livelihoods projects. Sustainable livelihoods projects can be key to economic stability and growth, about seventy percent of the population in Zimbabwe their livelihoods depend on agriculture and many NGOs are into agriculture. The growth and development of agriculture are expected to support the improvement and growth of the other sectors of the economy particularly industry and services. The contribution of sustainable livelihoods projects will be important in the view of Millennium Development Goals, which make it necessary to consider the different roles of sustainable livelihoods projects in Zimbabwe's economic, political and social setting (Anseeuw, et al 2012).

The intervention of donor aid in the development discourse has played important role in adopting the idea of sustainable development. Since the Second World War donor aid has played an important role in the process of the alleviation of poverty (Williams, 1998). The Aid generally serves three objectives political, economic and humanitarian. To alleviate poverty donors have implement projects which are sustainable even after the donors have left. Sustainable livelihood approach has also been one of the major methods used to eliminate poverty in communities.

Sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) has been adopted as the panacea for development by donor agencies to programmes that enhance people's livelihoods and poverty eradication. The sustainable livelihood approach came into existence after shortcomings and dissatisfaction that arose from previous development policies. Donor agencies adopting (SLA) generally agree that a "sustainable livelihood" comprise three interrelated components, (1) some combination or portfolio of capabilities assets (including physical, natural and social resources or capital) and activities, 2) that enable people to deal with events and trends as well as develop various strategies to pursue desired livelihood outcomes, 3) while maintaining or enhancing their capabilities and assets overtime (Bingen, 2000).

## **1.2 Study Area**

This study will be conducted in the district of Mutasa, Manicaland, Zimbabwe. Mutasa district is situated in the mountainous province of Manicaland, on the eastern borders of Zimbabwe which is 55km north of Mutare urban. According to the 2012 census Mutasa district has a population of 170 000 people. The district has expansive land covered with commercial plantations of wattle, pine and eucalyptus trees. Most of the land lies in agro-ecological regions one and two. The district has 31 wards. The district is mainly dominated by Manyika people. Mutasa district relies on farming and animal rearing. The district consists of vulnerable groups of double orphans, child headed families and chronic ill adults mainly because of HIV. The vulnerable groups are the majority beneficiaries of donor aided projects.

## **1.3 Statement of problem**

Recurring conflicts in Zimbabwe since the Colonial era up to the present day political violence has caused conflict shocks that injured community development. Conflicts have destroyed all these assets and sustainable livelihoods. Thus, peacebuilding is one giant step toward recovering the lost assets and rebuild resilient communities. It also transforms the various linkages that exist between and among the various livelihoods assets into opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Conflict causes a vulnerability context in which all the assets necessary for building sustainable livelihoods are endangered. If vulnerability increases, poverty escalates, and natural resources are underutilized resulting in unstable communities. It is against this background that the



researcher explored the effectiveness of donor aided peacebuilding initiatives in engendering sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, the research sought to single out the nexus between livelihood assets using a peacebuilding perspective and sustainable development. The failure of sustainable livelihoods projects can contribute to conflict by weakening society's social fabric and forcing people to resort to violence in order to obtain necessary resources (USAID, 2005). Sustainable peace cannot be attained where there is poverty. The persistence of poverty in Manicaland despite the independence of Zimbabwe does not guarantee peace. Peace building initiatives needs to be linked with sustainable livelihoods to achieve sustainable results.

#### **1.4 Significance of study**

The research could be a useful insights on livelihood intervention programs by various agencies giving and insight about the reality faced by communities affected by conflict in sustaining their lives. Different civil society groups may use this research as a reference point and a problem identifier as the research will raise different problems and recommendations that will build sustainable peace in the district.

Although significant amount of literature has been written on the subject of peacebuilding. It lacks comprehensive analysis of sustainable livelihoods in the field of

peacebuilding. This research will provide this much need analysis and will demonstrate that sustainable livelihoods projects are a precondition for peacebuilding. The recognition of this study by the beneficiaries of donor aided projects in the district will bring strategies that are suitable for sustainable livelihoods not only in Mutasa but other communities. Research findings will benefit the people of Mutasa to enhance community development. It is hoped that the research will identify possible sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa that will assist donor agencies to achieve sustainable development. Donor agencies may use the information reviewed and data collected to address peacebuilding through relevant issues affecting people and gaps.

### **1.5 Assumption of Study**

Assumption that there are preconditions for peacebuilding and they are stages to be followed at different levels of society for it to be sustainable and holistic. Sustainable livelihoods lead to peacebuilding. In an environment where people are wallowing in poverty they are prone to violent conflicts, never in history have people revolted when they have sustainable livelihoods.

### **1.6 Research objectives**

The objectives of study are to:

1. Identify donor aided livelihoods projects aimed at peacebuilding in Mutasa District

2. Examine the key challenges on donor funded peacebuilding projects and their impact on sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa District
3. Analyze the relationship between peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects and sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa Districts.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects in enhancing sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa District

### **1.7 Research Questions**

1. What are current sustainable livelihoods projects aimed at peacebuilding in Mutasa District?
2. What are the key challenges on donor funded peacebuilding initiatives and their impact on sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa District?
3. What is the relationship between donors funded peacebuilding initiatives and sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa District?
4. How effective are peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects in promoting sustainable livelihoods?

### **1.8 Delimitations**

The study focuses on sustainable livelihoods projects that are implemented by NGOs in enhancing peacebuilding in Mutasa. The study will pose questions to both project staff,

and to beneficiaries (age eighteen and above both males and female) as a way to answer the research from the right people. The study seeks to explore the effectiveness of sustainable livelihoods in promoting peacebuilding. The research study will be conducted in Mutasa. Mutasa is a small district in Manicaland with a population of 170 000 people. The research will be delimited to 5 wards in the district. This research is biased towards sustainable development.

### **1.9 Limitations**

Some organization might not freely give information that may expose their operations. On the same note some organization might exaggerate their work. The research will be professional and try to create a mutual understanding with the organization such that the information will not be compromised. Some participants may be biased pretending to benefit a lot from livelihoods projects. Participants may be suspicious of the researcher and distance themselves from the research. The researcher will inform the participants that this is only academic work and might contribute on the improvements of donor funded projects.

### **1.10 Definition of terms**

**Peacebuilding-** Is an endeavor aiming to create sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of conflicts and eliciting indigenous capacities for peaceful management and conflict resolution.

**Sustainable development-** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. It is a process that can be maintained without interruption, weakening or loss of valued qualities for future generation.

**Sustainable livelihoods-** A livelihood comprises the capabilities of assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and the future while not undermining the natural resource base

**Donor funded projects-** Is the transfer of resources in whatever form from the developed countries or multilateral financial institution like World Bank, IMF, to less develop or developing countries for the purpose of promoting and stimulating their economies for growth and development.

**Development-** is constructive conflict management for the attachment of positive peace, consistently change that each day is no longer the same

**Peace-** implies satisfaction of having food, clothing, education, and health, economic and social betterment

## **1.11 Conclusion**

This chapter put the research topic into perspective. The objectives outlined clarified the parameters of the study. The operational definitions given were meant to clarify issues as the discussion unfolds. The background to the study and the motivation behind it is the purpose of this chapter. A nexus between peace building and sustainable livelihoods was made and the focus of the research on the latter was stressed. It is necessary to research security management from available research to enable the author to reach a greater understanding on the effectiveness of donor aided projects in attaining sustainable livelihoods. Limitation, delimitations and the statement have been discussed in this chapter.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

Sustainable livelihoods projects are a strategy of poverty reduction, improving the lives of the poor and promoting development and peacebuilding. DFID, (1999) defines livelihood as a means of making a living, securing the basic necessities food, water, shelter and clothing for life. It can be constructed from a range of opportunities that generate income for survival in the families. Livelihoods comprise the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living (DFID, 1999). Livelihoods failure undermines human security and creates conditions for conflict to turn into violence in order to access available resources. Ashley, C and Carney, D. (1999) noted that sustainable livelihoods as projects promoting the objectives, scope and priorities for development, in order to enhance progress in poverty elimination and foster peacebuilding. Collier (2003) affirms that development has a tendency of promoting peaceful environment.

This section presents the findings and views of different authors around the key aspects of this research: peacebuilding, development, sustainable livelihoods and donor funded projects. Sustainable development theory and integrated approach to peacebuilding by Lederach were used to explain the current relationship that exists between peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods. The chapter seeks to marry the theories proposed with the existing literature on peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. The

analysis made in this chapter gives the proper context of study's focus on the relevant of sustainable development in promoting peacebuilding.

## **2.1 Theoretical Frameworks to the Study**

### **2.1.1 Sustainable development**

This study is grounded on the theory of sustainable development as defined in the Bruntland report (1987) that is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. Sustainable development theory emanated from numerous environmental movements (Brundland Commission, 1987). The concept of sustainable development means many different things to different people. According to Mustafu, D and Abdul-Razak, (2011) sustainable development encompass a lot of things but the three most essential elements are economic, environment and social equity which is also referred to as the Sustainable Development Triangle by (Munasinghe, 1992). Sustainable development ensures the improvement of opportunities that will enable individual human beings and communities to achieve their aspirations and realize their full potential over a sustained period of time while maintaining the resilience of economic, social and environmental systems (Munasinghe, 1992).

Economic progress is evaluated in terms of welfare which is often measured as readiness to pay for goods and services consumed. The economic efficiency is essential to



ensuring consumption and production, often regarded as economic sustainability. Environmental sustainability focuses on the overall viability and health of living systems, which implies the ability of modern economies and societies to manage scarce natural resources in an efficient and prudent manner. In this situation, natural resource degradation, pollution and loss of biodiversity are detrimental because they increase vulnerability, undermine system health and reduce resilience. This is because human welfare ultimately depends on ecological services which if unattended would lead to high risk and hamper long prospects of development. Whereas social sustainability means reducing vulnerability and maintaining a health social and cultural systems which impacts on human capital (through education) leading to empowerment and it strengthen social values, institutions and equity through the enhancement of social systems and governance (Manasinghe, 1992).

Sustainable development as a theory is the latest on major approaches to development. It brings the solution to environmental degradation and alleviation of poverty. According to (William, 1998) sustainable development represents a new justification for intervention in the developing world. The limitation of sustainable development is that it has been subject of diverse definition by ecologist, economist, planners and politicians. The general definition has been improvement of quality of life where the state of the natural environment is taken into consideration. (William, 1998)

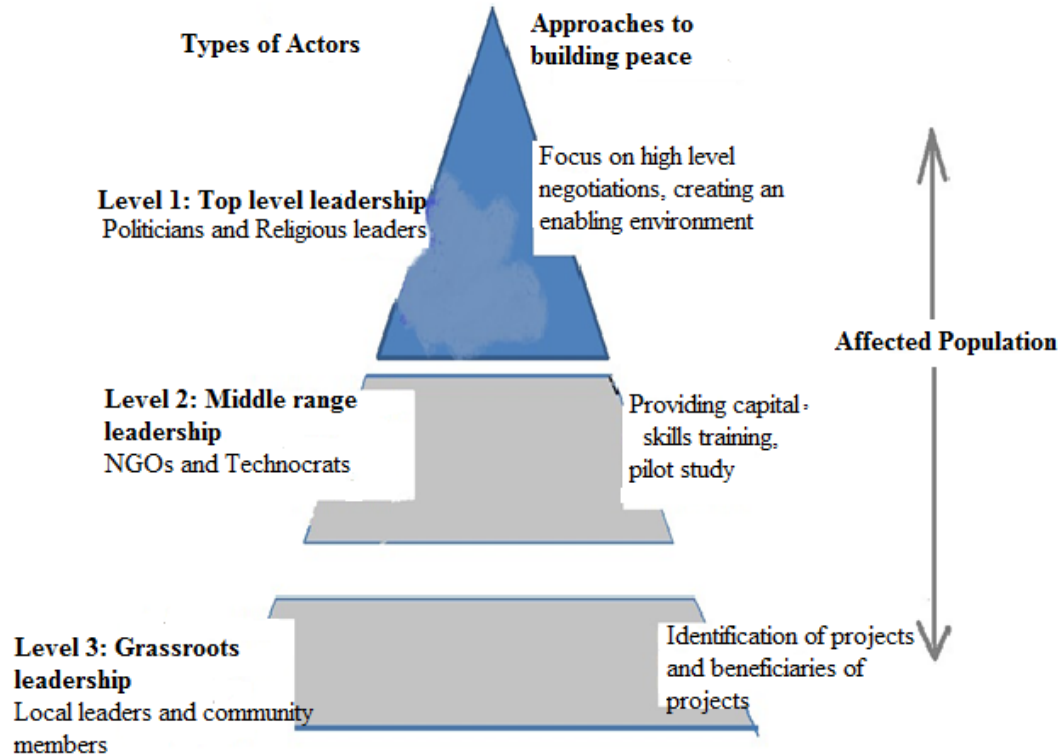
### **2.1.2 Relevance of sustainable development to the study**

The relevance of sustainable development theory with regard to peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects is that it provides useful theory in understanding development. Sustainable development focus on three core dimensions namely economic sustainability, socio-political sustainability and environment sustainability. For peacebuilding in communities to thrive the key is to balance three dimensions. Sustainable development can support peacebuilding when they is minimized negative impacts and risks arising from the political, economic and environmental factors.

Sustainable livelihoods borrow its approach from sustainable development. Sustainable livelihoods approach takes into account the various vulnerability contexts in which development is implemented. The livelihoods approach is concerned first and foremost with people. It seeks to gain an accurate and realistic understanding of people's strengths (assets or capital endowments) and how they endeavor to convert these into positive livelihood outcomes. The approach is founded on a belief that people require a range of assets to achieve positive livelihood outcomes; no single category of assets on its own is sufficient to yield all the many and varied livelihood outcomes that people seek. This is particularly true for poor people whose access to any given category of assets tends to be very limited. As a result they have to seek ways of nurturing and combining what assets they do have in innovative ways to ensure survival.

### 2.1.3 Integrated model of peace building: Lederach

Diagram 1 Integrated model of peace building



Derived from John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997), 39.

This model was developed by Lederach and it gives different levels with different actors who should be involved in an effort to achieve sustainable peace. Lederach (1997) states that the peace building framework emphasizes the importance of the grass roots. Sustainable livelihoods are so vital in grassroots because they are the core of durable peace and development of the community. Abernethy (2008) emphasizes the

empowerment of the grassroots in activities that led to self-reliance and foster development in the community.

Lederach's integrated peace model is composed of three levels, thus the bottom the grassroots, middle and the top level. The pyramid provides the simplest way to describe the numbers of people involved at each level. The top level elite are the fewest people and key actors, the middle the technocrats and the grassroots level has the largest number of people. Lederach (1997) points that the integrated peace building model is grounded on the inclusion of different actors in different stratus of peace building. There is also school of thought that peace will never be achieved unless the grassroots are involved and enhancing their livelihoods.

The integrated peacebuilding model is very ideal in that it gives citizens some space and chance to interact with each other and as such they can be able to employ interactive strategies to solve problems they experiencing. Each of the three levels plays different roles in peacebuilding process. Maiesse (2003) notes the importance of each level in peacebuilding process. The top which is the elite allows the involvement of important partners like NGO to come and implement projects that are of benefits to grassroots. The important of middle class like NGO is to provide capital, skills and trainings to the grassroots for sustainable livelihoods projects. The bottom level which is usually

affected by conflict should participate in projects that come with government or donor so that local people's wish is done.

Every level in the pyramid is important to achieve a lasting peace. Key to achieve lasting peace lies within the top level who can create enabling environment for peacebuilding initiatives. The top level is responsible to attract donor agencies to come and assist in development projects. The assistance of donor agencies which is middle level is also crucial for peacebuilding. Middle class is based on the idea that the middle range provide the key to creating sustainable peace by coming up with development projects that aim at alleviating human suffering (Lederach, 1997).

The middle class is where there are NGOs who are concerned about transition from emergency disaster response to relief operations and to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The intervention of NGOs are concerned about the concept of sustainable development. The alleviation of human suffering are built upon the concept of transformation moving a given population from a condition of extreme vulnerability and dependency to one of self- sufficiency and wellbeing. NGOs are promoting the idea of sustainability in their projects, sustainable peace and development against the spiral of violence and destruction (Lederach, 1997).

#### **2.1.4 Relevance of integrated approach to the study**

Lederach (1997) proposed an integrated framework for peacebuilding that provides the general parameters, the boundary outline that helps create meaning and focus. Concepts become the more specific ideas and analytical elements that make up the framework. His framework responds to the set of needs and challenges that are to do with violent armed conflict. In more specific terms, the framework suggests a comprehensive approach to the transformation of conflict that addresses structural issues, social dynamics of relationship building, and the development of a supportive infrastructure for peace. The framework contains a set of interrelated yet distinct components. These include structure, process, relationships, resources and coordination. For Lederach, peacebuilding has to start from the grassroots, what he terms the bottom-up approach. The grassroots must identify the projects they want to engage in while NGOs and government assist with resources to conduct the projects.

#### **2.2 History of development**

Development theories come out of the need to reconstruct countries after World War Two, which created awareness to alleviate poverty (Hart, 2008). Theories of development have been motivated to focus on economic and social development. From modernization theory onwards the theories focus on solving the economic and social problems of the third world (Williams, 1998). Theories of development since World War Two proved to be misfit in developing countries and new development paradigms emerged and got prominence in development discourse (Chitongo, 2013). The shift in

development occurred because development in the past was viewed as capital investment which results in productivity increase, application of science to production and services, the emergence of national states and large political and economic organizations (Shepard, 1998). Generally development was compared to western society prosperity. In recent years there is now a paradigm shift to sustainable development. The discourse of development ended up creating endless prescription and views to bring development. Development is giving solution to the problems of global poverty and theories failed to deliver what they promise. According to Williams (1998) the failure of development theories on sustainability, participatory and increased environmental degradation led to the search for new approach such as sustainable development.

### **2.3 The United Nation Agenda for Development**

The agenda first express the concept of human development. United Nation Charter expresses the determination of people of the world to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and to employ international machinery for promotion of economic and social advancement of all people. Article 55 state that United Nations shall promote, “higher standard of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development”. The main aims of United Nations have been to support and protect the disadvantaged, the weak and the vulnerable. The main cause of these conditions of adversity are economic deprivation to social exclusion, lack of choices and even lack of freedom at all levels from continent to countries (UN, 2007).

Human development focuses on issues such as alleviation of poverty, access to resources, employment, social integration and environmental protection. High levels of unemployment and underdevelopment are major causes of poverty in all countries. The United Nations recommends countries to take full responsibility for their own development. Each country must create an enabling environment for development. United Nations also recommend the smart partnership between the NGOs and government. The partnership must focus on social progress of citizens improving individual wellbeing. Development cannot be realize without the support of NGOs and must focus on projects that alleviate human suffering (UN, 2007)

#### **2.4 Sustainable livelihoods**

Livelihood is sustainable when it copes with and not outdone by stress and shocks whilst not undermining the natural resource (Campbell et al, 2003). Sustainable livelihoods, put people at the center of development such that it increase the contribution of people for their own development (DFID, 199) Sustainability has many dimensions, livelihoods are sustainable when they support themselves and are independent from external support be it economic and institutionally sustainable. Sustainable livelihoods have to sustain the environment, economic, social and institution dimensions. The importance of sustainability livelihoods is to imply the progress of poverty alleviation. In development discourse sustainability should result among other things in equity, democracy and social justice (Chitongo, 2013).



Sustainable livelihood can be referred to maintaining and enhancing of secure ownership and to access resources and income. The aim of sustainable livelihoods is to improve the situation of marginalized groups through accessing better social services and enabling them to acquire assets. The essence of sustainable livelihood is centered on the people. It works effectively by starting analyzing the livelihoods of the people and finding ways to improve their lives (Chitongo, 2013).

A holistic sustainable livelihood approach attempts to identify the most pressing constraints, it recognizes participation policy tools and highlights the linkages between livelihoods systems at micro level and macro level policy that affect these livelihoods. People livelihoods are dynamic. They vary with gender, age, ethnicity and geographical locations. Understanding the dynamic of livelihoods helps to learn from changes so that it can support positive patterns of change and help mitigate negative patterns. This then calls for shaping institutions according to the needs of beneficiaries (DFID, 2001).

## **2.5 Sustainable livelihood Framework**

Sustainable livelihoods framework concept focused on how men and women can utilize asset portfolios to improve their livelihoods. The sustainable livelihoods framework presents the main factors that affect people's livelihoods. It is useful to understand and analyze the livelihood of the poor. It can be used in both planning new development activities and assessing the contribution to livelihood sustainability made by existing

activities. In particular, the framework provides a checklist of important issues and sketches out the way these are linked to each other. It draws attention to core influences and process. It also emphasizes the multiple interactions between the various factors which affect livelihoods (Sustainable livelihood Framework, DFID).

The framework is centered on people. It does not work in a linear manner and does not try to present a model of reality. Its aim is to help stakeholders with different perspectives to engage in structured and coherent debate about the many factors that affect livelihood, their relative importance and way in which they interact. The framework is intended to be a versatile tool for use in planning and management. It offers a way of thinking about livelihoods that helps order complexity and makes clear the many factors that affect livelihoods. People require a range of livelihood asset to achieve positive livelihood outcomes and no single category of assets on its own is sufficient to yield all the many and varied outcomes that people seek.

## **2.6 Livelihood assets**

Assets are the starting point of livelihood framework (Chitongo, 2013). Assets can be owned, controlled or claimed. Livelihoods approach is mainly concerned about people. People require a range of assets to achieve desired outcome and every asset is equally important. The sustainable livelihoods approach has five assets namely human capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital. The assets are represented in the

form of pentagon. It brings to life important relationships between various assets (DFID, 1999).

### **Assets types**

**Human capital:** it is widely used in the field of development studies. Human capital basically represents the knowledge, skills, ability to labor and good health that derive people to pursue different livelihoods strategies to achieve their livelihood objectives.

**Social Capital:** it mean the social resources upon which people draw in seeking for their livelihood outcomes, such as networks and connectedness. This will increase people ability to cooperation and trust. Social capital is mainly determined through birth, age or gender.

**Natural Capital:** the term is used for the natural resource stocks (water, air and genetic resources) and environmental service (hydrological cycle, pollution sinks). It is useful to livelihood which drive from natural resource based activities.

**Physical Capital:** It comprises the basic infrastructure and goods need to support livelihoods. Affordable transport, secure shelter and buildings, adequate water supply and access to information are usually essential for sustainable livelihoods. Its importance to sustainability of livelihood is through the notion of opportunity costs. Poor infrastructure will hinder progress of sustainable livelihoods

**Financial Capital:** a financial resource that people use to achieve their livelihood, it entails availability of cash or equivalent that makes people access to different

livelihoods strategies. Financial capital can be identified into two, available stocks (cash, bank deposits and liquid assets) Regular inflows of money (labor income, pensions or other transfers from state). Financial capital is the most versatile it can be converted into other types of capital. However it is an asset that is least available to the poor.

(Scoones, 1998)

## **2.7 Importance of Assets in livelihoods**

Positive livelihoods outcomes can only be realized when people are having access or controlling assets (The sustainable livelihoods Framework, DFID, 1999). Assets are there to shape the livelihood outcome of people. People need to have access or possession or right to use and manage these assets to contribute meaningfully to their livelihood outcomes of an individual or household. Meinzen-Dick et al, (2012) noted the importance of controlling and owning livelihoods assets such as land, human resource and finance can make the person who is controlling assets to achieve productive livelihoods outcomes. Controlling of assets gives option to households to opt different livelihoods strategy which will enable them to be flexible in times of shocks and in terms of decisions over how incomes are used or invested (Meinzen-Dick et al, 2011).

Ownership of assets is a form of investment, assets can be used to generate income through rents and can be used as collaterals for credits in the banks (Swaminathan et al, 2012). In time of economic shocks assets can be sold or used as security for credit to raise money to finance other livelihoods projects Meinzen-Dicket al 2011). Access,

control and possession of assets secure the livelihoods of households utilizing assets properly will promote development as well as enhancing peacebuilding in communities. (Chitongo, 2013).

## **2.8 Connecting Sustainable livelihoods and Peacebuilding**

Peacebuilding is addressing the root causes of conflict and putting structures that avoid the recurring of conflict (Maiese, 2003). Livelihoods assets are important to foster peacebuilding. Management of assets in a proper way will go a long way in promoting peacebuilding. Assets need to be owned or controlled to use them in a productive way. Owning land can be used for agriculture, economic productivity and food security these are foundations of building a lasting peace. Without adequate economic basis for food security and day to day survival, people will remain in poverty and they will suffer in negative peace (Saito, 2011).

Controlling of land by citizens gives them hope to enhance possibility of both providing themselves with economic foundation and contributing harmonious society. Development and natural resources management will come when citizens are controlling livelihoods assets. Owning land holds an extremely important strategic role to build a promising economic livelihoods and food security. Livelihoods projects create an opportunity to nature attitudinal and behavior change in adults and young people in their

meetings and trainings for peaceful co-existence for now and the future through promotion of integral human development (Ellis and Freeman, 2005).

## **2.9 The nexus between peace and development**

Peace is an “umbrella concept” a general expression of human desires which is good and ultimate to be pursued. There are two types of peace, positive peace (developmental in nature, human centred, actualization of one’s potential and transformative) and negative peace (structural and cultural violence) (Galtung, 1996). Development is process of improving the conditions in which human beings live, improvement in science, technology, social relation of production, environment scarcity and ecosystem failures (Rodney, 1973). Peace and development, one may assertively say, are simply different aspects of the same complex reality. When they become part of an explanation for that complex reality they also broadly share a common ‘terrain’ and ‘landscape’ of a body of ideas with common assumptions.

Development and peace have dialectical relationships. When development succeeds, countries become peaceful and safer. When development fails the country will become fragile and at high risk of being caught in a conflict trap. Development retards conflict (Collier et al, 2003). Vandemortele (2009) affirms conflicts have capacity to severely constrain development endeavours by destroying infrastructure, interrupting the production process and diverting resources away from productive uses. Violent conflict

is the reason why most African countries are underdeveloped. Development brings peace and peace produces a conducive environment for the attainment of development.

### **2.10 Nexus between conflict and livelihoods**

Conflicts arise due to a complex set of variables coming together and reinforcing each other at multiple levels and at critical junctures of country development. Livelihoods are the means by which household obtain and maintain access to the resources necessary to ensure their immediate and long term survival. Livelihood failure will weaken the social fabric of society and contribute to desperate measures of resorting to violence to obtain access to resources. On the other hand conflict restricts access to livelihood. Restriction of people to resources will led to use of force to gain access (USAID, 2005)

Limited livelihoods increase the chances of conflict. Conflicts are directly caused by competition for essential livelihood resources. It can be triggered by natural hazards, such as droughts and economic shocks such as increase in unemployment. Livelihood failure will resort people to desperate means to access resources. When people are unemployed and have nothing to do can be easily used. People whose livelihoods are damaged by conflict may be motivated to continue to fight or join the fighting in order to seek revenge or motivation for continuing to fight become more personalized and closely tied to livelihood.

Table 1 Interrelationships between livelihoods assets and conflict shocks

<b>Livelihood Assets</b>		<b>Conflict Shocks</b>	<b>Appropriate response</b>
<b>Physical assets</b>	farm equipment, seeds tools, sewing, machines, vehicles, livestock, houses	Looting or destruction	Increase security, distribute seeds Tools/ livestock housing support
<b>Natural assets</b>	Agricultural and grazing land water resources, food, timber, fish	Burning, displacement, loss of access to grazing land	Negotiate access, provide alternative resources, redistribute land
<b>Human assets</b>	Labour power within a household, education skills, vocational training	Death, loss of productivity, disability, school and workplace closures	Emergency education, employment schemes
<b>Financial assets</b>	Wages access to credit, savings	Collapse of banking system, displacement causing unemployment	Micro credit cash, Food for work, peace Markets
<b>Social assets</b>	Kinship structures, religious groups, neighbourhoods	Displacement, fighting between groups	Conflict resolution support to religious, neighbourhood and other groups
<b>Political assets</b>	Citizenship, access to political leaders, recourse to a functioning legal system	Deterioration of state loss of legal system	Constitutional reform, police/judicial/human rights training, election support

Adopted from USAID 2005



The table 1 shows examples of livelihoods assets, conflict shocks and potential responses. Every asset has different conflict shocks and it needs different responses.

### **2.11 Donor funded projects**

The history of donor funded projects dates back to 19th centuries when western powers considered giving assistance to their colonies and poor countries. The aid was given for the improvement of infrastructure with ultimate goal of siphoning resources from colonized countries. The current scope of donor projects today can be traced to two major developments following the end of Second World War, 1) the implementation of the marshal plan, when United States was sponsoring packages for rehabilitation in 17 western countries. 2) The formation of international organization such as the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions like International Monetary Fund and World Bank (Hjertholm and White, 1998). This is the ideological foundation of donor funded projects which are aiming at building sustainable peace in the world.

Donor funded projects have continued to be the preferred means for poverty alleviation in developing countries. Donor funding has fuelled a vast increase in development initiatives and drive developing countries towards sustainable development. This is evident from the ODI (1996) briefing paper which mentions about 15% of development aid is channeled through NGO who will provide development projects in developing countries. Donor funded projects are concerned with the alleviating of poverty. It is

poverty which has affected the development of developing nations. When donors are implementing projects they are more concerned about participation. Participation tends to be far stronger when projects are up and running than during project design stage and working on winding the project. Gender also plays a very critical role in donor funded projects. It is rare to find an NGO which is not committed to gender issues. Donors are also concerned about the sustainability of projects (ODI, 1996).

### **2.12 Strategies for sustainable livelihoods.**

The starting point to have sustainable livelihood approach is identification and analysis of factors causing poverty. Involvement of poor is very vital in process of poverty alleviation. Agenda setting is another important feature for sustainable livelihood. The poor should be at the centre of the process. Community should be given chance to choose projects that address their needs. The knowledge of rural people is hardly utilized for national development purposes. However rural people's knowledge can be used for accelerates and even amplifies development initiatives (Chitongo, 2013).

In rural development donor agencies have been trying to use community participation to implement their projects. Community participation is the active process by which beneficiary groups influence the direction and the execution of a project rather than merely being consulted or receiving the share of the project benefits. The beneficiary groups do this with a view of enhancing their wellbeing in terms of income, personal

growth, self-reliance or other values they cherish (Theron, 2005). A comprehensive rural development project which uses participatory approaches should take into consideration the indigenous knowledge systems, existing assets, local organizations and governance structures (Mararike, 2011).

### **2.13 The practical experience of donor funded livelihoods projects**

In Rwanda after the genocide of 1994, CARE International designed the, “Strengthening New Communities Program”. The project was designed to improve the economic and social viability of new communities emerging from violent conflict. The program was supporting women’s efforts to build livelihoods and peaceful communities (CAREUSA, 2005). During the war women are left as the breadwinners with the main role of sewing up the social fabric. The Rwandan women's role was to build more than a peaceful environment. They were restoring the dignity of women, the social fabric, the economy and a new political dispensation. They were coming from a background where most of them were victims of sexual violence. Most survivors were experiencing economic deprivation. The genocide left many of the people in the society with a high level of mistrust. 52% of the population is women and 35% of the household, were headed by women (Mutamba, 2005).

However for them to work efficiently they had to enjoy the support of donor funded project to enhance livelihoods. Women have been active force in peacebuilding and it is

envisioned they will be instrumental in rebuilding new communities because of their families. Women's group been active force in peacebuilding and it is envisioned they will be instrumental in rebuilding new communities because of their families. Women's groups and councils are involved in the process of assessing the community's needs from the initial stages of project development. Project assistance is given to female group members associations and councils in the form of capacity building, skills development and material inputs (CAREUSA, 2005).

Sudan is characteristically conflict ridden with decades of experiences in conflict (Malachy, 2012). The intractable conflict in Sudan ended up creating two nations in 2011 Sudan and South Sudan. In Southern Sudan (CAREUSA) has been supporting projects to improve food security through market support. In a conflict environment official markets collapse. (CAREUSA) has funded projects in seed production, reconstruction of market roads and marketing assistance in order to increase food and economic security. The project was successful and surplus crops generated where sold in local markets and foster shift from barter to a cash economy. Refugees returning from neighboring countries who had run away from civil wars have been able to settle in the area with no external food aid. Increased productivity and income has strengthened the economy and sustain the economy in importing important products such as salt and sugar. The country has also increase in imported building materials and durable items an indication of increased confidence in the return of peace (CARE USA).

The approach of sustainable livelihoods has been applied all over the world and produced different results. Malawi is a country where sustainable livelihoods have been implemented by donors. Malawi is a country deeply entrenched in poverty and it is a major obstacle for development in the country. The country depends on largely on foreign aid in trying to address poverty in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Malawi economy accounting to 36 percent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) the donor projects are mainly in agriculture. The Ngolowindo irrigation scheme is one of the project in Malawi which was being funded by European Union and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through Department of Irrigation from (1987-1995). The project was focusing on improving food security and poverty at the household level. The project would be achieved by upgrading of technical and human resource, crop diversification and improvement of market access. The donor provided pumps and submerged electrical channels, green houses and storage room. Technical support such as ploughing, planting, land management and servicing of irrigation equipment was provided. The involvement of European Union in Ngolowindo irrigation scheme provided reliable water supply, regular seed supply to guarantee sustainability of project. However, the implementation of the Ngolowindo irrigation project had a number of limitations which affected the sustainability of the project (Hofisi and Chizimba, 2013).

In Zimbabwe sustainable livelihood approach has been implemented and produced different results. A successful rural development project which used a participatory approach can be drawn from The ITDG/GTZ Chivi Food Security Project. Chivi Food

Security Project was initiated in response to localized chronic food insecurity in pockets of semi-arid areas of Zimbabwe and the need to ensure that communities are self-sufficient in food supply. The project aimed at understanding the constraints to household food security and addressing these, with the objective of enhancing food security at the grassroots level. The project was implemented within the framework of participatory research and extension approaches in which farmers organized themselves into groups of 70 to 80. The groups were involved in project identification, planning and the elaboration of action plans. The objective was to empower farmers and improve the adoption of technologies.

Farmers were exposed to soil and water conservation technologies from areas outside the project area, including infiltration pits and *fanyajuu*. The latter are inverted contour ridges that are designed to retain water on the land, as opposed to the conventional contours used in Zimbabwe, which draw water away from the field and are therefore inappropriate to semi-arid regions, where fields are normally dry because of the prevailing conditions. Another project component was the identification of indigenous soil and water conservation technologies for promotion within the project area. Farmers selected the practices that they preferred, and tried these. They met periodically to discuss the results and any problems encountered, make other observations and suggest possible solutions among themselves. Information was also shared during field days, evaluation meetings, field visits, competitions and, when funds permitted, look-and-learn tours. In the project, farmers adapted technologies and tested their own

adaptations. Another interesting feature of the project is that farmers did not adopt whole technologies but bits and pieces of technologies (step-wise adoption of technologies) adapted from Hanyani-Mlambo (2002:08).

In Goromonzi district, between 2008 and 2011 the NGOs were distributing free agricultural inputs to vulnerable households. Goromonzi district consist of vulnerable group such as child headed families, single or double orphans, elderly and chronically ill (mainly because of HIV). Agriculture inputs was distributed to improve crop production which was caused by natural disaster (drought), harsh economic conditions that increase vulnerability of communities and increase food crisis. The intervention of donors in Gromonzi has been a success as Madavanhu and Mandizvidza (2013) noted the improvement of food security in area between 2008 and 2011. Beneficiaries also buy important livelihood assets such as ploughs, scotch carts and cattle which are important to farming.

#### **2.14 Conclusion**

Taking from the above discussion, it has become necessary for peacebuilding efforts to be modeled along sustainable development. Approach to development is supported by DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework. Key experts from donors, among them DFID and USAID agreed that livelihood failure undermine peace process and improvement of livelihoods will go a long way in fostering sustainable peace.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

The present chapter endeavours to give a detailed account of the research design and research methods that were used to collect data. In the previous chapter, research in the area of peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects was discussed. This chapter seeks to provide a clear description of the steps that were taken during the data gathering phase. This chapter will treat both theoretical and practical aspects of the conduct of the research by describing the methodologies that were used and the theoretical paradigms that informed the choice. The target population of the proposed research study will be defined and an explanation of how data collection tools was developed and administered.

### **3.1 Research Design**

Generally this study was a descriptive and empirical study on peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. On the other hand the study was a conceptual enquiry in that it seeks to examine how sustainable livelihoods projects promote peacebuilding. This study adopted a qualitative research methodology in both data collection and analysis. Qualitative research design does not provide the researcher with a step by step plan, but rather allows the researcher's choice and actions to determine the design. This enabled the researcher room to adapt the interview guides to literacy levels of all the respondents. Qualitative research is about exploring issues, understanding phenomena and answering questions. Since the study seeks to explore the role of sustainable



livelihoods projects in promoting peacebuilding in communities, a case study research design has been selected for the study. The definition and relevance of the case study design in the proposed research study will be explained below.

The research adopted a case study approach in that it is focused on peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects using donor funded projects. A Case study is the intensive investigation into specific aspects of an individual, social unit or a small portion of the community in an effort to gain deeper insights about these. Another suggestion is that case study design should be defined as a research strategy, an empirical inquiry that investigates a phenomenon within its real-life context. Case study method can mean single and multiple case studies, can include quantitative evidence, relies on multiple sources of evidence, and benefits from the prior development of theoretical propositions. The researcher chose this case study method because it gives the story behind the result by capturing what happened to bring it about, and can be a good opportunity to highlight a project's contribution to peacebuilding. This research study assessed peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. Hence, the need to identify a specific case in order to assess the aims and objectives of the research study. Thus a case study of Mutasa district was the focus of the study. The case study design enabled the researcher to meet the intended objectives of the study.

The overall objective of the research study was to analyze the nexus between of peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods projects in creating resilient communities in

Mutasa District. As such information was collected from three NGOs namely DOMCCP, SNV and DAPP, local leaders, the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of donor projects Mutasa. Yin (2003) point out that the number of cases investigated and the amount of detailed information that the researcher collects about each case studied are important dimensions of the case study method. The fewer the cases investigated, the more information that could be collected. The latter statement, guided the selection of the case study method for this research. Case study design was selected for this research study because it can be confined to an easily definable geographical area and thus demands less in terms of resources and time investment (Jones, 1996). This research design enabled the researcher to meet the objectives of the study stated in Chapter one. Case studies also generate data which stands the test of internal validity. The primary advantage of a case study is that it provides much more detailed information than what is available (Baxter and Jack, 2008). Case studies hold an advantage in that they can be confined to an easily definable geographical area and thus demand less in terms of resources and time investment. This research will be limited to Mutasa community. Further, according to Golby (1993) Case studies also generate data which stands the test of internal validity. This is mainly due to the fact that case study research takes place under the strict discipline of case study protocol. Case study protocols are sets of rules and procedures that are applied to the investigation with a view to increasing the reliability of the findings.

### **3.2 Study Population**

The population includes all individuals from whom the researcher is interested in obtaining information and making inferences. The study population for the proposed research study was in Mutasa district. The study population was donor agencies, local leaders (traditional, church and business leaders), beneficiaries of the projects and residents in the respective wards where donor funded projects are being implemented. The groups were chosen so that the researcher came up with comprehensive information about how sustainable livelihoods promote peacebuilding.

### **3.3 Sampling**

Sampling involves the selection of a number of study units from a defined study population (Trochim, 2002). The population was too large for researchers to consider collecting information from all its members. Instead there was need to select a sample of individuals hoping that the sample is representative of the population. Conducting a survey of all the elements of a population (census) is costly and time consuming, therefore, a representative “cross-section” known, as a sample will be selected (Rossi and Freeman, 1993). However, non-probability sampling procedures that are purposive and snow ball were used to come up with a research study sample. These two methods were used to select NGOs implementing sustainable livelihoods projects, beneficiaries of projects, local leaders and the community at large who explored their understanding on sustainable livelihoods and how it create peacebuilding. The sample for the study was derived from Mutasa.

The study adopted snowball sampling. Snowball sampling is a procedure that is commonly used when it is difficult to identify members of the desired population. The method has the following stages: initial contact with one or two cases in the population, ask these cases to identify further cases and ask these new cases to identify further new cases (Rossi and Freeman, 1993). The main setback of this method was to make the first contact. This is usually used in highly sensitive instances like domestic violence against men and illegal issues like computer hacking (Cronbach, 1982). Snowball Sampling is a method used to obtain research and knowledge, from extended associations, through previous acquaintances, “Snowball sampling uses recommendations to find people with the specific range of skills that has been determined as being useful.” The sampling method is heavily reliant on the skill of the individual conducting the actual sampling, and that individual’s ability to vertically network and find an appropriate sample. This sampling procedure was be used to identify beneficiaries of donor funded projects.

Purposive sampling technique was other method used by researcher. The purposive sampling technique, also called judgment sampling, is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses (Trochim, 2002). It is a non-random technique that does not need underlying theories or a set number of informants. Simply put, the researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge or experience. The underlying assumption is that the researcher will select units that are characteristic of the population. Judicious use of judgement sampling is imperative

because this type of sampling is often subject to the researcher's biases. Since any preconceptions the researcher may have are reflected in the sample, large biases can be introduced if these preconceptions are not kept in check. This sampling procedure was used to identify local leaders, donor agencies and non-beneficiaries of donor funded projects in community who explored their experience with donor funded projects in creating peacebuilding in their respective community.

### 3.4 Sample size

The initial sample the researcher had intended to interview forty five people, but in the field the researcher managed to interview thirty one people. In-depth interviews were done with two coordinators of donor funded projects, two local leaders, twenty beneficiaries from different projects and wards and seven non beneficiaries.

*Table 2 Breakdown of the Sample size*

<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Donor agencies: Directors or Coordinators	In-depth interview	2 Coordinators DAPP and DOMCCP
Local leaders: (tradition, church or business)	In-depth interviews	2 (ward 7 and 10) leaders
Beneficiaries of three different projects	Key informant interview	20
Community members in three different wards	Key informant interview	7
Total sample size		31

### **3.5 Research instruments**

This study used two methods for data collection and these are key informant interviews and in-depth interviews. These methods were used to analyze and explore the views and experience of the Mutasa residents on sustainable livelihoods projects contribution to peacebuilding. This enabled an informed perspective on the projects how they create peacebuilding at community level. Three different interview guides were used one for coordinators, second for beneficiaries of the projects and third for local leaders and community members.

Key informant interviews were done. The purpose of key informant interviews was to collect information from a wide range of people including community leaders and beneficiaries. They help the researcher with their particular knowledge and understanding, provided insight on the nature of problems and give recommendations for solutions.

Face-to-Face interviews technique was used to because it provided a free-exchange of ideas, and lends itself to asking more complex questions and getting more detailed responses. The key informant interviews were used to unpack the relevance livelihoods projects in promoting peacebuilding. They were used in exploring the views of local leaders and community members on relevance of livelihoods projects in promoting peacebuilding in community.

The validity, reliability and objectivity of the information obtained from the instruments were considered. The other key issues of consideration were the reliability and objective. The researcher tried to eliminate subjectivity from the judgements he was concerning the subjects under study. The issue of objectivity refers to the absence of subjective judgements.

In-depth interviews were conducted to discover underlying motives and desires of donor agencies and beneficiaries of projects. The tools were designed to explore needs, desires and perceptions of respondents as well. In-depth interview gave the researcher time to explain what he mean by sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding and try to interpret what was being said and give the researcher time to seek clarity and understanding during interview. There were three interview guides during the research, to ensure discussions on different aspects groups. There was interview guide for directors or coordinators of donor agencies, local and community members and for the beneficiaries of projects.

### **3.6 Data collection procedure**

The researcher initiated the research protocol by requesting permission to conduct the research in Mutasa from the District Administrator (DA). A letter of introduction from Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance made it easy for the researcher to negotiate permission to conduct research from responsible authorities. The DA gave the

researcher a letter to use within the district as proof that permission has been given. Meeting with the DA help the researcher in identifying NGOS who are operating in the district. It was when the researcher was given a list of NGOs who are still operating and those who are no longer operating in the district. The DA helped the researcher by giving conduct details for local leaders which made it easy for entry especial in ward 7 were SNV did its projects and left.

Before conducting research the researcher request permission from local leaders and NGOs to conduct the research. Two out of three NGOs approached gave the researcher permission to conduct the research. The data was collected through key informant interview and in-depth interviews. The study was conducted in three different wards namely ward 7, 11 and 15. There was three different interview guides. 1) For director and coordinators of donor funded projects, 2) for local leaders and community members and 3) for beneficiaries of donor funded projects. Interview guide for local leaders, community members and beneficiaries were translated in Shona.

### **3.7 Data Presentation and Analysis Procedures**

Given that a lot of data was generated from the different interviews, the researcher organized the data through classification. Data classification is the process of arranging data in groups or classes on the basis of common characteristics. Data having a common characteristic was placed in one class and in this way the entire data was divided into a



number of groups or classes. The data classification was done according to common characteristics that were noted from the different projects, organization and wards.

The data classification process is closely linked to coding which the study will also use. Coding is the process of defining what the data are all about (Charmaz, 1995). Coding was done to identify themes and concepts that are common within the data that were already classified. The concepts and themes were used for presentation and analysis of the different issues on peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. The coding also used the process of constant comparison among NGOs projects in promoting peacebuilding.

### **3.8 Ethical consideration**

Research ethics is an important component when carrying out a research. There are certain procedures that a researcher must follow to have access in the area of study and also to avoid physical and psychological harm to anyone because of the research. The researcher requested a letter of introduction from Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance which states that the researcher is a student who is doing research in Mutasa District. The letter from the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance made it possible for the researcher to request permission from District Administrator (DA) and traditional leaders to conduct research. The researcher requested police clearance before entering communities for the protection of the researcher and the participants.

Participation in this research was voluntary and this was ensured by a voluntary consent form (Appendix A) which informed participants about purpose of the study, making sure that participants understand what they are required to do and informing the participants that they can withdraw at any time. The researcher also explained verbally to vernacular to the prospective respondent. After agreeing to be interviewed, the form was signed by the researcher and respondents.

The researcher ensured that: all information collected was kept confidential for the protection of participants; analysis of information was generalized and was not attached to any participant; and that the participants name was not used in the research.

### **3.9 Conclusion**

This chapter presented the methodology that was applied in this study, the research design used and data collection instruments. The research used three interview question guides which were for NGOs coordinators, beneficiaries of projects and community members and local leaders. Ethical considerations which were taken are explained.

## **CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents findings from the data collection process. It will describe the different ideas generated on how peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects in create resilient communities. The chapter will present an analysis of the data obtained during the research. The data is organized starting with general issues relating to research objectives.

### **4.1 Donor funded livelihood projects aimed at peacebuilding in Mutasa**

There are a number of donor funded livelihoods projects which are promoting peacebuilding in Mutasa district. The donors who are implementing these projects are not consciously aware that projects they are implemented are contributing to peacebuilding, to the donors they are implementing projects just for agriculture and livelihood security but without specific conscious addressing peacebuilding in Mutasa district. In Mutasa district there are many donor who are implementing livelihoods projects namely Development Aid for People to People (DAPP), Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme (DOMCCP), SNV Netherland Development Organization and World Vision International. Livelihood projects will be presented according to the donors who are implementing the projects

#### **4.1.1 Development Aid from People to People (DAPP)**

DAPP is actively involved in the establishment of long term development projects in Mutasa district. Development projects under DAPP are education, community development, agriculture, economic development and environmental conservation.

In Mutasa district DAPP is funding projects in conservation farming. It is a farming practice which is being trained farmers to conserve soil and water and minimize erosion. It is a farming method which is promoting agriculture environment management. The organization is providing materials that minimize the disturbances of the soil and farmers produce maximum yields from their harvest. The idea of conservation farming is to protect top soil which is fertile and good for agriculture. The role of conservation farming is to promote sustainable agriculture, by minimizing erosion and siltation of dams it allows people to rely on farming without challenges of shortage of water and infertility land. DAPP representative when asked why they are supporting this projects they revealed it is good for farmers and community because it gives them means for conserving, improving and making more efficient use of natural resources.

DAPP is also funding gardening projects such as entrepreneurial and nutrition gardening in ward 11 Mutasa district. Entrepreneurial gardening specialized to improve income to families; crops mainly found are vegetables, bananas fruits like apples and avocados and cash crops like sugarcane. The organization provides inputs for gardening such as

fertilizer, watering canes, seeds, chemicals; construct ware dams and rope and washer pumps to the beneficiaries. Nutrition garden helps community members to afford nutritious food which is good for health.

#### **4.1.2 Diocese of Mutare Community Care Programme (DOMCCP)**

DOMCCP is implementing health, development and relief projects in Manicaland. It has successful projects in ward 15 Mutasa. Generally it is empowering communities helping people living with HIV and orphans. DOMCCP currently is trying to address the needs of PLWHIV in the area of livelihoods. It is focused on the issues of food security and livelihoods projects. The projects which are implemented in Mutasa by DOMCCP are poultry, community nutrition gardening and income generating projects such as fishery, sewing, welding and beekeeping. The organization assist by giving the necessary equipment such as fishing boats, fishing nets, beekeeping materials, sewing machines and welding machines.

#### **4.1.3 SNV Netherland Development Organization**

SNV has been implementing projects towards poverty reduction. There are mainly concerned in agriculture, water and sanitation. In addition they are also implementing sustainable livelihoods projects in Mutasa district this where school children are trained in banana production and income generated is added on to school fees. SNV have been assisting small scale farmers in Mutasa who are into banana production. The farmers

have been assisted with construction of many irrigation schemes in Honde valley for the production of bananas. The farmers received training on how to farm banana and also given equipment need for growing bananas. Since the intervention of SNV in 2008 Banana farmers have been able to produce quality bananas and SNV have linked the farmers to sustainable markets, as well as facilitating based mechanisms for input supply to produces.

## **4.2 Key challenges of donor funded projects**

Donor funded projects are faced with many challenges that limit the effectiveness of the project in creating peacebuilding in the community. Major respondents pointed out factors such as unsustainable funds, lack of knowledge, market accessibility and institutional constraints.

### **4.2.1 Unsustainability of funds**

Donors operated on a fixed budget which does not allow being flexible. Many donors funded projects have time frames and are not there for long periods of time. This has made many projects not to be sustainable after the withdrawal of donor. In most cases donors provide the starting capital and after withdrawal many beneficiaries failed to manage the projects.

#### **4.2.2 Lack of knowledge**

The projects such as crop plantation and small livestock production need a lot of skills and knowledge. The donor usually trains the beneficiaries to have skills to run the projects but they need to be continuously monitored. Some of the beneficiaries are not willing to commit themselves in this kind of project because it demands a lot of labor. During my interview with a DAPP representative, the representative revealed that beneficiaries do not regard the projects as theirs. They regard them as DAPP projects; consequently, the beneficiaries have developed a dependence syndrome.

#### **4.2.3 Market Accessibility**

Access to market is one of the major challenges to beneficiaries. Transportation of produce is a major constrain to the successes of livelihoods projects. The market is also flooded by the same produce for examples Honde valley Bananas, Mutasa DC vegetables this will make farmers not to have maximum profits. One coordinator of NGO in Mutasa mentioned that many people engaging in poultry project and finding market for the beneficiaries is now a difficult task since beneficiaries always look to the organization for market place.

#### **4.2.4 Institutional constraints**

DOMCCP has been supporting food aid and it is difficult to change the aid into development aid. The organization operates on a restricted budget which is not flexible

to do other projects than what it is intended to do. DOMCCP mainly focus on helping PLWH and orphans. The challenge they face is that those who are supposed to benefit will not fully realize the benefits because of a culture that requires them to share with their neighbors. To realize the benefits of the projects everyone in the community must be supported with the same kind of project yet the organization has a policy which does not allow that to happen.

#### **4.2.5 Linking livelihoods programmes with legal protection and advocacy**

Chronic livelihoods crises are often linked to long term process of political, social and economic marginalization. The assessment of macro causes of livelihood crises and who is responsible for causing livelihood insecurity and who has the duty to address these projects is difficult for donor agencies. They are things which are beyond the control of donor agencies to address the issue of livelihood crisis. Those responsible cannot be approached because they may misinterpret the organization as forwarding their own agenda which are not of developmental value to the community.

#### **4.3 SNV and Smallholder Banana Production in Honde valley**

More than half of households in Honde valley depend their livelihoods on banana production. SNV Zimbabwe have been working with small holders farmers in Honde valley to increase banana incomes by increasing productivity and quality per acre grown by the average household. Majority of banana farmers used to sell bananas to the



informal market at lower prices than the prices fetched at formal markets. One local leader testified that:

*We now have a reliable market than before the intervention of SNV linking us to reliable markets. This has made us improve our bananas sales, now we are making more profit (Interview no. 1, 25/03/2014).*

SNV has transformed the lives of many banana farmers by training farmers to acquire agronomic skills and also using demo plots to motivate farmers into believing in the possibility of producing quality bananas.

The intervention of SNV helped banana farmers to take advantage of already existing multi-actor and multi objective scenario of the agricultural system in Zimbabwe. SNV used existing actors in banana production such as Agritex officer to train farmers on banana production. In Honde valley banana producers are scattered across the mountainous terrain. SNV organized farmers into groups and created demo plots within the area for training and experimenting with banana production. The creation of demonstration plots becomes exciting forums for learning and information exchange by farmers. One man in banana production during an interview said:

*We have learned a lot, and this is an advantage for us. We learn that it is possible to dig only fifty centimeters to plant a banana than the one meter we used to dig to plant one. This means we are now planting more bananas per day than before receiving training. Moreover we are now able to produce quality bananas which are competitive on the market (Interview no.5, 25/03/2014).*

In the demo plots all stages of banana cultivation until to the harvest stage are shown.

At demo plots banana farmers are trained by experts who are hired by SNV. The training

of banana production has motivated local leaders and Agritex officers to organize field days and embark on ‘look and learn tours’ to motivate other farmers to produce quality bananas. SNV also sponsors banana demos in schools, to teach school children on banana production. The idea is to prepare children as future banana producers.

SNV also assisted banana farmers in linking with reliable and higher value markets for bananas. Linking with reliable markets will ensure farmers will not get stuck with excess bananas and lose their investment while their incomes would stagnate or fall. Linking with reliable markets means market will be readily available. The demo plots in Honde valley will continue to be centre of experimentation and learning for farmers, even incorporating other crops.

#### **4.4 Beekeeping by DOMCCP ward 15 Mutasa**

From data gathered at DOMCCP the organization has trained PLWH on beekeeping and honey production since 2005. DOMCCP have played a leading in improving livelihoods of PLWH. The organization provides beehives for beekeeping and assist beneficiaries with linking them to potential buyers. The success of the project has motivated none beneficiaries to start beekeeping projects using traditional methods of beehives which uses trees barks and hollow logs. DOMCCP have supply hives which are wide with greater carrying capacity. This has increase the quantity of the honey; beekeepers are trained to monitor and clean hives in a sustainable manner. The hives which are given to

beneficiaries by DOMCCP are treated using oil preventing ants and termites to destroy the hives.

#### **4.5 Peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods projects in enhancing resilient communities**

Building a resilient community through livelihoods projects is one of difficult thing to implement because it involves a lot of factors. Livelihoods are affected by continuous cycle of crises. These are the results of complete interactions between political, economic, social and environmental factors. Livelihoods are often affected by trends, shocks and seasons. Climate change coupled with political instability and chronic poverty have directly threatened the lives of people in Mutasa. Measures taken by donor agencies in implementing sustainable livelihoods projects and try to address the poverty have come with its short comings and success in trying to enhance peacebuilding in the Mutasa community.

Projects of sustainable livelihoods are there to withstand future shocks and stresses. Building of resilient community represents the best value of the projects. Donor agencies have to be aware of natural hazards and conflict as threat to livelihood projects. Donor agencies and community members pointed out causes of livelihood crisis as climate change, poverty, degraded ecosystem, inadequate physical infrastructure, conflict and

ineffective governance. The combination of the foregoing factors has made it difficult to build peace through sustainable livelihoods unless they are addressed.

The donor agencies and community members highlighted the need to build resilient communities so that they can respond positively to shocks, trends and stress as paramount to peacebuilding. Residents also suggested engaging in new and well-paying projects such as growing of potatoes in sacks. This project is being implemented in other districts. One beneficiary interviewed said:

*We wish to be in the project of growing potatoes in sacks. We have heard that growing potatoes in sacks is a projects which is being successful in other areas and we definitely want it in our area and I for one will strive to work hard in the project (Interview no. 15, 27/03/2014).*

Potatoes growing in sacks use low cost technologies that are also environmental friendly and the project are quite good given state of the environment. Growing potatoes in sacks is now a very popular venture in Zimbabwe. Organizations and communities emphasized of the need to improve governance systems and ecosystem health to avoid problems in future. Donor agencies in Mutasa have tried to build resilient community by implementing sustainable livelihoods projects, facilitating changes through promotion of improved policies and adaptive practices.

The need of political will to achieve sustainable livelihoods was constantly said by participants. However facilitating political will is a long term investment in the

foundation of building resilient communities. The issue of resilient community has no place in political will when the government is concerned about power. Achieving political will can only be realized when government stop politicize the work of NGOs. The donors cannot work effectively in environment where there is political instability hence they will not effectively implement successful projects. One community member mentioned about the leaders who have the mandate to choose orphans who should benefit from projects said:

*The leaders are not considering other orphans in the projects because the guardian supports opposition party. This really is political discrimination and those who are supposed to benefit are denied their privilege because of guardian political affiliation (in-depth interview, 29, 1/04/2014).*

Such exclusion and discrimination in a donor funded projects had impact on livelihoods outcome.

Peacebuilding is designed and implemented in such a way that reduces poverty. To break the cycle of chronic poverty caused by predictable events (drought, floods and conflict) Donor agencies have set up committees such as farmers club. Farmers club is there to empower the small scale farmers to become food secure by building their capacity with knowledge and skills on modern methods of farming which includes conservation agriculture and agro forest. The idea is to shift from communal farming to commercial farming.

Beneficiaries are appreciating the training they are receiving from donor agencies. The farmers are being organized to exploring and sharing water resources, securing inputs and marketing of their produce. Farmers club is set forward to respond to the needs of farmers and communities to change farmers from communal farming to commercial. The farmers club is there to help each other to increase the income to afford the basic necessities. The farmers club is dominated by women who bring the aspect of gender dimension. Farmers club is regarded as gender program empowering women; it includes activities which focus on the wellbeing of the whole family with regard to education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. The agriculture training is benefitting farmers to be experts in animal husbandry, crop husbandry and gardening.

Climate change is one of the factors causing livelihoods projects destruction in Mutasa district. Climate change undermines the living conditions of people in Mutasa. The community members have the experience of prolong drought, floods caused cyclone *eline* and cyclone *japhet*. Combinations of these factors have affected the livelihoods of the people in the district. The floods and poor farming methods have made caused soil erosion which results in infertility of soil and siltation of dams. This has made the district not to yield good harvest however the donor agencies are helping the community by training planting *vativa* grass in dongas which help to stop soil erosion; also farmers are being trained good farming methods. The donor organizations are also giving trees to be planted in the district to help cab deforestation. Donor agencies are also providing boreholes for irrigation of gardens and consumption purposes.

#### **4.6 Livelihood assessment**

The assessment will establish the existing livelihood situation in community visited, the challenges being encountered and how people cope with these challenges. Major donor funded livelihood project in area visited are crop production, gardening, poultry, piggery, beekeeping, fishery and plantation crops such as bananas. The district despite being natural farming region 1 and 2 over the past decade has been affected by erratic rainfall which hampered the quality and quantity of yields. Shortages of water have affected the effectiveness of funded projects and their contribution to peacebuilding.

#### **4.7 Livelihood assets**

Agriculture is the main donor funded projects in Mutasa. Most beneficiaries of the projects owned variety of agriculture assets. In the area visited beneficiaries per household owned about 0.25 ha to 5 ha. Water was a major constraints to livelihoods but thanks to donor intervention particular SNV which constructing irrigation schemes for banana farmers in Honde valley. DAPP also constructing ware dams and boreholes also farmers where trained for water harvest and budget. Most respondent own small assets for agriculture but could afford to hire Lorries to carry their produce to the markets. Mutasa district is particularly cold and have high rainfalls in the areas of Honde valley which is not good for cattle and goats productions. The only livestock project which is being implemented is piggery which generates a lot of income. Farmers rely on human labor communities members are hired to work in these projects and also contribute income to the community members.

#### **4.8 Effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects**

Generally what the donor funded projects have achieved mainly targeting the most vulnerable groups has been financial gains and improvement of the environmental physical, human and social aspects of the community which is basic to achieve peacebuilding. This section presents a discussion of the key findings under objective four of this research that sought to evaluate the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives through funded projects in enhancing sustainable livelihoods in Mutasa. The research question investigated under this research objective was how effective are peacebuilding initiatives through donor funded projects in promoting sustainable livelihoods? This question have been presented and discussed in the proceeding section.

##### **4.8.1 Generate income and employment opportunities**

The intervention of donor funded projects has led the increase of yields and also increases incomes. The quality of bananas now being produced after the interventions of SNV has attracted many customers which has increased the market price of bananas. Beekeeping is attracting many customers and increases the income of families. From data gathered beekeeping and banana production have improved the living standard of people and as effective methods of alleviation poverty by providing much needed foods and generating money for school fees for children, afford three meals a day and afford to take care of their medical expenses. The non-beneficiaries in the community are also benefiting indirectly by large volumes of vehicles coming to their areas, they also have advantages to sell their produce such as cassava and sweet potatoes. Community



members are also accessing transport to carry their product to markets and also increase the income in their families.

People who are practicing beekeeping are relying on natural capital these are bees, flowering plants and water. Bees are natural assets using natural things to make honey such as nectar and pollen of flowers. According to beneficiary's beekeeping is one of the simplest project but most profiting. One beneficiary testified how beekeeping has improved his life:

*Since the project started in 2008 my life has change. I have managed to build a 5 bed room house from the proceeds from honey (Interview 24, 01/02/2014).*

Furthermore some beneficiaries testified that they are now able to use the income they get from beekeeping to buy farming inputs and sent children to school. The beneficiary acknowledged that they now have financial capital which is essential for development. DOMCCP have linked beekeeping producers to prominent honey buyers such as Savannah Delights. Honey is also used for herbal purposes which is recommended for tuberculosis (TB) HIV and asthmatic patients. This means honey is now being used as treatment.

Employment opportunity has also been created to the communities through banana production. The most economically active groups are engaging in banana production. The engagement of the community in banana production means empowerment and self-

reliance. Beneficiaries who also rear pigs used bananas as feeds. Respondents from banana production acknowledged that income led to economic empowerment of the community.

#### **4.8.2 Improved sanitation and waste management**

Donor agencies have come up with projects that improved sanitation in the community. This can be attributed to the workshops they train farmers on farming skills. Donor agencies also invite other stakeholders to train on health and sanitation which has increased awareness on personal hygiene. Beneficiaries have become aware of the importance of health lifestyle. The community members are now voluntary to go for medical checkups and more conscious of finding out about the latest health updates. The training on beneficiaries about environment sanitation has made communities more conscious on proper waste management. The promotion of waste management and the conservation of natural resources will be the best contribution for future generations.

#### **4.8.3 Improved health and nutrition.**

NGOs have implemented livelihoods projects in nutrition gardens, beekeeping, and poultry productions. These projects have provided beneficiaries with improved nutrition for families and community. Many of the beneficiaries are now aware and more conscious about good nutrition. One beneficiary in nutrition gardening enthusiastically narrated her experience and many gains from nutrition gardening. An important

realization was of good health and can be attained at low cost in the communities. She also share how valuable experience of farming through trainings. She further appreciates the construction of rope and washer pumps which made communities access to clean water.

#### **4.8.4 Support to children's education**

Most of children benefitted from the donor funded projects where orphans who cannot afford school fees. Empowering children with education is a long term contribution to peacebuilding. From the income being generated from projects children are now afford to pay school fees.

#### **4.8.5 Improved Peace and order in Mutasa district**

Projects have increase community members participation and involvement there by reducing crimes because most of people are busy with the projects. One local leader mentioned how banana project have reduce crimes and he no longer busy in the courts because his people have something to do to earn living. It was important to note that the leader pointed poverty as the major cause of domestic violence. Most of the conflict he addressed about domestic violence he mentioned the root cause was poverty. There are also few cases about people stealing in the areas people where living freely and peaceful.

#### **4.8.6 Development of community skills through training and exposure and raised awareness**

Beneficiaries, local leaders and community members interviewed in this research strongly felt that donor funded projects had enlightened community members to be aware on the need for educating children, management of projects, and human rights especially the issues of gender based violence. The local leaders interviewed in Mutasa testified about the reduction of cases of domestic violence owing it the awareness coming from donor. The projects also made parents realize the importance of sending children to school and how to raise school fees.

Interviewed organization showed that they value beneficiaries to have skills through training to equip beneficiaries with necessary skills to manage the projects. The projects of donor had significantly had significantly contributed to the improvement of human resources in Mutasa community. This study found out the people who are trained are only beneficiaries however some community members are coping and learning from beneficiaries.

#### **2.8.7 Transformation Communal Farming to Commercial Farming**

Donor funded projects create opportunities of transforming communal farming to commercial farming. The NGOs has created opportunities for adults and young man and women to be trained to acquire skills and knowledge on modern farming techniques, and

yield maximum harvest. This will contribute fully to the food basket of Zimbabwe that has been reduced to basket beggar by the shocks of economy, social environmental and political context in the past decade. The economy of Zimbabwe can be improved through the maximization of agricultural production. Rural community which has always been relying on food aid will be able to feed its self through promoting maximization of yields in crop production. The intervention of NGOs in sustainable livelihoods projects by empowering community members with skills and knowledge and providing farming inputs will drastically transform subsistence type of farming to commercial farming.

Livelihoods projects transform farmers to be self-sufficient in terms of food security and generating incomes. NGOs introduced farmers into cash crop production such as growing potatoes in sacks. The engagements of livestock production are also ways of generating income. Transforming from communal farming to commercial farming also enable the diversification of farming which includes, crop production, animal husbandry, farm management, conservation farming and environment awareness all contributing to sustainability of projects.

#### **4.9 Towards sustainable development through donor funded livelihood projects**

The term sustainable livelihoods entail much of debate about the nexus between poverty and environment (Chambers and Cornwall, 1991). Livelihoods are means of living.

Livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and enhance its capabilities and assets for present and future. The purpose is bringing sustainable development. Development is thus about removing constraints to what a person can achieve in life for example illiteracy, ill health, lack of access to income and employment opportunities, lack of civil and political freedoms ( Zimbabwe Human Development Report, 2003). Before the inception of donor funded livelihood projects people from Mutasa were having poor yield and fail to produce quality bananas.

Many of beneficiary of donor funded projects indicated that the training and inputs they received from different projects have made them have better yields. Beneficiaries have gained skills through workshops conducted and have made the develop attitudes of interdependency. Respondents in Farmers club indicated they have team spirit and reduced crime as the locals spent their time in farming activities. Donor funded projects have also made communities improved social ties, networks and relation through interaction which has improved unity in their community. Other respondents in Farmers club indicated they have received teaching in HIV and AIDS.

#### **4.10 Traditional leaders and the politicization of donor funded projects**

It should be noted that the state is creating a patron-client relationship with traditional leaders such as village head, headmen and chiefs to the extent that these leaders have since become the custodians of the political interest of the ruling party. Nhodo (2013)

noted the traditional leaders are suspicious about the work of NGOs because the state convicted traditional leaders are suspicious about the work of NGOs because the state have indoctrinate traditional leaders that NGOs in Zimbabwe are championing regime change agenda of the west. From donor agency interviewed they all agree that it is difficult to enter the area of newly resettled farmers. Some traditional have tried to hijack the programmes in the quest to please the ruling party. The local leader's interview appreciates the work of NGO in developing their communities but they cannot tolerate NGOs to tell them what is good for them because they are the masters of their destiny.

#### **4.11 The ordinary villagers in Mutasa perceptions about donor funded project**

It is important to note that the people of Mutasa are appreciating the project but they have grievance that the projects are not for everyone especially projects for DOMCCP which are mainly for people living with HIV and orphans. Interview with DOMCCP coordinator in Mutasa narrated a story of young women claiming to be HIV patient in order to benefit from projects yet the HIV test was negative. The projects for the most vulnerable of for PLWH will put people at risk of contracting deadly disease (HIV) in order to benefit from projects. However other donor who are implementing projects in conservation farming, and banana production beneficiaries agree that they ought to be the real owners of the project rather operating according to will of donors. The beneficiaries have a slogan which says '*nothing for us without us*'. Although they are not openly showing to the donor agencies but can be seen by absenteeism in meetings,

sabotaging the program by taking in puts. They were beneficiaries who were not appreciating donor funded program because it demands a lot of labor especially in banana production and conservative farming. Respondents who were against this said '*kutungana kwembudzi hakuna kwawanosvika*' meaning these projects are useless they cannot take them far.

#### **4.12 Factors influencing sustainability of projects**

The donor funded projects are all year round; this is to keep beneficiaries busy the whole year. This has made projects sustainable to the community, it gives assurance that something is coming up be it in winter or summer seasons. The beneficiaries are also practicing mixed farming, the varieties of the projects makes market readily available anytime. The projects have transformed communal farmers into to small scale commercial farmers. The donors also practice fields day in gardening and banana production these are promotional days that motivate farmers and encouraged competition that is boosting the future and sustainability of projects.

The donors also partner other stakeholders such as Agritex, veterinary officers, other NGOs and local leaders to come and assist their projects. The respond from donor agencies say they is richness in diversity and success comes when working with other stakeholders. The implementing organization has also the duty to link beneficiaries with authentic buyers and suppliers.



However some respondents pointed out the lack of cooperation among beneficiaries resulted in reduced production in projects. There are also cases of theft in beekeeping and poultry projects as some of the challenges of sustainability of the projects. In banana plantations they were cases of baboons which came and devour bananas. Market challenges were pointed out by respondents as hindering factor in the sustainability of projects. Respondents raise the issue of long distance to market and high transport costs as challenges they are facing in selling their products.

#### **4.13 Functions of Donors on livelihood development**

Livelihood development is the intention to enhance food security by implementing projects that bring food or capital to the people. The programs which are implemented by donors are to assist the most vulnerable populations such as elderly, orphans, PLWH to make a difference in their lives. The programs of donors are there to reduce vulnerability and promote development in the community.

The community's livelihood systems are strengthened when donor agencies improve agriculture production and management of global warming by planting trees to cushion global warming. Projects which are implemented by donors promote the diversification of agricultural projects to reduce vulnerability in face of droughts, floods and conflicts, there by promoting peacebuilding in the community.

#### 4.14 Vulnerabilities of livelihoods assets and responses in Mutasa district

The table below will show vulnerability of livelihoods assets and responses identified by the researcher in Mutasa district.

**Table 3 Vulnerability context and livelihoods assets in Mutasa District**

Livelihood Assets		Vulnerability context/shocks	Appropriate response
<b>Physical</b>	Farming equipment, seeds, tools, sewing machines, grinding mill, vehicles, livestock houses	Destroyed by conflict stolen, looted in political violence, destroyed by natural disaster	Peacebuilding increase security, provide housing support, distribute of farming equipment/ livestock
<b>Natural</b>	Farming land water resources, bees, timber, fish	Land degradation, deforestation, siltation of dams, soil erosion, loss of access to grazing land, veld fire	Proper farming methods, reforestation, create paddocks,
<b>Human</b>	Human labour, education, skills, vocational training centres.	Displacement of people, death result from political violence/ disease/ natural disaster, closure of schools and work place	Teach of behaviour change in activities that led to acquire of diseases, provide medication, create employment, focus on educating the people
<b>Financial</b>	Incomes and wages	Collapse of economy and market	Sustainable market, rebuild the economy
<b>Social</b>	Community members, relatives, religious groups, supporters of political parties	Fight between political groups, displacement, lack of access to clean water, health facilities,	Reconciliation, national healing, conflict resolution

<b>Political</b>	Rule of law, access to political leaders	No rule of law, political instability	Political tolerance, rule of law reforms in the constitutions, create vibrant legal systems.
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**Table 3** shows analysis of vulnerability context of assets in Mutasa and suggested responses (Gwinyai, 2014).

**Physical vulnerability.** The physical assets in Mutasa have been destroyed by cyclone Eline and cyclone Japheth and some of the assets have not been replaced. Some of physical assets were looted or destroyed in 2008 violent election. The residents of Mutasa district have been depending on government and NGOs for assistance to recovery destroyed assets.

**Natural vulnerability.** Poor farming methods deforestation, veld fire have been affecting natural assets in the Mutasa resulting in siltation of dams affecting honey production and fishing in the district. NGOs and Government have been assisting residents in Mutasa to practice good farming methods, reforestation in order to minimize the damage of natural assets.

**Financial vulnerability.** Majority of households in Honde valley rely on selling bananas the challenge in most areas is access to reliable markets. The nature of terrain in Honde valley is not accessible for transport. Bad roads network make it difficult for residents to sell their bananas to reliable markets. The other source of income in the area

is fishing however they has been drastic reduction in fishing due to overfishing by poachers. The residents also lack knowledge and skills in sustainable livelihoods projects and absence financial support to pursue livelihoods projects have left Mutasa community financial vulnerable.

**Social vulnerability.** The residents identified the lack of access to clean water, health facilities, schools and transport. Residents have to walk distances to access health facilities and schools which is a major drawback to development in the area.

**Political vulnerability.** The district has been affected by political violence of 2008. Many of the NGO projects have been attempted to be politicized. Mutasa community has received minimal support from politicians for community development. There is need to capacitate political, local leaders and community on leadership development and good governance.

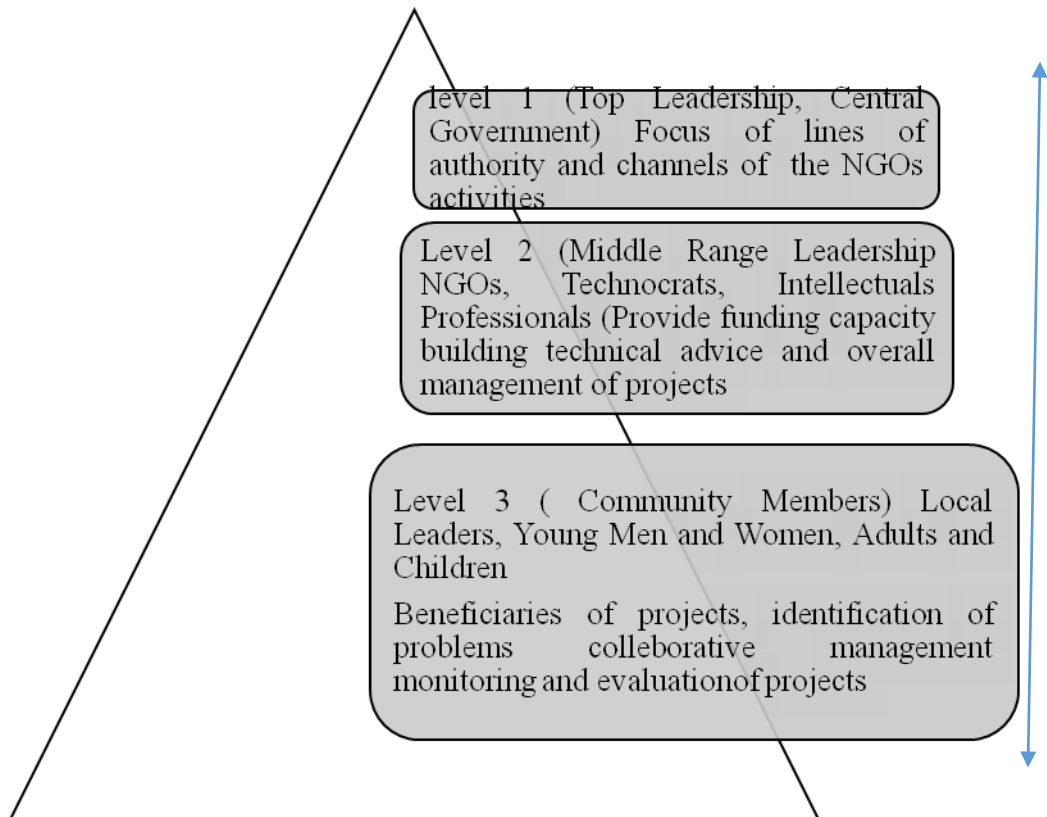
#### **4.15 Significance of Integrated Approach model of Peacebuilding to the study**

Research findings revealed that the implementation of the projects must start from the grassroots. Mararike (2011) informed that any development plan that seeks to improve the livelihoods of people should take into account the total context in which it is implemented. It has to take social, political, economic, environmental factors that influence its success. The respondents narrated that they want to have more say to the projects as they are the owner and the projects are for them.

The integrated approach to peacebuilding by Lederach is significant in the sense that the NGOs and community members revealed that it is important to take a people centered approach to implementation of projects. Beneficiaries interviewed feel implementation of projects through orthodox development approaches, which are top down has not been favored projects by community members.

The findings also revealed that for NGOs to implement projects they is need to have mutual understanding with the top leadership which is government. The government has to create an enabling environment so that the projects are implemented. The diagram below shows the nexus of government, NGOs and grassroots on the implementation of livelihoods projects.

**Diagram 2 Interpretation of integrated peacebuilding model**



**Diagram 1** *This pyramid demonstrated the importance of every level. Partnership of these groups in sustainable livelihoods projects contribute to peacebuilding (Gwinyai, 2014).*

#### **4.16 Conclusion**

The people of Mutasa benefitted from donor funded livelihood projects. More vulnerable groups such elderly people, PLWH and orphans have benefited more from

sustainable livelihoods projects from donors. The sustainable livelihoods projects have socio-economic benefits to the community which have improved the source of income which promote peacebuilding and community development. The income generated from the livelihoods projects has been used to pay school fees, buying assets, and food and pay health facilities. Creation of farmers clubs and field days have social benefits like improved networks, team spirits and community participation are important for peacebuilding and community development.

Sustainable livelihood projects are one of the most promising strategies to promote peacebuilding. Peace begins when people are accessing basic needs such as food. Never in history has peacebuilding achieved when there is hunger in their community. In Mutasa district donor funded projects are confronted with serious governance challenges, some projects are being politicized which may undermine efforts for peacebuilding

## **CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.0 Introduction**

The preceding chapter concentrated on data presentation and analysis. This chapter focuses on presenting a summary of the study as well as drawing conclusion from the findings and making recommendations to future researchers on similar topic.

### **5.1 Summary**

The research study set out to investigate peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. The study was carried out in Mutasa district. A sample of 31 people was interview which entails local leaders, beneficiaries of projects, community members and projects coordinators. It turned out to be a difficult study to carry out because to access participants I should have seek consent from villages heads whom some deny permission to enter their communities. During interviews conducted some participants were ignorant, fear of unknown, not open up. Despite these constraints the research was conducted and the following conclusions were made.

### **5.2 Conclusion**

The conclusions below are drawn from the data reported in the research findings. This study was interested in investigating the possibility of peacebuilding through sustainable development. The study right from the beginning acknowledged that sustainable livelihoods projects are important strategy for peacebuilding and it was derived from



Bruntland report sustainable development theory the development that meets today's needs without compromising the needs of the future. Consequently sustainable livelihood projects had to be implemented in relation to realization of environmentally friendly livelihoods.

Sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding are interlinked one cannot talk about peacebuilding without sustainable livelihoods. From the theoretical finding it can be concluded that thought has been made about sustainable livelihoods projects as possible avenues for sustainable development and peacebuilding in areas which are prone to natural disaster and conflicts. However sustainable livelihood projects have to be sustainable to realizing sustainable development and peacebuilding. This study considers that elimination of poverty through sustainable livelihoods projects are a step towards peacebuilding.

It is also prominent to NGOs and literature that sustainable livelihoods projects can contribute to peacebuilding. This is explained partly by lack of awareness of communities and funders of projects. The donors have been implementing projects for agriculture and livelihood security not consciously aware that it is contributing to peacebuilding.

Empowering community members with basic skills for farming and running a project are important for the success of projects. Donors have to employ expertise who come and train beneficiaries to acquire basic skills to manage a project. Stakeholders such as veterinary officers and Agritex officers help NGO in training community member on farming and animal husbandry. Empowering communities with skills help sustaining the projects, since beneficiaries will be empowered with skills and knowledge.

The majority of households in Honde valley have found refuge in banana production as they are able to meet their basic requirements of life. This is because of benefits of selling bananas and has access to income that affords to meet their basic needs. Beekeeping is one of the one of the livelihood projects which has benefit the beneficiaries to generate income.

Sustainable livelihood projects can promote peacebuilding in many ways. It led to alleviate of poverty by providing food security through agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. It provides income through trade of livelihoods products and makes people afford school fees and health care. However though livelihoods project impacted positively on peacebuilding benefits from donor funded projects had not effectively promote peacebuilding in the community. The projects impacted negatively by socially excluding other community members on society. Inclusion on projects was targeting the

most vulnerable groups such as elderly, orphans and PLWH. Future projects should target every household for the total transformation of the community.

The study has revealed that for sustainability of projects there is need to improve on transport network in Mutasa and linking of farmers with sustainable markets. Creation of farmers club and fields visits help in sustainability of projects even after the donor. Beneficiaries have to be trained before the implementation of the projects.

While this study has been conducted in Mutasa district, the results are not limited to the boundaries of district from which the study was conducted. Sustainable livelihood projects exist outside Mutasa and Zimbabwe and the objectives of projects are similar in trying to eliminate poverty. Furthermore the donors that are implementing projects in Mutasa also implement livelihoods projects anywhere in the world therefore it is likely to have similar impacts even in situations outside Mutasa or Zimbabwe. For this matter findings can be using in the context outside Mutasa district.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

From the research findings the following recommendations were discovered. Through interviews respondents were asked to explore their views on what can be done to promote peacebuilding on sustainable livelihoods projects.

### **5.3.1 Recommendations to Government and NGOs**

There is need for smart partnership among Government, communities and NGOs in development projects. The community will identify the projects while Government and NGOs assists with ideas, capital and human resources.

It is suggested that NGOS and Government must support banana production and beekeeping because they can raise income of people in a short time. Households could achieve food security through buying food using the funds of selling bananas and honey.

The projects that are implemented in communities must target every household. This is the way to transform the whole community from poverty. The community will realize its full potential if everyone is included in the projects

Donor agencies must deliver knowledge, skills and capacity building for the management and sustainability of projects. Training services must be offered to beneficiaries before the implementation of projects. This is to promote capacity building through training.

The assessment noted that the success of gardening is the availability of water. In case where farmers have rope and washer pumps and irrigation produced more products than

those without. Therefore there is need for construction of more irrigation schemes and boreholes to increase production.

The banana project is a success story but farmers are finding it difficult to transport their products because of poor roads. Even if they get the money from selling their products schools and clinics are faraway and they cannot access education and health care. It is suggested that a lobbying and advocate group be set to request other development stakeholders and government to assist with funds to develop infrastructure.

### **5.3.2 Recommendations to Community members**

The beneficiaries who are also into honey production must include value addition in their projects. They should also process and packaging of honey this will increase income from honey. Branding of honey will also add more value to their products.

The local leaders have an important role to play in the success of projects. Leaders should promote political tolerance. They must stop politicization of projects and request for tributes from NGOS who are implementing projects in their area. They should support the projects and organize field days to motivate their subjects.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A Participant Consent Form

My name is Edwin Gwinyai and I am currently studying for Masters in Peace and Governance with Africa University. As part of my studies I am doing a research entitled “*Peacebuilding through sustainable livelihoods projects. A case of donor funded projects in Mutasa, Zimbabwe.*” I would like to seek your consent to participate in my research study as an informant.

The research seeks to analyze the nexus between peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods projects in enhancing resilient communities.

Although the findings may be published, the information provided by the respondents is for academic purposes and your views shall remain confidential and anonymous. You will be asked to answer the questions I am going to ask if you agree to participate. This will take approximately 30- 40 minutes of your time. All information will be kept confidential. Please feel free to ask any question you have about this research. I will be happy to explain in greater detail.

Participation in this study is voluntary, non-paid and participants are free to withdraw from interviews as when they feel like.

Participant All of my questions and concerns about this study have been addressed. I chose voluntary, to participate in this research.

Participant.....

Signature.....Date.....

Researcher.....

Signature.....Date.....

## **Appendix B: Interview guide for Directors or Coordinators of Donor funded projects**

What do you understand by sustainable livelihoods projects, community development and peacebuilding?

As an organization how many sustainable livelihoods projects are you implementing in Mutasa?

Who are the intended beneficiaries of the projects and what criteria do you use to choose beneficiaries?

Whose idea was these projects, who are the people who started it, when and why?

What were the major difficulties when starting this project and how were they solved?

What are the major difficulties currently faced by this project and how are you addressing them?

What do you think will make the project more successful in the future?

What skills and training did the beneficiaries have before the project started?

Why did/do you support these types of projects and not others?

What are some of the social, economic and environmental impact (positive and negative) that you as donors can point to as a result of your support to these projects that has contributed to peacebuilding and community development?

In your opinion how does the project benefit peacebuilding in the community?

### **Appendix C: Interview guide for beneficiaries of donor funded projects**

What do you understand by sustainable livelihoods projects, community development and peacebuilding?

How long have you been benefiting from this project?

What are the socio-economic benefit are you getting from this project?

Is there any project you prefer than this one and why is it more appealing to you?

In your view, how does the project linked to peacebuilding?

As a beneficiary, what do you think can be done to make this project contribute more to peacebuilding?

What in your opinion can donor agencies do to improve the livelihoods of people in this community?

#### **Appendix D: Interview guide for Community Members and Local Leaders**

What do you understand by sustainable livelihoods projects, community development and peacebuilding?

What are the donor funded livelihoods projects in your area?

In your view how has this project benefitted the community?

What do you think should be done by donor agencies to improve the livelihoods of this community?

What is your overall assessment of the donor funded projects before it started and now when it is being implemented in your community?

Are there conflicts between beneficiary and non-beneficiaries of the projects explain your answer?

As a community member or leader how do you link donor funded projects to peacebuilding?