**MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY**



**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**DISSERTATION TOPIC**

The role of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons. The case of the Basilwizi Trust in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande ward (2002-2010)

**By**

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A dissertation submitted to the Department of English and Communication, Midlands State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies.

**May 2014**

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

# SUPERVISION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

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The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to the Midlands State University for acceptance as a dissertation entitled: The role of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons. The case of the Basilwizi Trust in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande ward (2002-2010)

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies.

**May 2014**

Gweru

# DECLARATION

I **NYARADZAI MUNYARADZI (R103948A)** do hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation is my own work with only the exception of quotations and references that have been attributed to their sources .I further declare that this work has never been previously submitted and is being submitted in the partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies at Midlands State University.

# Abstract

IDPs worldwide are amongst the most vulnerable groups in society. They face a number of challenges and these include poverty, food insecurity, acute water shortages, inadequate educational and health facilities as well as marginalization. In the wake of such challenges this has given rise to the intervention by civil society in the form of programs and projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of these IDPs and empowering them. The aim of the research is to analyse the role played by civil society in dealing with IDPs with particular attention being given to Basilwizi Trust and IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward. The study was guided by three objectives which are: to examine the role played by civil society in dealing with IDPs in Zimbabwe; to examine the impact of Basilwizi Trust on IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande ward and to examine community response to activities of Basilwizi Trust. The researcher employed qualitative research and two methods of gathering data were employed and these are interviews and questionnaires. These were used to find out the programs and projects that were implemented by Basilwizi Trust and how these have improved and transformed the livelihoods of IDPs in the Negande ward. The data that was gathered and analysed revealed that most of the projects that were implemented were quite successful in addressing the poverty situation that is prevalent in the Zambezi Valley. It was also noted that the Basilwizi Trust faced several challenges as these include financial constraints, cultural barriers in project implementation process and accessibility problems to their targeted project areas. The study therefore concluded by suggesting and recommending ways in which Basilwizi Trust can effectively deal with IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami in the future.

# DEDICATION

My special dedication goes out to special people in my life who have been motivational and through them I have gained not only an indomitable spirit but also a vision. To mum and dad you have taught me that time is of utmost importance and because of that I learnt how to make hay whilst the sun still shines. To my siblings, guys I am incomplete without you and because of you I am a whole number and so I must remind you that there is no whole number that is greater than the sum of its parts.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the wisdom granted to me by the Almighty Lord in my life. Without your guidance, God, I would have not made it.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the assistance of my patient supervisor Mr. T. Chibanda. You continuously gave me support and encouragement. You were my mentor and consultant, though I was not paying anything. I really appreciate your efforts.

To Mr. F. Mudimba, from Basilwizi Trust, I say thank you so much for your support. Many thanks also goes to the Nyami-Nyami district council project coordinator, Mr. Matashu. You helped me during my field work. Thank you for being supportive and accommodative.

I would also like to acknowledge my parents, Mr. P. and Mrs. S. Munyaradzi, thank you for your financial and unwavering support throughout my studies. I say to you “as nobility deposits obligation, let us cultivate a sense of gratitude and love one another”. BE BLESSED MUM and DAD.

To my friends Mariah, Zaa, Sarah, Togara, and Sandie, thank you for your moral support and input during my studies. You taught me that the value of friendship is beyond the explanation of words and it has no measurement known to men. If friendship is my weakness, then I am stronger than anything mankind could ever imagine.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my uncle, Mr. P. R. Tom. Your guidance, useful suggestions and moral support helped me throughout my entire studies. I am forever grateful *sekuru.*

**ACRONYMS**

CSOs- Civil Society Organisation

NGOs- Non-Governmental Organisations

IDPs- Internally Displaced Persons

IDMC- International Displacement Monitoring Centre

UNHCR- United High Commissioner of Refugees

WCD- World Commission on Dams

SADC- Southern Africa Development Committee

HIV- Human Immuno Virus

AIDS- Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

ZHPF- Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation

GAPWUZ- General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe

ZVDF- Zambezi Valley Development Fund

ZVAP- Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project

CAMPFIRE- Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources

RDC- Rural District Council

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**Introduction**

The study analyses the role of civil society in assisting internally displaced persons and their communities. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the end of 2011, the population of IDPs was estimated to be 26.4 million across the world with Colombia, South Sudan and Iraq having the largest population of them. Forced displacements due to situations of generalised violence, armed conflicts, and natural and human-made disasters often lead to serious societal disruption as the affected people abandon their normal lives and relocate to new (and in most cases) inhospitable environments. This often erodes their well-being as well as separates them from their sources of livelihoods resulting in untold suffering on them. IDPs often face varied challenges including a lack of access to essential services such as education, healthcare, clean water, shelter and sanitation, and a lack of access to land- as well as suffer from food insecurity. As such, IDPs are considered to be among the world’s most vulnerable populations.

In response to the state’s failure to provide adequate support and protection of IDPs, a number of actors including civil society, humanitarian agencies and multilateral agencies have often come to their rescue through the provision of basic services and development projects aimed at improving their situation. Civil society makes a vital contribution when it comes to issues of internal displacement. Their activities range from investigating the challenges facing IDPs, advocating on behalf of them, providing essential services to them to introducing and promoting development initiatives for them. It is against this background that this study examined the role of civil society in fostering development amongst IDPs focusing on the Tonga and Korekore people who, in the 1950s, the previous Rhodesian government involuntarily displaced them from their ancestral lands to make way for the construction of Kariba dam.

## Background

The Tonga and Korekore people lived for many centuries in the Gwembe Valley popularly known as the Zambezi Valley along the north and south banks of the Zambezi River. Due to the construction of the Kariba dam, the area in which they lived in was transformed into a lake, thereby displacing the inhabitants of the area. Their displacement was not a planned effort neither by the government in power at that time nor the organisations involved, since the initiative was commenced without an environmental as well as a social impact assessment. The World Commission on Dams (WCD 2000) confirms that several dams have caused physical displacement with large dam construction which has led to the relocation of millions of people worldwide in the last half century. According to E. Colson (1971cited in Tremmel 1994) about 57,000 Tonga and Korekore inhabitants were displaced from the Zambezi Valley in 1957-58 when the Kariba dam was constructed. Resettlement programmes, however, mainly focused on physical relocation rather than on the socio-economic development of affected persons. Displaced persons themselves were forced to relocate in resource depleted and environmentally degraded reservoirs and these areas have since lost their capacity to sustain the IDPs (Tremmel 1994). As such, in 2002, those who were displaced and experienced the pains of displacement being the Tonga and Korekore, implemented a community needs driven organisation called Basilwizi Trust committed to building the capacity of the displaced communities. This is crucial for them to realise an improved and sustainable well-being, as well as to free them from poverty.

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement states that the national authorities have the sole responsibility of providing protection and assistance to IDPs (UN 1998), however several scholars have noted that governments cannot do it alone. It can be noted that even wealthy countries such as the United States of America also depend on civil society to assist in finding solutions for IDPs. In the African context, civil society have, within the past two decades, become critical actors, expected to reconstitute the African state in order to build democratic forms of governance, including that of socio-economic development. Zimbabwe’s civil society, in particular, has an important role in mobilising communities for the sustainable economic reconstruction and development of the country. Kevin Andrews (2011) is of the view that the institutions of civil society are important because they are neither created nor controlled by the state. The fundamental nature of civil society is that individuals gather together to address issues that they perceive to be in need of a response. .In light of the above sentiments Basilwizi Trust can be said to be mobilising the Tonga and Korekore displaced communities in a quest to attain sustainable development through the introduction and implementation of development programmes and projects

Marginalisation of internally displaced communities by the colonial and the succeeding governments is the main reason of the vulnerability of the Zambezi Valley communities. Basilwizi Trust believes that ever-since the 1960s, affected persons and communities in the Zambezi Valley have been putting forward requests to have their situation solved without much success hence the Basilwizi Trust was established to address their situation. As a community development organisation, it puts in place programmes and projects that would help attain a poverty free Zambezi Valley and these have been divided into four main themes which are: Advocacy; Education and Culture, Health, HIV and AIDS; and Sustainable Livelihoods. These themes address underlying causes of poverty in the Zambezi Valley and help in promoting the usefulness of the Basilwizi Trust in dealing with community priority needs.

## Conceptual Framework

**Civil society**

The word *Civil Society* has been used since the ancient Greeks. Civil society is developing in vibrant ways and there is no one precise definition of the term. Silliman and Noble (1998;13) defines civil society as “a realm of collective public action between the private sphere and the state in which a voluntary, self-generating, and politically active sector of society independent of the state seeks benefits, policy changes, or accountability from the state”. However a widely adopted definition of civil society is that of the World Bank (2012) which states that,

Civil society is a wide array of non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) therefore refers to a wide array of organisations: community groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organisations, faith-based organisations, professional associations, and foundations.

However, one has to note that the portrayal of that are linked with the term civil society has been left unclear and unrestricted because it is not possible to make a final list of civil society that can relate universally at all times. From the above definition it can be note that Basilwizi Trust as an organisation can relate perfectly to the definition of civil society.

**Internally displaced persons**

According to Montreal (1946), the term “displaced persons” was first used by Eugene M. Kulischer a Russian-American sociologist who is also the author of *The Displacement of Population in Europe.* The term was used to apply to all forms of involuntary movements in Europe during the second world war but it has come to be used to refer to internal movements especially now in the contemporary world. Internally Displaced Persons are

people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 1998:4)

For the purpose of this research, the internally displaced communities include people forced to move out of their area of habitual residence because of a development project (the construction of the Kariba dam) therefore becoming displaced in the process.

**Characteristics of IDPS**

According to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) paper on Internal Displacement in the SADC Region (2005), the identification for IDPs is by no means an easy task. Different institutions including governments, civil society, various UN agencies, religious, aid agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) amongst others view IDPs through individual lens.

Some of the characteristics of IDPs include:

* **Involuntary departure**- it differentiates IDPs from individuals who leave their homes out of their own free will
* **Remaining within one’s country**- it differentiates them from refugees who cross an internationally recognised state boarder.
* **Fear**- in conflict situations IDPs are forced to flee their homes and resettle in peaceful areas. They live in constant fear of losing loved ones as well as losing properties along the way.
* **Discrimination**- IDPs turn to be excluded groups within society who suffer loss of economic opportunities as well as cultural breakdowns hence they end up facing discrimination
* **Vulnerability**- IDPs are a particularly vulnerable group in society and often in need of humanitarian assistance and protection

**Strategies Employed By Civil Society in Dealing with Internally Displaced Persons**

This section will focus on strategies employed by civil society organisation, the Basilwizi Trust in its work with dealing with IDPs in the Negande ward, Nyami-Nyami district. The Basilwizi Trust employed the following strategies aimed at dealing with the plight of IDPs:

* Advocacy- there is great need to strengthen advocacy on policies that are sensitive to the needs of IDPs in the Zambezi Valley if sustainable development is to be achieved.
* Implementation of projects- projects implemented would help address issues of poverty in the Nyami- Nyami district and this can lead to sustainable livelihoods for the IDPs in the Negande ward.
* Raising awareness- awareness campaigns would sensitise and address underlying issues of gender, child protection as well as issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS which are also prevalent in the Nyami-Nyami district.

## Statement of the Problem

Unplanned displacement is one of the problems that are prevalent in the world and these are caused by a number of factors such as violent conflicts and development induced projects. These unplanned displacements have led to the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people around the world. Such IDPs are amongst the most vulnerable and neglected groups in the world. They face a number of challenges such as poverty, food insecurity and marginalisation which affect their day to day livelihoods leaving them vulnerable to risks. In the case of the Tonga and Korekore displaced communities, their challenges have been mainly attributed to the involuntary displacement from the banks of the Zambezi River. The research not only seeks to identify the challenges being faced by the IDPs but it also seeks to examine and explore the roles played by civil society (Basilwizi Trust) in dealing with these challenges and also to understand how the community is responding to these civil society efforts.

## Justification of Study

This study was motivated by the need to explore the role of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons. The study was conducted in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande ward because that is where some of the IDPs were resettled after they were involuntarily displaced from the Zambezi river banks. These IDPs face a number of challenges such as water shortages, food insecurity as well as poverty which are mainly attributed to the fact that they lost their livelihoods as a result of their displacement. The Tonga and Korekore case is a unique case, one in which they still suffer from the effects of their displacement even almost 60 years after displacement. Therefore based on this background, the researcher saw the need to conduct a study on the role of civil society in dealing with the plight of internally displaced persons. The research is therefore focuses on the roles of Basilwizi and the development initiatives the organisation has implemented and it has managed to create conditions for sustainable development amongst these IDPs. It is the researchers hope that findings from this research will benefit students, especially those interested in IDPs and civil society, as it will ideally lead to broader insights and comprehension of the roles of civil society in dealing with IDPs in the general. The study is also beneficial to the Basilwizi Trust as it will create an interface for the Basilwizi Trust to work more on their strengths and improve when exercising their roles if need be.

## Aims and Objectives

* To examine the role played by civil society in dealing with IDPs in Zimbabwe.
* To examine the impact of the Basilwizi Trust on IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande ward (5).
* To examine community response to activities of the Basilwizi Trust.

**Research Questions**

* What is the role of civil society in dealing with IDPs in Zimbabwe?
* What is the impact of the Basilwizi Trust on IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami area, ward 5?
* How is the community responding to the activities put forward by the Basilwizi Trust?

**Theoretical Framework**

The research is based on the theory of sustainable development. Sustainability is a dynamic concept that has a bearing on everyone throughout the globe. Webster’s New World Dictionary defines *sustain* as “to maintain; keep in existence; keep going; prolong”. Webster’s New World Dictionary also defines *development* as meeting people’s basic needs. Sustainable development looks at environmental, economic, social, political as well as psychological aspects. The Brundtland Commission (1987) defines sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The belief behind this theory is that there is a strong connection between the environment and development. The environment should foster development especially amongst IDPs, be it social or economic development. As a way to find out the sustainability of these projects, the research employs the above theory and uses it in juxtaposition to what is happening in these IDPs communities. This theory advances this research in that the Basilwizi Trust is implementing development initiatives that cater for the present generation as well as development that will also cater for the future generations. It is important to note that Basilwizi Trust is involved in dealing with the present needs of IDPs by embarking on different development programmes. These initiatives have an impact also on the future of these IDPs. The success of each and every project means that beneficiaries will have the ability to address the challenges they face thereby taking care of future generations in the process.

## Research Methodology

Hart (1998) defines methodology as a systematic method with rules that are used in the gathering and analysis of data. Tuckman (1992) defines research as a logical system of collecting and analysing data for some purpose. Chisi et al (2004) view research design as a portrayal of the layout and theoretical structure under which the study will be carried-out. For this study the researcher employed a qualitative research methodology. Burns (2000) refers to qualitative research as an investigation that brings to light human and social problems in a holistic manner. The researcher employed qualitative research because it brings about an in-depth understanding of the social and material circumstances confronting IDPs

**Data Collection Techniques**

The study used interviews, questionnaires, and desktop review to epitomize more on the role of civil society amongst IDPs.

***Interviews***

Burns (2000) stresses the importance of interviews in a case study since this type of research is all about people and their activities. Black and Champion (1976;354) refer to an interview as verbal communication for the purposes of gathering information that involves asking questions, getting verbal responses and recording of information by the researcher. Interviews were administered to key informants from the Basilwizi Trust and the Nyami-Nyami District Council. Also IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district were interviewed by the researcher. Key informants were interviewed so as to get a clear insight on the role of Basilwizi in supporting the Tonga and Korekore IDPs. In total 15 people were interviewed by the researcher with the help of the Nyami-Nyami RDC project coordinator.

***Questionnaires***

Green et al (2000) defines a questionnaire as an instrument in research that allows respondent in the study to answer to the questions in their own time with neither pressure to respond to the questions quickly nor disturbing their daily activities. Questionnaires were administered to 15 IDPs. A structured questionnaire consisting of both closed and open-ended questions was used in this study. The reason of using questionnaires was to attain adequate information on changes brought about by civil society through development initiatives.

***Desktop review***

Desktop review is a process of acquiring factual evidence and information on a topic from available documents that have been published. This information can be attained from libraries, websites, newspapers, journals and even archives. The study looked at information that is in relation to civil society and even IDPs on an international scale, regional level, Zimbabwean level as well as the Nyami-Nyami case study.

***Sampling***

Bless and Smith (2000), states that there are advantages associated with interviewing the whole population however due to time constraints the study used a sampling method. The free online dictionary views sampling as “items selected at random from a population and used to test hypotheses about the population”. The researcher used purposive sampling. According to Paul Oliver (2006;156) in the Sage Dictionary of Research Methods, purposive sampling is

a form of non-probability sampling in which decisions concerning the individuals to be included in the sample are taken by the researcher, based upon a variety of criteria which may include specialist knowledge of the research issue, or capacity and willingness to participate in the research.

Purposive sampling was important for this study as it targeted the most knowledgeable people thus ensuring that quality data is gathered in each interview and caution was taken to balance males and females for representation purposes. Respondents were largely people that were displaced and those that have been largely affected by internal displacement in the area.

**Target population**

Basilwizi Trust represents a form of civil society in this study. The target population was that of IDPs and these served as a basis of analysis. The number of people that experienced displacement in the Negande ward is estimated to be 1674 (personal interview with one of the IDPs in the Negande ward, 2014). To date Negande ward has approximately 6517 people (personal interview with district council official 2014) and the projects had an average of 29 people. The researcher used 30 respondents due to time as well as financial constraints. Furthermore the researcher targeted the most knowledgeable people as respondents and those that were affected by internal displacement.

**Literature Review**

This topic cuts across more than one substantive area in literature review. However, much of the literature shall be on the role of civil society amongst IDPs. Different dams have been constructed in the past years and the effects have been quite detrimental and disturbing on the displaced communities. IDPs challenges are attributed in most cases to their involuntary displacement. Addressing challenges facing IDPs is important thus civil society has to realise its roles and duties in enhancing development. Such challenges such as poverty, food insecurity as well as marginalisation have significantly affected IDPs hence Basilwizi came into play to counter such negativity through the introduction of development programmes and projects.

A lot of people through-out the world are involuntarily relocated and resettled from their homes to pave way for developmental projects. Such projects include dams, reservoirs, power plants, roads, plantations, urban renewal, oil, gas and mining projects. Hoshour and Kalafut (2011) view this involuntary displacement as development-induced displacement. The World Commission on Dams (WCD 2000) confirms that several dams have caused physical displacement and large dam construction has physically relocated millions of people worldwide in the last half century. According to Iwabukuna (2011), it has been lately realised that a large number of IDPs in Africa are actually as a result of development projects and their numbers might actually be higher than that of people displaced by conflicts. The Tonga and Korekore were relocated against their will so as to pave way for the construction of Lake Kariba in 1957-59. This made them more susceptible to long term risks than they ever faced before their displacement. According to the WCD (2000), about 10 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of development projects since 1990. The shocks have been felt mostly by vulnerable populations that are resettled to pave way for this development. As such there is need to have another party that can come and serve as a protector of the internally displaced in the form of civil society. The above researches only looked at internal displacement of those that lived along the Zambezi yet it did not fairly look at the displacement of other groups that were displaced when they moved to the new areas for example the Korekore that lived along the banks of the Zambezi then displaced other Korekore people that were found in the Hurungwe district as they settled in Nyamhunga area. Not only did they displace the Korekore but even those that were already settled in the Nyami-Nyami area as is with the case of Chief Nebiri’s community.

**Impacts and injustices**

The World Commission on Dams (2000) states that most of the dams that were constructed before 1970 were constructed without an environmental as well as a social impact assessment. Petterson (2002:20) also notes that development induced displacement commonly has a lot of negative impacts and some of these include impoverishment; landlessness; loss of homes; loss of jobs; significant deterioration in incomes and livelihoods; food insecurity; under nourishment and hunger; serious declines in health; stress and psychological trauma. Since the Tonga and Korekore prided in the banks of the Zambezi as sources of their identity and livelihood, the impacts of displacements were predominantly disturbing for them. Successive Zimbabwean governments have failed to fairly reimburse, resettle and restore people’s livelihoods and leaving IDPs susceptible to long term risks, those which they still suffer from even more than fifty years after their displacement. It also has to be noted that internal displacement disrupts histories and cultures of IDPs as has been the case for the Tonga asnd Korekore communities. One should also note that during the colonial period (and even today) the Tonga were a neglected group of persons hence they mainly relied on agriculture and fishing as the main sources of their livelihood.

**Role of civil society amongst internally displaced persons**

Civil societies are nonviolent “zones of civility” that address war and other problems especially those problems that mainly deal with the vulnerable groups of society. Hillary Rodham Clinton (2009) states that “Civil society activists and organisations work to improve the quality of people’s lives and protect their rights, hold leaders accountable to their constituents, shine light on abuses in both the public and private sectors, and advance the rule of law and social justice”. The Regional Seminar on Internal Displacement (2005) also stresses that civil society plays an important role in assisting the internally displaced, advocating for their rights, promoting national responsibility and addressing situations of internal displacement. These vary from place to place and include food insecurity, poverty, political exclusion and a lack of adequate social service provision. There is a direct link between the views of the international community as well as the regional community as they have both adopted the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a document to be used when dealing with IDPs. Civil society in most cases always has the ability to consult directly the needs and concerns of the displaced as evidenced by Basilwizi Trust in their 2005 baseline survey which mainly focused on advocacy; education and culture, health (HIV and AIDS); and sustainable livelihoods.

In Africa, Thue et al (2002) contend that civil society actors can play positive roles of strengthening the voices of the poor and enhancing popular participation in development processes through development programmes and projects. Due to the prevalence of violent conflicts and abuse of power within Africa, civil society has been recognised for its unique potential of positive contributions to peace building (World Bank 2006). Cubitt (2013) states that interventions and development strategies that are participatory and locally owned therefore enhance societal interests. It can however be noted that in most cases in Africa it is a matter of enhancing donor interests and it is more political than social hence one cannot really say the interests of the society will be enhanced. The issue of civil society in the above cited literature, has been looked at in the context of people who were displaced due to violent conflicts. However this dissertation focused on the Basilwizi Trust civil society organisation which is working with people who were displaced due to the Kariba dam developmental project

**Civil society in Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe has a variety of civil society groups such as faith based, student and youth groups, civic education groups, and community based organisations. Civil society has diverse roles in different contexts and cultures and it should be non-partisan, although in some cases it has proven to have some partisan behaviour. However as Magaisa (2009) states, “in Zimbabwe civil society has become fragmented along political, ideological as well as tribal lines causing them to be disorganised and ineffective”. Otti and Katema (2011:47) also state that “Zimbabwean CSOs have become an extension of the extremely polarised environment they operate in and have demonstrated much polarity in their relations with one another”. Though civil society demonstrates some partisan behaviour, as shown by Basilwizi which is partisan along tribal lines, scholars have failed to note that levels of being organised and being efficient are not affected by the portrayal of partisan behaviour. Their sentiments though at times correct are a generalisation of what civil society is like hence cannot be used in the setting of Basilwizi. It should be noted that being partisan does not necessarily translate into inefficiency. One however has to note that the effectiveness of civil society is mainly based on the environment in which it operates as well as the issues they are pursuing.

Zimbabwe’s civil society organisations have been involved in a quest for social and economic advocacy over the years. It is widely believed that a dual use of public and people centred advocacy brings about sustainable development. John Samuel (undated) states that public advocacy influences public policies and attitudes to empower the marginalised. He also states that people centred advocacy promotes socio-economic justice, equitable social change, and sustainable development. Development initiatives such as skills based training and income generating projects are implemented in a bid to foster security amongst IDPs. Zigomo (undated) states that it is widely believed that Zimbabwean civil societies fail to stand up for the rights of vulnerable groups as well as create spaces for the social upliftment of the poor. What he failed to note was that such as Basilwizi Trust have managed to stand for the vulnerable IDPs through developmental programmes and projects for social upliftment. One has to note that not all civil societies are failing to stand for the vulnerable groups of society (IDPs) especially when looking at the case of Basilwizi Trust which supports IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami area and other areas which they cover as an organisation such as Binga, Hwange, Gokwe north and Gokwe south

**Partnerships**

Civil society efforts in dealing with IDPs at times compliment government efforts and at times they act as a stimulus for government to take action. In the case of Basilwizi, civil society is complimenting and at the same time stimulating government to take action in making right the challenges faced by IDPs. The importance of partnerships have been emphasised upon by the SADC Seminar on Internal Displacement (2005) because they improve effectiveness of that particular organisation. It should be noted that partnerships do not necessarily materialise to mean effectiveness within a civil society group but rather issues of red tape might creep in which the organisation might be reluctant in these projects placing much burden on the other partners.

One however has to note that the issues of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons have been very much generalised by different authors so much that they at times do not apply to the case of Basilwizi. Civil society roles shall be contextualised specifically in regard to the case of Basilwizi Trust and the Tonga and Korekore IDPs. A number of scholars have examined the role of civil society amongst IDPs mainly in the context of conflict related displacement and political issues neglecting socio-economic issues at most hence this research shall try and cover the existing gaps.

**CHAPTER BREAKDOWN**

The study was completed in three chapters

Chapter one focuses on giving an overview of internal displacement and the role played by civil society in dealing with internal displacement in Zimbabwe

Chapter two highlights the role played by Basilwizi Trust in dealing with IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward paying particular attention to the programmes and projects implemented by Basilwizi Trust.

Chapter three touches upon challenges being faced by Basilwizi Trust in dealing with IDPs and the recommendations to improve the effectiveness of civil society in dealing with IDPs.

# CHAPTER 1

## AN OVERVIEW OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEALING WITH INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN ZIMBABWE

**Introduction**

This chapter shall give an insight on the overview of internal displacement in Zimbabwe. The researcher will also focus on the IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district. Also to be brought out are the estimated statistics of IDPs and the reasons why we have IDPs in Zimbabwe. This chapter shall also highlight the roles of civil society in dealing with the IDPs and the strategies they implemented in-order to mitigate challenges faced by the IDPs. Lastly the chapter shall bring out the formation as well as the objectives of Basilwizi Trust as a civil society organisation.

**Internal Displacement in Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe a lot of groups have suffered internal displacement. Three major waves of targeted displacement have occurred in Zimbabwe since 2000 however it can be noted that internal displacement can be traced back to the colonial period. Internal displacement can be attributed to several reasons, some of which include colonisation, the liberation war, dam construction, mining development, poor government policies, natural as well as man-made disasters and political instability. The liberation war can be traced back to the colonial period and since this research shall focus on displacement that happened during the colonial period, issues of the liberation war internal displacement cannot be divorced from this research as a cause of internal displacement.

It is widely believed that there are no official figures that show the numbers of those who were internally displaced and the Zimbabwean government has time and time again failed to acknowledge the existence of internal displacements in Zimbabwe. The SDAC paper on the Overview of Internal Displacements of Populations in the SADC regions (2005), also goes on to say those governments of IDPs seldom come clean of the problem, yet in most cases they are the initiators of their internal displacement. Mapiko and Chinyoka (2013) concur with the International Displacement Monitoring Centre report that the total current number of IDPs in Zimbabwe is unknown due to a lack of system of accountability. The International Displacement Monitoring Centre further states that the estimate excluded those that had been displaced as a result of politically motivated violence. In the past decade the main causes of internal displacement in Zimbabwe according to the International Displacement Monitoring Centre are the fast track land reform with 60%, Operation Murambatsvina (“Operation Clean-up”) contributing 27%, political violence 7%, and natural disasters with 6%. It can also be noted that some groups in Zimbabwe have also been randomly displaced for different reasons at different times and their situations vary widely depending on the reasons for their displacement and the length of time they have been displaced (Chinyoka and Mapiko 2013).

**Poor Government Policies**

Poor government policies such as Operation Murambatsvina resulted in the internal displacement of an estimated 700,000 ordinary Zimbabweans across the country in 2005 (Tibaijuka 2005). However, the government of Zimbabwe disagrees with the figures that were put forward. Operation Murambatsvina is a “clean-up” campaign that the Zimbabwean government launched in 2005 launched in 2005 claiming that it wanted enforce bylaws so as to stop all forms of “illegal activities in areas such as vending, illegal structures, illegal cultivation” among others in towns and cities (Tibaijuka 2005:2). However, as a clean-up campaign it resulted in unprecedented poverty, homelessness and vulnerability amongst those who were internally displaced including children and people living with AIDS since the operation was carried out with little or no warning at all and during winter. Yet, the Zimbabwean authorities claimed that the destruction of homes and other properties was part of a long-term plan to clean up the urban areas, restore order, rid the cities of criminal elements, and restore dignity to the people (Charamba 2005). These factors intensified amongst the elderly, opharns, women and even children. Operation Murambatsvina mainly targeted towns and cities. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement states that it is the duty of the government to provide assistance to IDPs in a country. However the Human Rights Watch volume 17, states that the government refused to acknowledge the existence of such crisis and when they finally did accept it,, they only did so reluctantly. Thus one can note that Operation Murambatsvina is one of the reasons for internal displacement in Zimbabwe.

**Fast Track Land Reform Programme**

The fast track land reform programme caused widespread internal displacement. The IDMC report (2008) states that the fast track land reform programme was carried out to address Zimbabwe’s racially distorted land distribution by resettling landless black Zimbabweans on land that had come to be owned by white commercial farmers as a result of colonial policies. Marongwe (2003) argues that the land reform related displacement is a process that lacked planning and was carried out haphazardly. UNDP (2008) estimated that one million people lost their homes and livelihoods since the start of the “*fast-track land reform programme*. It can be noted that the Land reform programme displaced more people that it could resettle thereby leading to the existence of IDPs in the country. Civil society also voiced its concern as this displacement resulted in uncontrolled migration thereby exposing communities to hunger, poverty, disease and land disenfranchisement.

**Politically Motivated Violence**

The 2008 parliamentary and presidential elections were characterised by high levels of violence and a lot of people were forcibly displaced as a result of politically motivated violence. There are no precise statistics of those who were internally displaced but the UN weekly situational report (2008) estimates that by mid-July at least 36,000 people were internally displaced as a result of politically motivated violence. Justice for Agriculture (2008) states that the attacks on commercial farmers and farm workers — including assaults, evictions, thefts, and mass psychological torture — escalated significantly, and an estimated 40 000 farm workers alone were reportedly displaced. One should note that some of the people that were displaced as a result of political violence later returned to their homes but some still remain IDPs even up to date. As such civil society had to apply intervention strategies to help IDPs and civil society also offered support to those that were injured and were terrified as a result of political violence.

**Internal Displacement in the Nyami-Nyami District**

The Kariba Dam is the first large dam built in tropical Africa that resettled large numbers of an ethnic minority (Thayer 2005) and these are the Tonga people. According to the SADC paper on the internal displacement of populations in the SADC region (2005), developmental programmes that were initiated were implemented by policy makers as well as development experts without proper consultations with those that lived close by. Internal displacement in the Zambezi Valley came about as a result of the construction of the Kariba dam wall with the government resettling some of the Zambezi Valley people in the Nyami-Nyami district. Weinrich (1977) noted that some Tonga chiefdoms refused to move when they were ordered to move to higher ground as the area was gradually becoming flooded. The Commissioners had to resort to the use of force which left the people frightened leaving them no option but to relocate to a new area thus resulting in the existence of IDPs in the process. The exact numbers of those that were displaced during the construction of the Kariba dam to the Nyami-Nyami district are unknown even up to date. Worby (1994) states that the exact numbers of the Tonga are difficult to determine and imprecise, however the Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office (1998), states that approximately 12000 Tonga people were resettled.

**Civil society and internal displacement in Zimbabwe**

IDPs situations vary widely depending on the reasons for their displacement and it has been noted that IDPs still remain amongst the most vulnerable groups in Zimbabwe. The issue of internal displacement is multifaceted and many work on different aspects. No single organisation is exclusively mandated with the protection, assistance and recovery needs of IDPs. Civil society roles and intervention strategies range from providing emergency humanitarian assistance to implementing programmes and projects that are aimed at securing durable solutions for IDPs. Harild and Christensen (2011) states that,

“while involuntary displacement is a humanitarian crisis, it also has significant developmental impacts affecting human and social capital, economic growth, poverty reduction efforts, and environmental sustainability. Forced displacement has an important bearing on meeting the MDGs [Millennium Development Goals], since displaced populations tend to be the poorest and often experience particularly difficult access to basic services”.

Civil society realised that recognising IDPs and accepting the primary responsibility are crucial elements in addressing issues of internal displacement and its devastating effects (IDMC 2010)

Civil societies in Zimbabwe came into existence as a way to counter challenges that different groups face. IDPs as one of the most vulnerable groups of society face several challenges and as a way to cater for their situations, civil society implements development initiatives and strategies that will help enhance IDPs livelihoods. As an immediate response to Operation Murambatsvina, civil society sought legal remedies to the problems facing IDPs. According to the Crisis Group Africa report (2005), the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights applied for a ban against demolitions but their application was dismissed. Civil society groups in Zimbabwe received help and support from other regional civic groups as was the case with the South Africa Council of Churches which intervened during the crisis (Crisis Group Africa 2005). One however has to note that civil society efforts were unfruitful hence in the long run civil societies in Zimbabwe can be said to be weak and poorly coordinated as they could not stand as one and represent one of the most vulnerable groups of persons in the country.

Also a response to the Operation Murambatsvina, civil society in the form of Zimbabwe Homeless Peoples Federation worked towards securing stands for those that were displaced. The Zimbabwe Homeless Peoples Federation (ZHPF) has an active membership of 45000 people since its inception. The IDCM report (2008) states that ZHPF bought land from city councils as a way to provide housing solutions to IDPs in various towns and cities. Though the Federation managed to secure stands for the internally displaced it didn’t manage to help individuals build their homes. It was noted that the conditions of IDPs became much worse than they were before their homes were destroyed by Operation Murambatsvina. Considering the numbers of those that were displaced as a result of Murambatsvina and the stands that were secured by the ZHPF one can note that civil society has been quite unsuccessful in its role amongst IDPs. The fact that civil society intervention strategies were unsuccessful shows how weak civil society has turned out to be especially in Zimbabwe and this can be mainly attributed to lack of funding and an authoritarian regime that always views civil society with suspicion as pushing the regime change agenda being advocated by the West. Thus one can note civil society as represented by ZHPF failed to offer durable solutions to victims of Operation Murambatsvina despite buying stands for those who were internally displaced.

Civil society’s role can also be said to be that of offering intervention strategies, complimenting government efforts and stimulating government to offer a response amongst different groups of persons. Civil society voiced its concern when Operation Murambatsvina took place so much that it managed to stimulate government for a response and this is evidenced by the launch of the Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle (Live Well) which was launched to re-house victims of mass forced evictions. In an interview with the International Crisis Group Minister Nicholas Goche (2005) stated that the government refused civil society groups to assist IDPs hence they were able to voice their concern and inspire the government in to implementing Operation Garikai which was to resettle a reasonable number of IDPs throughout the country. According to the Solidarity Peace Trust (2006), about 1500 houses had been built by the government in Matebeleland and Manicaland and these were awaiting to be occupied by IDPs. One can therefore say that the fact that civil society managed to get the government to respond to the plight of IDPs shows how successful civil society initiatives were in their roles amongst IDPs. However when looking at the statistics of the housing structures that were built during Operation Garikai and comparing them to the number of families that were displaced one can say that civil society efforts were not so fruitful after all as they could not manage to stand up for the predicament of all IDPs in their different areas.

According to Maruta (2010), the land reform program was a political exercise and civil society was to some extent responsible for its outbreak. Civil societies felt accountable for the outbreak of the land reform hence they felt obliged to make right the wrongs it had caused. The General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) advocated for the rights of farm workers and to spread information on their struggles as widely as possible (Maruta 2010). The IDMC report (2010) states that IDPs live in displacement and their procedures of discovering long lasting solutions have often been a slow process often leaving them vulnerable and their communities marginalised. It was however noted that civil society’s efforts were in vain as they failed to offer durable solutions to vulnerable IDPs. Though civil society tries to make strides through its development initiatives, the strides have been unsuccessful in catering for the challenges facing IDPs.

Humanitarian agencies and civil society are regarded as key to addressing issues of internal displacement. It has been noted that in most cases civil societies only become fully concerned and drawn in when the situation is stable enough to allow for the implementation of sustainable initiatives. Supporting IDP communities should focus on development initiatives that improve infrastructural services, social amenities, increase food security situations amongst them therefore leaving them less vulnerable to shocks and strains. This is evidenced in the case of the Tonga and Korekore were Zambezi Valley Development Fund (ZVDF) not only provided humanitarian assistance in the form of food aid but rather went on a step forward and implemented irrigation schemes to the affected communities so as to improve on the food security situation amongst IDPs. Internal displacement increases the risk of impoverishment hence civil societies should adopt the impoverishment risk and reconstruction model that Cernea developed in addressing displaced community needs which encourages the movement from the situation of food insecurity to a situation of adequate food and nutrition prior to and after displacement. Irrigation schemes that were put in place by Zambezi Valley Development Fund have in most cases managed to improve the food security situations of IDPs since they are functional and operational all year round.

Furthermore amongst IDPs in the Zambezi Valley, the Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project (ZVAP) which is a community driven project aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability responded to IDP community needs through capacity building so as to reduce poverty. Communities in the Zambezi Valley which are close to the Zambezi River rely mostly on fishing. Fishers through the ZVAP now know which nets to use and which nets not to use hence they are now able to utilise natural resources in a bid to reduce chronic poverty that is prevalent in the Zambezi Valley and also enhance livelihoods of IDPs (ZVAP End of term evaluation report 2011). This project was a success amongst IDPs as it also led to the restoration of CAMPFIRE structures which had almost closed down before the ZVAP project came into existence (ZVAP End of term evaluation report 2011). Its success can be noted in that it managed to benefit about 300 000 people thereby reducing chronic poverty in the Zambezi Valley which is mainly characterised by IDPs.

**Formation of Basilwizi Trust**

Basilwizi trust was established in 2002 and it has been operational in the Zambezi Valley communities ever-since. It is categorised as a community development organisation since it was established by the local people of the Zambezi Valley. The Basilwizi Trust strategic plan document states that its formation demonstrates concern and determination of the Zambezi Valley community to claim and bring back their dignity which they lost as a result of displacement from the Zambezi River banks. It can be noted that the challenges faced by IDPs in the Zambezi Valley necessitated the formation of such a civil society organisation that would deal directly with the plight of displaced communities in the Zambezi Valley. The main issue to be tackled by Basilwizi is that of poverty that has been prevalent amongst the Tonga and Korekore people ever-since their resettlement. It is widely believed that poverty is the underlying cause of all the other challenges facing IDPs in the Zambezi Valley hence this led to the formation of Basilwizi Trust

**Objectives of Basilwizi Trust**

With regards to the major priorities of Basilwizi Trust, objectives were put in place for effective governance of issues and these are: to empower the affected people to advocate for developmental changes and their inclusion in decision making processes on issues that affect their development particularly the use of resources around / from Lake Kariba; to assist the beneficiaries to improve their socio-economic well being, through the establishment of people centred development projects that meet the basic material needs; to facilitate the putting in place of legislation, policies, procedures and practices that enhance the capacity of men and women to access, utilise and control their natural resources; to promote the cultural and educational development of the beneficiaries; to combat and reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic through community based intervention strategies; to promote gender, child protection and disability mainstreaming in all programme activities of the organisation and to enhance organisational capacity and ensure effective implementation of Basilwizi goals.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion one can note that the exact numbers of those that were displaced in Zimbabwe are difficult to determine and imprecise. This is so because Zimbabwe lacks a system of accountability in which there are no official figures of those that were internally displaced. Displacement in Zimbabwe can be attributed to several reasons such as developmental issues, land reform, mining development, operation murambatsvina as well as politically motivated violence. In the Zambezi Valley internal displacement mainly affected those that now live in Binga, Nyami-Nyami, Hurungwe and Mlimbizi. However, others were in turn internally displaced due to the resettlement of the displaced Tonga and Korekore in the areas. Different civil societies implemented initiatives and strategies that would help IDPs in the restoration of their livelihoods. In most cases civil society initiatives haven’t managed to be successful and this can be mainly attributed to the environment in which civil societies operate in, funding and also a general weakness that is now prevalent amongst civic groups. However on the other hand civil society has managed to reduce poverty and provide durable solutions to IDPs and this is so because of the commitment that these civil societies have towards providing sustainable livelihoods amongst IDPs and also because of a free operating ground that they would have acquired in carrying out their work.

# CHAPTER 2

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY BASILWIZI TRUST IN DEALING WITH INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE NYAMI-NYAMI DISTRICT, NEGANDE WARD (WARD 5)

**Introduction**

This chapter examines the role of Basilwizi Trust in dealing with IDPs in Negande ward (5) in the Nyami-Nyami district. As noted in the previous chapter, IDPs world-wide face a number of challenges and they range from social, economic as well as political challenges. As a way of countering the challenges faced by IDPs in the Zambezi Valley, Basilwizi Trust introduced developmental projects and programmes for them. Basilwizi Trust is one of the civil societies in the district that for over a decade has offered support to IDPs through advocacy, education and culture, health and sustainable livelihoods programmes as part of its broad strategies towards poverty reduction. These broad strategies are implemented in the Nyami-Nyami, Binga, Gokwe north and south and Hwange districts were some of the IDPs who were displaced by the construction of the Kariba dam resettled. The in cooperation of these programmes and projects addresses cross-cutting issues of gender, economic empowerment of women as well as child protection in the Zambezi Valley. The chapter will first highlight the challenges being faced by IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward, and then discuss the role of Basilwizi Trust in supporting these IDPs as well as the success stories of these developmental programmes and projects shall also be discussed in this chapter.

**Internal Displacement in the Nyami-Nyami District**

The Kariba Dam is the first large dam built in tropical Africa that resettled large numbers of an ethnic minority (Scudder 2005) and these are the Tonga people. According to the SADC paper on the internal displacement of populations in the SADC region (2005), developmental programmes that were initiated were implemented by policy makers as well as development experts without proper consultations with those that lived close by. Internal displacement in the Zambezi Valley came about as a result of the construction of the Kariba dam wall with the government resettling some of the Zambezi Valley people in the Nyami-Nyami district. Weinrich (1977) noted that some Tonga chiefdoms refused to move when they were ordered to move to higher ground as the area was gradually becoming flooded. The Commissioners had to resort to the use of force which left the people frightened leaving them no option but to relocate to a new area thus resulting in the existence of IDPs in the process. The exact numbers of those that were displaced during the construction of the Kariba dam to the Nyami-Nyami district are unknown even up to date. Worby (1994) states that the exact numbers of the Tonga are difficult to determine and imprecise, however the Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office (1998), states that approximately 12000 Tonga people were resettled. According to a personal interview by one of the IDPs carried out by the researcher (2014), the numbers of those who were displaced and resettled in the Negande ward are about 1674 people and to date an estimated 6715 people are found in the Negande ward (personal interview-RDC respondent 2014).

**Challenges faced by IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district**

IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district as a minority group faced a number of challenges prior to their displacement, during their displacement as well as after their displacement. Some of the challenges they faced after their displacement include landlessness, deterioration of livelihoods, food insecurity, declines in health, marginalisation as well as poverty. Petterson (2002) states that challenges of IDPs are predominantly devastating. Robinson (2003) concurs with Petterson who states that for indigenous people who value land as the core of their identity and way of life, the impacts of development induced displacement and resettlement are particularly devastating. In its strategic document (2010-2015), the Basilwizi Trust states that IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district suffer high levels of poverty, chronic water and food shortages as well as lack of basic socio-economic services.

**Poverty**

Poverty is one of the challenges facing IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward (5). According to the Basilwizi Strategic document (2010-2015), approximately 90 percent of the population in the Zambezi Valley are chronically poor. Poverty in the Nyami-Nyami district is a result of a number of factors including historical, political, economic as well as social marginalisation of the people in the Zambezi Valley as well as their loss of livelihood and land following the development of the Kariba dam and chronic draught in the region. In the absence of a welfare state, local populations tend to rely on kinship or their own efforts and/or external agents such as civil society for survival. Exclusion in this district is strongly linked to the state both colonial and post-colonial states. Sources of inclusion include ethnicity (the Tonga have often been identified with poverty, lack of education and development), poor transport network and physical isolation

It should be noted that women are more susceptible to poverty than their male counterparts although both men and women are very much affected by poverty. This is so because women are in most cases restricted from participating in economic activities due to cultural barriers as well as gender stereotypes. The Tonga culture is a very patriarchal society which restricts women or confines women to lower levels of the economic sector. The subordinate nature of the Tonga women manifests itself in political as well as socio-economic spheres thus leaving them more vulnerable to poverty.

**Food insecurity**

Food insecurity is also another challenge confronting IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district. Inadequate fertile lands in the Negande ward for agricultural purposes has in most cases resulted in recurrent food shortages. Tremmel (1994) asserts that the Tonga people prior to their resettlement farmed along the banks of the Zambezi River hence they enjoyed a variety of food thus overruling their possibility of being food insecure. The Tonga then resettled in agro-ecological region 5 which is mainly characterised by infertile lands, very low annual rainfall as well as droughts. As such chronic droughts in the area meant IDPs are food insecure most of the time unless they receive humanitarian assistance in the form of food aid so as to boost their daily intake. Also to be noted is the fact that food shortages are very acute from June to November and most families survive on at least one meal a day.

In addition IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district ***lack of access to reliable safe drinking water*** most of the time. In some areas in the Nyami-Nyami wards most boreholes that were sunk have since dried up. Musona (2011) states that some of the boreholes that broke down in the area have not been attended to thus leaving the people without much options but rather to access water from unsafe drinking wells. Shortages of reliable safe drinking water have become the order of the day in the Negande ward as it has 4 boreholes that service the area to approximately 6517 people (personal interview, Nyami-Nyami RDC respondent, April 2014). Tremmel (1994) notes that before the Tonga were displaced from the banks of the Zambezi River they enjoyed clean water from the fast flowing Zambezi River. An informant also confirmed this “... when we stayed by the river the water was fast flowing and safe to drink, once we moved we had to drink stagnant dirty water” (personal interview April 2014).

**Lack of adequate and quality educational facilities**

IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district also face a challenge of inadequate and quality education. Nyami-Nyami has 42 primary schools as well as 15 high schools. Negande ward has 5 primary schools (including satellite schools) and just one secondary school. Schools are very far apart, hence children walk long distances to and from school. Moreover, poverty acts as a barrier to education in the district. A large number of parents lack money to pay for schools fees, and as such, most children end up not attending school. As a result, some of them end up engaging in various illegal activities as sources of income. As Dzingirai (2003) states, the majority of the Tonga have become poachers, due to lack of formal employment. This is so because most of them are not educated enough to be formally employed in the district. Also apart from the challenges they face in relation to education, the Tonga have not enjoyed a system in which they were taught in their native language (Chitonga). Hence, one can note that language is a barrier to an effective education system amongst the Tonga people.

IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district as well as those in the Negande ward have been a marginalised group for decades and their ***marginalisation*** can be dated back to the colonial period. Inhabitants of Nyami-Nyami district have suffered marginalisation to such an extent that even up to date the district does not have a government school (Musoni 2011). Such social exclusion and lack of adequate protection from the state has translated into the intergenerational poverty that they have suffered since their displacement. Indeed, IDPs cannot break the cycle of poverty confronting them. Goodhand (2008), states that the government seems unconcerned about the grievances, sufferings as well as poverty that characterise the lives of IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district. Also to show how marginalised the area is, infrastructure in the Nyami-Nyami is dilapidated and all the way to the Negande ward the roads are not tarred. Moreover Siakobvu which is the centre of the Nyami-Nyami Rural District Council and also houses the council office as well as gained the growth point status in 1993 resembles a ghost town (Mumpande 2006). It can, therefore, be noted that marginalisation is a serious challenge confronting IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward.

Another challenge confronting IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward is that of ***lack of basic health care services***. The whole of the Nyami-Nyami district only has eight clinics and Negande ward has only one clinic. However, to be noted is the fact that these clinics lack adequate medical supplies for the treatment of patients. The poor state of the roads in the district makes it difficult for the medical supplies to be delivered every now and then especially during the rainy season thus leaving IDPs with a challenge when it comes to accessing proper and quality health care.

**BASILWIZI TRUST AND IDPs IN THE NEGANDE WARD**

**Advocacy**

Samuel (no publication date) states that advocacy is divided into two: public and people centred advocacy. Public advocacy influences policies and attitudes to empower the marginalised whilst people centred advocacy promotes socio-economic justice, equitable social change and sustainable development. Basilwizi Trust introduced the Advocacy program in a bid to develop the IDPs capacity for poverty reduction. The Nyami-Nyami district is characterised by intergenerational chronic poverty since their displacement from the Zambezi River Banks in the 1950s. As part of its advocacy programme, Basilwizi Trust introduced the following projects: Community Empowerment and Participation, Women Economic Empowerment as well as the Zambezi Valley Advocacy Projects.

**Community Empowerment and Participation Project**

These projects main aim was to enhance the capacity of local communities to take part of their own development. Taking control of one’s own development means individuals as well as communities now have the capacity to express their needs as well as efficiently organise themselves if better service delivery is to be delivered. The community empowerment and participation projects were co-implemented and they targeted 60 people. In this case 40 men, 25 women and 5 youths were a part of the project when the project was implemented, however at the closure of the project the numbers of those who were a part of the project had grown to 70 men, 40 women and 15 youths. Most of the respondents had an age range of 18 to 65 years.

***Project Beneficiaries at Project Implementation***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CATEGORY | NUMBER | PERCENTAGE |
| Men | 40 | 66.7% |
| Women | 25 | 25% |
| Youth | 5 | 8.3% |
| Total | 60 | 100% |

Fig 1: *the number of project beneficiaries when the project was implemented.*

The main activities under these projects include leadership and communication skills, gender, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns as well as conflict management campaigns. The total number of respondents for this research is 30 and 70% (21 respondents) of the respondents were of the view that these projects were effective whilst 30% (9 respondents) of the respondents disagreed. Respondents who pointed that the projects were effective stated that the projects managed to enhance the capacity of the communities to participate and air out their views whenever necessary. Such respondents also noted that whenever they feel that there are shortfalls in local governance issues they now know the proper channels to use to speak out their views. Furthermore most respondents stated that the projects also managed to sensitise IDPs on their need to speak out whenever they feel there is lack of accountability within the system. Women were also given the platform to participate in community development unlike in the past when they just watched community development from the sidelines.

However one should note that participation of women in community development is not all that effective and this is so because other respondents especially females pointed out that in most cases they are not given the platform to speak out and this is mainly attributed to the fact that the Tonga community is a patriarchal society in which males dominate almost every aspect of their livelihoods. The patriarchal nature of their society limits the ability of women to be very much involved in community development and empowerment and as such the whole idea of community empowerment is distorted. Moreover lack of education amongst most women (80%- 12 women) hinders their ability to deeply understand issues of local governance even though the Basilwizi Trust made great strides in providing reading materials on local governance. A number of female respondents concur with one female respondent who said that:

“*Kulubwa kweshu kuyiya kubika ansi kuzhiva kwesu kupati munkani zyakubeteka muminzu yesu”* meaning our lack of education hinders our ability to clearly understand issues of local governance (personal interview April 2014)

**Women Economic Empowerment Project**

The main aim of the project was to promote economic empowerment of women. Economic empowerment of women was to be achieved through income generating activities in the form of gardening and poultry. The projects targeted 25 women and amongst them 8 widows who were trained in issues of financial management for them to effectively manage the income they get from these income generating activities. In the Negande ward projects were implemented as a way to strengthen the economic base of women and in the process improve their efforts to attain social development. The success of these income generating project have enabled women to send their children to school as well as enhance their livelihoods thus contributing to poverty reduction. Income generating activities are a way of attaining the UN Millenium Development Goal number 1 of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in the Nyami-Nyami Negande ward. 20 respondents pointed out that have been able to send their children to school and most of these children were girls. The gardening project has been sustainable as it is functional even up to date. Thus one can note that these income generating projects were quite effective as they to some extent helped reduce poverty as well as help improve on food security of IDPs in the Negande ward. This is evidenced by one of the women who said that

“*I am proud to be associated with this project as it has transformed my life. The gardens have been able to supply us with vegetables most of the year and we have been selling these vegetables even to our neighbouring villages. I hope that Basilwizi Trust will implement another project besides this one that will empower us more*”.

**Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project (ZVAP)**

The main aim of the project was of poverty reduction in the Zambezi Valley through the use of natural resources in and around the Kariba Dam. As a community driven project it increased access to resources in and around the Kariba Dam. Such resources around the Kariba Dam include water, wildlife as well as fisheries resources. As noted earlier the IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami had their homes and livelihoods sacrificed for the Kariba Dam development project yet after that sacrifice they had little, if not no access to resources in and around the Kariba Dam. The ZVAP revived Community Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) activities which had almost collapsed in the area. CAMPFIRE at some point had collapsed and the revival of CAMPFIRE activities by ZVAP emphasised the strong connection found between the environment and development as supported by the Brundtland Commission of 1987 emphasises a strong connection between the environment and development if sustainable development is to be achieved. Prior to the construction of the Kariba Dam, the Tonga and Kore-Kore had access to natural resources in and around the Kariba Dam, however according to Tremmel (1994) after their displacement they needed formal licences yet they did not have the cash to attain these licences.

Through the ZVAP conflicts involving the use of resources by IDPs in the Negande ward were resolved and 67% (20 people of the 30 people that were interviewed) of the respondents stated that the project was effective in the area as it cleared some underlying conflicting issues regarding access and utilisation of the Lake Kariba waters for agricultural use. Also the men were sensitised on which nets to use for fishing, that is, the legal nets to use and when and when not to engage in fishing activities. Before the implementation of the project these IDP’s engaged in fishing all year round, and yet, the law does not allow them to engage in fishing when there is a full moon. Now that they are fully aware of this they only engage in fishing seasonally.

It was noted that the majority of the respondents have been part of the project since its implementation in 2007 until the closure of the project in 2010. Though the project closed in 2010 it has been sustainable up to date as some of the people still engage in these activities Those who were a part of the project since 2007 state its effectiveness as they have enjoyed the benefits since the project implementation. 25 respondents stated that the proceeds they now receive from CAMPFIRE have been a great help in enhancing the livelihoods of IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami. The CAMPFIRE dividends have been disseminated to communities and families and a family gets at least US$30 every month. Such income is used to pay school fees, and also some of the respondents stated that they used the income to boost their food supplies thus one can note that the ZVAP helped reduce poverty which is in the Zambezi Valley. Others even started income generating projects in the form of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) like tuck shops. Proceeds from CAMPFIRE are also used for community development for example building schools and purchasing grinding mills.

However, the project has had limited success in promoting gender equality and women empowerment. Women in the Negande ward have not been able to take up leading roles in issues of wildlife and fishing resources. It can be noted that there is not a single woman in Nyami-Nyami, Negande ward who has a license or fishing permit yet the project has been implemented in their area since 2007. Women cannot be a part of those that lobby for reduced or low permit charges by the RDC when they are not license holders, thus limiting the participation of women in decision making processes. In this regard the project has not been able to directly include the marginalised and vulnerable groups of society including the women and children.

**Education and Culture Support**

Article 11 of the African Charter states that every child has a right to education. Every child should be able to access education despite their religion or culture. The education and culture support programme that was implemented by Basilwizi Trust was meant to promote a culture of education amongst the Tonga people as a marginalised group as well encourage the use of local language in educational activities. As a part of the education and culture support programme, Basilwizi introduced the language and culture project, as well as the Tonga Online project. However for the Negande ward only the language and culture project was implemented.

**Language and Culture Project**

The main aim of the project was to make education accessible to children in the Zambezi Valley and in this case the Negande ward. Education is not readily accessible for girls in the Zambezi Valley and this is mainly attributed to their culture in which girls marry at a tender age. Some girls will be as young as 12years or 13years after they finish writing their grade 7 exams. The project was also aimed at promoting the use of local language in their teaching practice as well as to ensure educational opportunities for vulnerable children and orphans. Children in the Zambezi Valley by virtue of being born in the Zambezi Valley are vulnerable in that the cycle of vulnerability manifests itself in almost every generation and family.

The project managed to target 20 students in three schools who sucessfully wrote their Ordinary level examinations. 12 female students and 8 male students had their school fees paid by Basilwizi Trust. Basilwizi Trust managed to raise awareness on the importance of education even for the girl child thus removing the “backward” thoughts that education was not important for the girl child that was prevalent amongst most parents in the Negande ward. Prior to the introduction of the project, a few girls attended school until they wrote their Ordinary level and from some of the female respondents those between the age of 25-36years, stated that they only attended school until primary level because it was mainly believed that school was not that important for the female child. One of the respondents even went on to says:

“...*kuyiyi tikwaali kwabulemi mushule basimbi tikakali kutolegwa kuchikolo asi lino zyaba abulemu muntu musimbi wakutolegwa*” meaningeducation before was not important to us hence the girl child did not attend school but now that we know the importance of school we make every effort for the girl child to attend school. (personal interview April 2014)

The project can be said to be quite a success as it managed to sensitise IDPs in the Negande ward on the importance of education such that up to date most parents use some of the proceeds from CAMPFIRE to pay school fees for their children and also the income they receive from income generating activities such as gardening. The project beneficiaries are quite happy with the positive impacts brought about by the project so much that most of the most parents and guardians are grateful to Basilwizi Trust for paying school fees for their children. The girl child was in most cases treated as an option when it came to acquiring education; however Basilwizi Trust managed to change that negative mindset and now education is readily available for all that is girls and boys of which girls are amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society. Basilwizi in their project managed to pay school fees for 12 girls as well as 8 boys. Educating the girl child is a step towards enhancing the rights of the child to attain education

Fig 3: *12 girls (60%) and 8 boys (40%) had their school fees paid by Basilwizi Trust.*

Basilwizi Trust also managed to advocate for textbooks to be translated into the ‘Chitonga’ language. Text books in most cases are written in English, Shona and Ndebele hence they are now available for Tonga speaking people in their native language. About 15 textbooks in Tonga were distributed in the whole of the Nyami-Nyami district with only one textbook being given to only 1 primary school in Negande ward (interview with Nyami-Nyami RDC council worker ). However by 2010 the schools had more textbooks for grades 1 to 7. Though not enough to cater for the textbook student ratio of 1:1, one can note that it is a step towards achieving that. The other reason why children did not attend school in most cases was because they did not understand English which can be said to be their fourth language followed after Ndebele and Shona. Thus one can note the language and the culture project has had positive effects as it manages to sensitise parents as well as guardians in the Negande ward on the importance of education especially for the girl child and also it led to the Tonga language being used in the education syllabus at primary level.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion it can be noted that IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward (5) have been experiencing quite a number of challenges which include poverty, food insecurity, lack of access to safe and reliable drinking water as well as marginalisation. Basilwizi Trust then introduced programmes and projects in a bid to support these IDPs and most of the projects were quite effective as well as successful as they managed to change the lives of IDPs in the Nyami-Nyami. However, though there were successes for some of the projects, other projects were not really successful as they failed to address underlying issues in the Negande ward

# CHAPTER 3

## CONCLUSION: THE FUTURE OF THE BASILWIZI TRUST AND ITS ROLE IN PROTECTING IDPS IN THE NEGANDE WARD.

**Introduction**

The chapter examines the future of the Basilwizi trust and its role in protecting IDPs in the Negande ward. As noted in the previous chapter, Basilwizi Trust has been making great strides to improve the lives of IDPs in the Negande ward through the implementation of development programmes and projects. However as an organisation it faces different challenges in implementing these development initiatives and these shall be looked at in this chapter. Also to be looked at in this chapter is what can be done by the Trust to effectively improve on the lives of these IDPs.

**Challenges Faced By Basilwizi Trust**

The only way for Basilwizi Trust to effectively deal with IDPS in the Negande ward is to first address the challenges facing the Trust.

Lack of funding is one of the challenges confronting Basilwizi Trust. In most countries where the role of civil society was examined it was found out that funding is one crucial element amongst most civil societies. Funding is used for effective participation of civil societies in development projects. For Basilwizi Trust, they lacked adequate funding especially in 2008 when donors had withdrawn their funding because Zimbabwe was undergoing a major economic and political meltdown. Most civil societies including Basilwizi Trust depend mainly on funding from private donations in the form of grants, government funding as well as individual donations. Adequate funding means project activities are implemented within a specified time-frame hence improving the viability of these projects, however it was noted that this was not the case with Basilwizi Trust and as such its lack of funding disrupts project activities with regards to time-frame. Also it is widely believed that civil societies contribute immensely to poverty reduction initiatives that seek to address income poverty of people in African countries hence a lack of adequate funding means Basilwizi Trust cannot fully contribute to issues of poverty reduction as well as other issues that are meant to improve the livelihoods of the IDPs.

Generally the region inhabited Tonga people has often been identified with a poor transport network characterised by poor roads which have made it difficult for Basilwizi Trust to easily access their targeted project areas. Accessing the targeted areas in the Negande ward has been a difficult task for Basilwizi Trust during project implementation as well as during the course of the project. The state of the roads is even worse especially during the rainy season of which most of the projects to do with agriculture are implemented during this time. This disrupts the transportation of inputs in the form of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to be distributed to the project beneficiaries as well as monitoring other project activities by Basilwizi Trust such that the monitoring of their projects is generally poor during and soon after the rainy season.

Cultural barriers is also another challenge faced by Basilwizi Trust in implementing projects in the Negande ward. The Tonga community is a very conservative society and culture plays a crucial role in almost every part of a project. It is a widely believed that culture has hidden effects, be it in business, trade and development and as such it was difficult for Basilwizi Trust to effectively implement projects that seek to empower women. Cultural barriers limit the ability of women to effectively participate in projects especially those that seek to empower women because of the patriarchal nature of the Tonga society, for example, the Women Economic Empowerment Project which was meant to improve the economic base of women in the Negande ward. Due to the patriarchal nature of their society women were reluctant to join and be a part of the project, hence posing a challenge to Basilwizi Trust which was trying to address gender issues.

Furthermore, a lack of commitment from partnering organisations is another challenge faced by Basilwizi Trust. The partnerships though existential are not effective so much that most of the work is entitled to Basilwizi Trust. Partnerships are meant to make work easier for both the implementing as well as the complementing. In the case of Basilwizi Trust their partnerships were not effective due to lack of commitment hence the failure by Basilwizi Trust to meet their deadlines as the organisation’s human capital could not adequately meet the requirements as well as the expectations of the projects. The partnerships of Basilwizi Trust are through already existing structures and also with independent of which these already have other commitments thus it became difficult for them to fully engage in project activities.

In Zimbabwe, the state often view civil society organisations with suspicion as agents for regime change with civil society actors at times being targeted. As result, in 2008, Basilwizi Trust had to suspend its operations in the Zambezi Valley due to this challenge. It was just assumed that Basilwizi Trust as a civil society organisation had political motives, hence a disruption in project success a few months prior to elections being held, during the elections as well as a few months just after elections were held. Since the Tonga is a minority group, the belief was that Basilwizi Trust wanted to give them a “voice” to revolt against the government because of the challenges they face as a marginalised group. Thus, one can note that the only way for Basilwizi Trust to effectively deal with IDPs is to address the above challenges.

**WHAT CAN BE DONE BY THE TRUST TO EFFECTIVELY IMPROVE ON THE LIVES OF THE IDPS.**

In light of the above challenges, the following recommendations can be made so as to improve the role of civil society, Basilwizi Trust in particular, in dealing with IDPs and to all other CSOs in Zimbabwe facing similar challenges.

As a way to address the issue of funding the researcher recommends that civil society (Basilwizi Trust), should also have their income generating activities so as to avoid the challenge of funding that they experience every now and then. Due to financial problems that have risen over the years, it is difficult even for the funders to continue giving out aid to civil societies when there are more pressing issues for example disaster issues and other emergency issues. As such there is need for civil society (Basilwizi Trust) to capitalise on this aid and keep their income circulating through income generating activities. These income generating activities should then serve as one of their sources of funding.

Since the issue of accessibility also affects day to day operations of Basilwizi Trust, the researcher saw the need to recommend that roads should be tarred. The Basilwizi Trust should advocate for roads to be tarred through the proper channels and the government should make it a priority for the road to Siakobvu to be tarred. Tarred roads provide easy and smooth access to project areas every now and again so much that it will be easy for the Basilwizi Trust to constantly monitor and evaluate projects. Besides improving accessibility by CSO, improving roads also help improve service delivery in the area in other crucial fields such as the health and education sector.

Also another recommendation that would improve on the accessibility would be for the Negande ward inhabitants to rehabilitate the roads as a community especially during the rainy season for easy access to the area. The people of the Negande ward should be mobilised by their chiefs as well as the village herdsman to provide labour in road rehabilitation and they should work hand in hand with District Development Fund to improve the state of the roads especially after the rainy season.

Basilwizi Trust should also set up satellite offices in the Negande ward. This will minimise their movement to the targeted project areas and also it will also be helpful especially during the rainy season when it is difficult to access the places because already the organisation’s representative will be in place.

Awareness campaigns should be done before projects are implemented in the project areas and these should sensitise people that the organisation is only there to help foster development and it is not politics driven.

Also having identified that lack of access to safe and reliable drinking water is a challenge confronting IDPs in the Negande ward, the researcher saw the need to recommend partnerships with vibrant and well established such as UNICEF, that can help improve the water situation in the Negande ward. The Tonga people prior to their displacement enjoyed adequate water services from the fast flowing Zambezi River all year round and now they have to walk long distances to the few functional boreholes left in the ward.

Food insecurity and poverty are also a part of the challenges affecting IDPs in the Negande ward and as such the researcher saw the need to recommend irrigation schemes in the ward. Even though Basilwizi Trust introduced income generating projects in the form of gardens, these are not adequate enough to address the food insecurity situation in the ward so much that there is need for an even bigger and better project to be implemented. If these crops are to produce all year round, then it is very much possible for these IDPs (beneficiaries) to sell the surplus crops hence the realisation of poverty reduction and food security in the long run.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion it can be noted that the Basilwizi trust faces several challenges which hinder their ability to effectively deal with IDPs in the Negande ward. Some of the challenges include lack of adequate funding, cultural barriers as well as accessibility problems. As a way to improve the ways in which Basilwizi trust can effectively deal with IDPs, recommendations were put forward. putting in place these recommendations will see the Basilwizi trust fostering sustainable development in the Nyami-Nyami district, Negande ward as well as realising the much desired millennium development goals.

# CONCLUSION

The research looked at the role of civil society in dealing with IDPs in the Negande ward. It was noted that their forced removal from the banks of the Zambezi River resulted in the loss of their livelihoods. The research identified the challenges IDPs faced as well as the programmes and projects implemented by the Basilwizi Trust in a bid to address the challenges faced by these IDPs. As of today the Tonga in the Negande ward suffer from acute food shortages, perennial water shortages, inadequate social services as well as marginalisation. These challenges are a sign that they struggle to enjoy their everyday needs. Negande ward is in one of the most underdeveloped district of Zimbabwe; hence the introduction of these programmes and projects is an effort to foster development in the Negande ward through development initiatives. Thus one can note that although the Basilwizi Trust has been able to improve the livelihoods of these IDPs in the Negande ward, they also face challenges which affect their full participation and commitment to project activities in the project area.

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# APPENDICES

***Information Leaflet***

My name is Nyaradzai Munyaradzi. I am a fourth year student at Midlands State University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies. As part of my studies, I am conducting research on the role of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons using Basilwizi Trust in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande Ward (Ward 5) as a case study. If you decide to participate, you will be interviewed by me. During this process, there are not any possible risks or inconveniences to be expected. On the contrary, you will be contributing to the current debates on the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development among marginalized communities. It is hoped that the results of this research will help in developing ways of assisting individuals and communities experiencing internal displacement.

The objectives of the research are: 1) to examine the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development amongst internally displaced persons and communities in Zimbabwe; 2) to examine the role played by Basilwizi Trust in the Nyami-Nyami area; and 3) to establish a clear response of the community to civil society efforts.

You have been chosen to participate in this research project either you are providing assistance to internally displaced persons as an organisation or you are one of the affected people. In both cases, I am sure your experience is useful for this research.

Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with **Midlands State University**. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice.

Please be assured that the information is purely for academic purposes and data contained therein shall be treated with confidentiality. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to raise them with me or to direct them to my supervisor Mr Chibanda. His contact details are:

Midlands State University

Faculty of Arts, Department of Development Studies

P. Bag 9055

Gweru

Telephone number:

Email:

Thank you for your time.

**Interview Guide for Basilwizi Trust**

1. What factors led to the establishment of Basilwizi Trust?

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1. How many projects have been implemented in the Nyami-Nyami district and what are these projects?

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1. Which programmes and projects were implemented for Negande ward?

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1. What has been the impact of these projects and programmes on the IDPs in the Negande ward?

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1. How many females and males have been targeted by each project?

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1. How successful have each project been in changing the livelihoods of the project beneficiaries?

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1. What challenges have you faced in implementing these projects?

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1. Way forward and suggestions

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Thank you for your cooperation.

**Information Leaflet**

My name is Nyaradzai Munyaradzi. I am a fourth year student at Midlands State University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies. As part of my studies, I am conducting research on the role of civil society in dealing with internally displaced persons using Basilwizi Trust in the Nyami-Nyami area, Negande Ward (Ward 5) as a case study. If you decide to participate, you will be interviewed by me. During this process, there are not any possible risks or inconveniences to be expected. On the contrary, you will be contributing to the current debates on the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development among marginalized communities. It is hoped that the results of this research will help in developing ways of assisting individuals and communities experiencing internal displacement.

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Midlands State University

Faculty of Arts, Department of Development Studies

P. Bag 9055

Gweru

Telephone number:

Email:

Thank you for your time.

(Please tick where applicable)

Background information

Section A

1. Sex: Male female

2. Age group

Below 18 18-25 26-36 36-50 51+

3. Level of education

Primary level Secondary level Tertiary level

Section B

4. What challenges did you face as a result of being displaced from the Zambezi Valley?

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5. Which projects and programs were implemented by Basilwizi Trust as a way of addressing the challenges you faced?

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6. For how long have you been a part of these projects?

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7. How effective have these projects been in enhancing your livelihoods?

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8. What challenges are you facing now after the intervention of Basilwizi Trust in your ward?

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9. What is your overall perception of programmes and projects by Basilwizi Trust in your area?

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*Thank you for your cooperation.*