

Strengthening village communities in Matabeleland South province

Context

HEKS/EPER has been working in Zimbabwe since the country's independence in the early 1980s. Zimbabwe faces a range of challenges, including the lack of food security and a social safety net, high unemployment, a prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and poor relations between civil society and government in a polarized political climate. HEKS/EPER and its partner organizations are assisting people in improving their livelihoods. The aim is to enhance food security and unemployment by promoting sustainable agriculture (permaculture), providing continuing vocational training and securing better access to resources (water, land). To counter the prevailing violence and injustice, HEKS/EPER began conflict transformation work in 2015. The outcomes of these latest measures will only become clear over the medium-to-long term.

The 2016-2020 Country Programme will consolidate the accomplishments of recent years and tackle new fields of activity. The province of Matabeleland South in general, and the Matobo district in particular, continue to be the focus of activities.

Objectives, priorities, activities

The 2016–2020 Zimbabwe Country Programme aims to strengthen food sovereignty, improve access to natural resources, create better socio-economic conditions as well as foster justice, tolerance and inclusiveness – in collaboration with duty bearers and mainstream society in the Matobo district. The programme is being conducted jointly with partner organizations whose strengths lie in conflict resolution





and the development of rural communities, and is designed to enable beneficiaries to raise their incomes and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Target groups

In Zimbabwe, HEKS/EPER is active in rural areas of Matabeleland South province, more specifically in the Matobo district. The beneficiaries are young people, households headed by women, people with HIV/AIDS, as well as smallholder families. The programme will profit right-holders as well as duty bearers: People of our Concern are being empowered to claim their rights, and duty-bearers are being enabled to respond to claims lawfully submitted by People of our Concern.

Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

HEKS/EPER works with seven partner organizations in Zimbabwe. Three of them are engaged in the development of rural communities (Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre, Silveira House, Moriti Oa Sechaba) and four in conflict transformation (YETT, Masakhaneni Project Trust, Habakkuk Trust, Christina Legal Society). One other partner organization will be mounting a new project on livestock value chain.

HEKS/EPER is also a member of Act Alliance in Zimbabwe. In addition, the HEKS/EPER Coordination Office in Zimbabwe takes part in the meetings of Heads of Agencies, a forum for directors and representatives of local and international NGOs in Zimbabwe.

HEKS/EPER on the ground

Located in Bulawayo, the HEKS/EPER Head Office in Zimbabwe is staffed by a Country Director, and two project officers. It conducts lobbying and advocacy work and supports the supervision of partner organizations. The finance and administration Manager and the administrative assistant are responsible for the overall finance and administration of the Head Office.

Topics and working approach

The Zimbabwe Country Programme has two priorities: conflict transformation and the development of rural communities. Below are the approaches followed by HEKS/EPER:

Human rights-based approach: This approach underlies all activities. Its aim is to create space for rights-holders and duty-bearers to engage in constructive dialogue in pursuit of the project's objectives.

Strategy adaptation: The new country programme is consistent with the various HEKS/EPER strategies and takes account of Zimbabwean Government strategies in the areas where HEKS/EPER activities are located.

Synergies between partner organizations: The creation of synergies between all HEKS/EPER partner organizations is the basis for the conduct of this programme.

The following cross-cutting issues are addressed: women's issues, resilience building, conflict sensitivity

Country:

Zimbabwe

Programme costs 2018:

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Responsibility:

Valentin Prélaz, Desk Officer
for Zimbabwe

Contact:

Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)
Communication
Seminarstrasse 28
8042 Zurich
Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 360 88 10
E-mail: projektdienst@heks.ch
www.heks.ch/english