



## **FISH FARMING RESCUES THE KANYEMBA COMMUNITY FROM POVERTY**

Give a woman a fish and you feed her for a day. Teach a woman to fish and you feed her for life. Teach her fish farming and she is empowered even more. She can feed her family and sell surplus fish to provide for the family in other ways too. In Kanyemba, a fish farming project which commenced a year ago with 3000 fingerlings on Kanyemba fishpond is undoubtedly a growing success. This project was established through funding from UNDP GEF6 Small Grants with support from Lower Guruve Development Association. Under this funding fishponds were constructed, and a secure water source was provided in all the wards that benefited from the program.



### ***Kanyemba Fish Farming Project***

Fish farming, like other types of farming, offers a plethora of benefits that can help humans and the environment. Although remote, Kanyemba is a focal point for fishing and hunting activities in the nearby Dande Safari Area. It is known to be blessed with various assets with the potential for fruitful aquaculture. As of now, fish farming in Kanyemba has ended up being a key monetary movement and a source of income for the Kanyemba Communities. While some farmers practice this gainful financial activity for its benefits, others are doing it for family consumption. In any case, regardless of whether it's fish farming for subsistence or business purposes, these fish farms have made a huge contribution to the dietary demands and economy of the nation. Fish is recognized as the best source of omega fatty acids needed for both the body and brain to function optimally. This helps prevent stunting in child growth, a form of malnutrition prevalent in many rural communities



### ***Rosca Katandika***

Gogo Rosca Katandika (72), a member of the Kanyemba fishpond project said that her journey to economic growth and financial sustainability has not been a smooth one. “Raising my children has not been an easy task. My husband and I were struggling to take care of our family as we lacked enough money and also because the nearby Zambezi River where we used to fish is infested with ferocious crocodiles. There is an increase in altercation between wildlife and people. We would sometimes meet starving and thirsty elephants and lions on our way to the river which is not safe. Humans are forced to go dangerously close to crocodiles in search of fish and many have faced attacks from the hungry reptiles. Those were tough times and I always wanted to do something possible to get money. Fortunately, I got identified to be a member of this project to make ends meet. Training was done on fish feeding, monitoring, and analyzing water conditions to prevent mortality from disease and maximize production. The team also got skilled in fish filleting of the tilapia bream”, narrated Gogo Rosca Katandika

“Fishing is mostly done by men here. But nothing stops women from practicing fish farming. I was open to the opportunity, and it changed my life. The group started harvesting fish in May 2022 and up to now we have managed to raise USD\$415.00 from this project. At times when fish populations are dwindling at Zambezi River, customers come in numbers to buy fish from us”, she stated.

Fish farming has enabled Gogo Rosca Katandika to get an alternative source of income and meet the needs and demands of her family The income generated from fish farming has empowered Gogo Rosca Katandika to afford school fees for her three orphaned grandchildren, healthcare bills and good nutrition. “Now, our dignity is restored. We feel valued and empowered as we can make our own money and take care of the family. We are confident and our self-esteem has been raised,” said Gogo Rosca Katandika.



***Harvested Tilapia fish ready for the market***

Group member, Mr. Thompson Pagiwa said fish farming was taking people away from Zambezi River where fish poachers are at risk of crocodile attacks or drowning. He said the community cattle and goats were affected by the foot and mouth disease since last year and people have since turned to fish as a protein source. “Our community has been greatly assisted by this fish project in terms of nutrition,” he added. “The prices are affordable. We sell a kg of fish at USD\$3 and those who may want to re-sell makes a decent profit. This is a good project”, he said



***Mr Pagiwa demonstrating the fish selling process***

“One of the challenges we have faced so far is fish eating birds as these led to reduction in stocks. As a group, we had to introduce bird protection netting to save the fish from the menacing king fisher.”

“Ultimately our vision is to start our own breeding operation, to be able to supply fingerlings to others who want to go into fish production. Vision and perseverance have paid off. We did not let high losses in the beginning deter us. We also hope to construct another big fishpond to increase capacity. The fish farm is close to schools and our learners can visit for educational purposes. We see this project growing such that people travelling from as far as Zambia and Mozambique can come here for learning purposes”, Gogo Rosca Katandika said enthusiastically.

“We have also learnt that besides nutritional benefits of fish, fish production helps to control malaria and bilharzia as fish eat mosquitoes and bilharzia larvae.” She concluded.