

Mt Darwin District

Response Strategy

Mashonaland Central



Introduction

Mt Darwin is one of the eight districts in Mashonaland Central province. It borders Shamva district to the South, Mozambique to the North, Muzarabani to the West and Rushinga to the East. Population type in Mt Darwin includes communal, old resettlements, small scale farms, large scale, urban, A1 and A2 farms. The greater part of the district is communal settlements. The district is further divided into two parts; the upper Mt Darwin with natural region 2A, 2B, 3 and the lower Mt Darwin which is known as the Zambezi Valley basin and is in natural region 4 which is prone to erratic rainfall patterns and drought.

The district has not been spared from the effects of COVID-19. By April 2020, fruits and vegetables were no longer available, shops closed, farmers unable to access markets. Livelihoods (informal) were greatly affected as the majority of households relied on small scale businesses, these were aggravated by travel restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID 19. In general household income was greatly suppressed.

Interventions employed to address challenges brought about by the COVID-19

Lead Sector	Actions/Interventions	Impact (coverage, HH, wards, beneficiaries reached)		
		2nd Q April-June 2020	3rd Q July –September 2020	October 2020
Agritex Cropping	Farmer training on crop healthy post-harvest management and marketing	38 516 HH	29532HH	HH
	Wheat farmer training	2 wards (5 farmers)	2 wards (5 farmers)	2 wards (5 farmers)
	Pfumvudza Training	18 wards (3570 farming HH)	40 wards (11560 farming HH)	40 wards (5160 farming HH)
	Pre-Season Farmer Training and COVID awareness meetings	45 320 HH	41380 HH	15041 HH
	Agricultural shows	0	0	1 farming HH
Veterinary Services	Livestock Dipping services			
Social Protection	Food assistance	14370 HH	5995 HH	3500 HH
MOHCC	Hand washing facilities (Tip-taps)	3198	6189	1056
	Feeding waiting mothers	2 H/Facilities	2 H/Facilities	2 H/Facilities
	Cooking Demonstrations	27	57	0
	IYCF Counselling	14982	16220	0

MOHCC	Active Screening training (Mother Led MUAC)	40 wards	-	-
	IMAM training	22 H/Facilities	-	-
	IYCF training	-	22 H/Facilities	-
	CIYCF training	-	40 Wards	-
	Road shows on Covid 19 awareness	-	-	20 B/Centres
	Community dialogues on Covid 19 and nutrition	-	14 wards	-
	Distributed IEC material	22 Health Facilities	40 wards	-
	COVID 19 Health and Hygiene Education sessions.	1267	1368	398
	Number of people reached	33125	3794	2744
Ministry of Environment	Consolidated Garden Support (Communal nutrition garden with Fruit trees)	11 households (ward 12)	11 households (ward 12)	11 households (ward 12)
	Bee-keeping project Support (41 bee-hives)	25 households (ward 21, 24, 38 and 40)	25 households (ward 21, 24, 38 and 40)	25 households (ward 21, 24, 38 and 40)
Women and Gender & Small and Medium Enterprises	Mobile one stop centre to assist survivors of gender based violence	37	42	37
	Awareness campaigns on COVID 19 and gender based violence with women and girls living with disabilities	52	48	0
	Training on Baking	0	52	21
	Food Preservation and Processing training with women in ISALs	0	0	12
	Refresher training with ISAL groups leadership	0	37	12
	Entrepreneurship training with two groups funded under the community development fund	0	6	7
	Funded 1 Poultry project in ward 17	0	0	7
Local Govt	Coordination of COVID Awareness Meetings	3	3	2
RDC(incl. WASH services, Markets)	Regulation of marketing timeframes of the local market			
DDF(e.g. transport, road network, ploughing services)	Bridge construction	0	1	0
	Borehole rehabilitation	4	4	2
Economic Planning and markets				
Partners: World Vision	Facilitating Food For Asset (FFA)	Wards 5 and 37	Wards 5 and 37	Wards 5 and 37

ENTERPRIZE	Pfumvudza and Agro-Ecology training	4633 farming HH	10535 farming HH	0 farming HH
	Orange maize seed distribution	0	0	5000 HH
	Poultry smart Subsidies	44 HH	66 HH	0 HH
	Market development	150 HH	0	0
	Rural Finance Crisis modifier Distributions	0	10 HH	0
WHH	Sinking boreholes	4	10	2
	Rehabilitation of boreholes	10	3	0
	Pump Minders Training	10	3	0
NAC	Meetings with people living with HIV in support groups	4	2	1
	Distribution of HIV/ COVID 19 posters and pamphlets	350	282	18
	Training of sex workers Educators on HIV/ COVID 19	20	3	0
	Assessment on impact of COVID 19 in vulnerable groups		1	

Spillover effects of the COVID-19 lockdown period

- *Market price distortions for instance skewed prices due to high demand and low supply.*
- *Gender based violence increased.*
- *Food insecurity escalated (Number of cases requiring food assistance increased compared to same time last year)*
- *Teenage pregnancy increased.*
- *Early childhood marriage also increased as school going pupils eloped*
- *Theft cases increased as many people had limited livelihood options.*

Lessons Learnt

- *Multi-sectoral approach is vital in terms of emergency response coordination.*
- *Lack of entertainment at household and community levels resulted in to social conflicts.*
- *The Mother-Led MUAC approach is more effective in active screening of under fives as evidenced by increased number of screened cases when the programme started.*
- *Virtual meetings and electronic marketing are vital as they discourage gathering of people and minimizes resource usage.*

Recommendations For Future DFNSC Emergency Preparedness

- *There is need to have an emergency response plan in case of an emergency.*
- *It is recommended that the emergency response teams at district level have a Budget in place in case of emergency.*
- *There is need for regular planning and review meetings to allow for reflective programming and learning appreciating our strengths and weaknesses of the past.*

Supported by



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