

# Bethany Project Newsletter

Volume 3





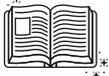
## INSIDE THE ISSUE

- Director's message
- Vimbai Shoko: Championing Youth Health and Empowerment at Vugwi Clinic
- A Father's Gratitude for Bethany and Oxfam's TETL (Transforming Education, Transforming Lives) Project.
- Eunice Muzanenhamo: A Journey of Growth and Empowerment
- Simbarashe Ndlela: Leading Change in Murowa Through SRHR Advocacy and Economic Empowerment
- "From Hopelessness to Empowerment: Christine's Journey to Becoming a Skilled Mechanic and Entrepreneur"
- Shumirai Murewi: From Struggle to Empowerment Through the Pamumvuri Project
- Gallery

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on the third quarter of our journey, I am filled with immense pride in sharing this edition of the Bethany Project newsletter. Over the past few months, we have made significant strides in our mission to create safer, healthier, and more empowered communities in the Zvishavane and Mberengwa districts. Our strategic focus on key pillars—Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Community Capacity Building, Institutional Strengthening, Food Security, and Social and Economic Empowerment—has led to transformative impacts.

The impact of our Food Security initiatives continues to resonate throughout the communities we serve, empowering families to achieve food sovereignty and improved nutrition. Moreover, our commitment to Social and Economic Empowerment has played a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of poverty. By equipping community members with essential skills training and entrepreneurship support, we are enabling them to unlock their full potential and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. As we move forward, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and stakeholders. Your unwavering commitment and collaboration are the driving forces behind our progress. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey, and stay tuned for more inspiring stories of transformation and hope in our upcoming editions.



## Vimbai Shoko: Championing Youth Health and Empowerment at Vugwi Clinic

My name is Vimbai Shoko, a 27-year-old young woman married and committed to making a difference. As the focal person at Vugwi Clinic, I am privileged to lead efforts under a transformative project implemented by the Bethany Project, with funding from Amplify Change. This initiative focuses on ensuring equal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for adolescents and young people, with a strong emphasis on combating HIV/AIDS, preventing teenage pregnancies, addressing early marriages, drug abuse, and tackling sexual violence. My role as a bridge between the clinic and the youth has allowed me to raise awareness and guide young people toward the care and services they desperately need.

Since the start of the project, the changes in our community have been extraordinary. More adolescents are now coming forward to access SRHR services, and the stigma that once surrounded these critical issues is slowly diminishing. Teenage pregnancies and early marriages have significantly decreased, and young people are now more informed, empowered, and confident in making responsible decisions about their health. The trust we've built through our awareness sessions has encouraged more youth to seek help without fear or shame. We've created a healthier and more supportive community, and I am determined to keep pushing forward to ensure that every young person here has the tools they need to lead safer, healthier lives.



**“To promote comprehensive and sustainable community based care and support for male and female children and youths affected by HIV and AIDS, living with disabilities and vulnerable”**

## A Father's Gratitude for Bethany and Oxfam's TETL (Transforming Education, Transforming Lives) Project

As a father, my greatest wish has always been to see my daughter Mitchell (pseudo name) succeed in her education. From a young age, she has been passionate about school, but providing for her education has not always been easy. Between paying school fees, buying uniforms, and ensuring she had the basic supplies, it was often a struggle. Despite my determination, I knew I couldn't do it all on my own. Then came Bethany and Oxfam's TETL (Transforming Education, Transforming Lives) Project, and everything began to change for us. The support Mitchell has received through this project has been nothing short of life-changing, and it has brought hope, relief, and opportunities that we couldn't have imagined.

One of the biggest challenges I faced as a parent was paying Mitchell's school fees. I always worried about keeping up with the payments, and it pained me to think she might miss school because of it. But with the help of the TETL Project, her fees are now taken care of. Knowing that her education will continue uninterrupted is a huge relief for me, and it has given Mitchell the stability she needs to focus entirely on her studies.

The project provided financial support for her school fees, a complete uniform, dignity kits for menstrual hygiene, and even a bicycle to ease her journey to school. This assistance has been life-changing for Mitchell, boosting her confidence and allowing her to focus entirely on her studies. The dignity kits ensured she no longer missed school during her period, and the bicycle has given her more energy to excel in class. The TETL Project has not only transformed Mitchell's education but has also brought hope and relief to our family, empowering her to look forward to a bright future.

As a father, I am fully committed to supporting Mitchell in every way I can, but the help we've received through Bethany and Oxfam's TETL Project has been a blessing beyond words. It has given us the resources we desperately needed and has given Mitchell the chance to focus entirely on her education. She is now more confident, determined, and hopeful about her future.

The TETL Project has truly lived up to its name—Transforming Education, Transforming Lives. It has not only transformed Mitchell's educational journey but also our entire family's outlook on the future. I am deeply grateful for the support we've received, and I'm excited to see all the incredible things Mitchell will achieve with this newfound hope and opportunity.

## Eunice Muzanhenamo: A Journey of Growth and Empowerment

My name is Eunice Muzanhenamo, a 26-year-old mother from Mhototi Ward. I am married with one child, who is now 6 years old. Before I joined the parenting club two years ago, I lacked knowledge and responsibility when it came to the care and welfare of children. However, since joining the club, my perspective on child upbringing has completely changed. I am now fully aware of the importance of proper care, and my peers and other community members even seek my advice on how to raise their children. This newfound confidence and knowledge have empowered me not only as a parent but also as a trusted figure in my community.

The parenting club also introduced me to an Income Saving and Lending Scheme (ISAL), which has significantly boosted my economic situation. We started as a group with just USD60, and through consistent savings, we grew the fund to USD425. When we shared the money, each member received USD40, which allowed me to start a small business selling items like jiggies, razor blades, biscuits, and matches. Over time, I expanded the business to include a variety of groceries, and now I make a profit of USD10 per week. This income has been a lifeline for my family, especially during the drought, and it has brought financial stability and peace to my home. With money comes harmony, and my home is now free from gender-based violence. I am deeply grateful to the Bethany Project and Oak Foundation for their support, which has transformed my life, improved my family's well-being, and raised my standard of living.



**“To promote comprehensive and sustainable community based care and support for male and female children and youths affected by HIV and AIDS, living with disabilities and vulnerable”**

## "From Hopelessness to Empowerment: Christine's Journey to Becoming a Skilled Mechanic and Entrepreneur"

Before I joined the Bethany Project's Empowered to Empower program, my life felt stagnant and without purpose. Living in Makuvatsine Village, Zvishavane, I spent my days doing nothing meaningful, relying on occasional gardening and farming just to survive. I had no real direction and lacked both financial independence and basic life skills. The idea of managing money or gaining any professional skills seemed far out of reach. I often wondered how I could change my situation, but I had no clear path forward.

That all changed when I enrolled in the mechanics course and life skills training provided through Bethany Project in partnership with Young Africa. During my training period I learned how to repair engines, gearboxes, and suspension systems, and perform minor services like oil changes and welding. Beyond the technical skills, the entrepreneurship course was a game changer—it taught me how to manage my finances, save money, and become financially independent. With the knowledge and skills I gained, I began servicing cars for my neighbors, and today, I earn a steady income. The life skills training helped me build self-confidence and problem-solving abilities, equipping me to tackle challenges head-on. Now, I am proud to be a skilled mechanic and entrepreneur, and I'm able to contribute to my family's well-being. Thanks to the Bethany Project, I have found direction, purpose, and hope for the future. This program has completely transformed my life, and I encourage other young people to seize similar opportunities and work hard to empower themselves.

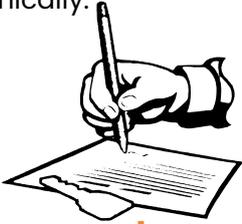


**Christine receiving award for the best student in Motor Mechanics. Photo credit Linience**

## **Simbarashe Ndlela: Leading Change in Murowa Through SRHR Advocacy and Economic Empowerment**

My name is Simbarashe Ndlela, and I'm a proud member of the Humwe group under the Amplify Change program in Murowa. Since March 2024, I've been actively involved in promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for adolescents and young people in our community. We focus on key issues like HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, early marriages, drug abuse, and sexual violence. Through the SRHR sessions, I've witnessed a powerful transformation in our community. Once-taboo topics are now openly discussed, and people are making more informed decisions about their sexual health. It has been remarkable to see young people empowered by the knowledge they gain, and we've seen tangible results such as a decline in teenage pregnancies and more youth accessing SRHR services.

The program has also enabled us to explore economic empowerment through broiler keeping, with financial backing from the Bethany Project. Our group contributed \$30 as a commitment fee, and this project has strengthened our economic independence while deepening our dedication to community development. The combination of SRHR education and economic empowerment has had a profound impact on our community, improving both health outcomes and livelihoods. Looking forward, I am committed to continuing this work, driving further positive change, and ensuring that our community thrives both socially and economically.



**“To promote comprehensive and sustainable community based care and support for male and female children and youths affected by HIV and AIDS, living with disabilities and vulnerable”**

## **Shumirai Murewi: From Struggle to Empowerment Through the Pamumvuri Project**

My name is Shumirai Murewi, a 23-year-old mother of two from Ingome cluster in Dayataya ward. For a long time, my life was filled with uncertainty, and every day felt like a battle. I had no steady income, making it nearly impossible to provide for my family. The weight of financial struggle loomed over me, but I refused to give up hope. Everything changed when I joined the Pamumvuri Project in 2023.

The Pamumvuri Project became the lifeline I desperately needed, offering me opportunities I had never imagined. Through this initiative, I gained access to resources and participated in weekly sessions focused on women's economic empowerment, disaster management, gender equality, and gender-based violence. Our group received \$250 in startup capital, and we collectively contributed \$50 to launch a poultry project. This group effort not only fostered camaraderie among us but also provided me with the foundation to start my own poultry business.

Now, my poultry project is thriving, and I earn a profit of at least \$50 each month, allowing me to buy food and provide for my family. The financial burdens that once weighed me down have been lifted, and I can finally envision a brighter future for myself and my children. My living conditions have significantly improved, and I feel a deep sense of purpose and independence.

The Pamumvuri Project has given me the wings I needed to soar. My journey from hardship to success is a testament to resilience and determination. I hope my story inspires others facing challenges to never give up on their dreams. If I can do it, so can they.



**“To promote comprehensive and sustainable community based care and support for male and female children and youths affected by HIV and AIDS, living with disabilities and vulnerable”**

# Gallery

