



Challenges to Provision of Water at District Level by Local Government: The Case of Goromonzi District

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Abstract

This study investigated challenges undermining the provision of water in the Goromonzi District of Zimbabwe. Interviews were conducted on a sample of thirty respondents drawn from rural and rural-urban residents of the district to determine conditions that affect water provision at district level. Thematic and content analysis was used to analyse data. The findings reveal that some rural dwellers travel distances that exceed 2 kilometres to fetch water from boreholes, especially during the hot but dry months of the year. The results further revealed that some wells in homesteads dry up during the year, forcing the villagers to scout for water outside their villages. The Goromonzi Rural District Council bears the responsibility of constructing boreholes in the district. However, this task is shared between ward councillors and the local Member of Parliament who are expected to lobby for funding towards the constructing of boreholes in their areas of jurisdiction. The inflationary economy Zimbabwe is experiencing erodes the district's capacity to implement community development projects, including borehole drilling. This study recommends the adoption of radical fiscal policies that could curb inflation, including the adoption of stable currency that is less susceptible to inflation.

Keywords: *Borehole Construction; Goromonzi District; Inflation; Local Government; Potable Water; Poverty*

Introduction

Drinking water is a critical component of normal life whose availability can never be taken for granted. Access to clean water is a basic right as stipulated in the constitution of Zimbabwe (Section 77(a)) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6. Due to lack of finance which underlies poverty, drinking water is often beyond the reach of people in rural areas. People in rural areas suffer deprivation of potable water when compared to urban areas where water reticulation infrastructure is better planned for to convey piped water to households on a large scale with assistance from local or

central governments. Mutandwa (2023) posits that governments in developing countries embarked on ambitious programmes to provide access to water to their citizens by working hand in glove with private sector. This is coupled by the fact that lack of access to improved water sources can lead to death as a result of waterborne diseases (Armah 2014). Due to the dispersed nature of rural and peri-urban households within the greater part of sub-Saharan Africa, the most feasible option open to governments is to provide boreholes at strategic locations for the villagers to access water. According to Burton et al (2016), up to 80% of people in sub-Saharan Africa depend on unsafe sources for drinking water. Burton (2016), states that people rely on water drawn from rivers, drying riverbeds, as well as swamps, lakes and dams. These sources of water are shared between humans and animals. Surface water sources are unhygienic and expose consumers to water-borne diseases, especially vulnerable children. Communities who experience severe difficulties are those located in isolated areas which are not easily accessible (UNDRR, 2017).

Water found in some areas is contaminated through the transportation mode used. Some drums used for containing water have been found to be contaminated, as they are in their secondary use after being used in industry where they originally carried dangerous chemicals (Alto, Godana & Gedamu, 2020). The storage of water in the home can be another source of contamination (Alto, Godana & Gedamu, 2020).

In their study in Tsholotsho District in Zimbabwe, Tshuma, Belle and Ncube (2023) found that the few boreholes that are available collapse during flooding. Tsholotsho District is located along the Zambezi Valley, in the northern parts of Matabeleland North Province. In rural areas, toilets are prone to collapsing or overflowing in times of floods and they spill their contents into sources of potable water, exposing people to water-borne diseases and endangering lives. Flooding has been known to increase the salinity of water, making its quality unsafe for human consumption. Rural communities should be prioritised by both government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in order to ensure the construction of durable boreholes, especially in areas that are prone to flooding such as Tsholotsho District. In another study that was conducted in Murewa District, in areas juxtaposed to Goromonzi; Nyama and Mukwada (2022) found that water access and provision are a challenge to rural households, a phenomenon that has prompted residents to form a citizen pressure group to lobby local authorities to prioritise water supply.

The government of Zimbabwe has placed in its plan; the harnessing of water, conservation and programmed management to cater for all sectors of the economy (Government of Zimbabwe, 2013). Water is integral to the improved performance of all sectors of the Zimbabwean economy. The economy exists in both rural and urban areas of development, in sectors such as agriculture, energy, industry, mining and tourism. The provision of boreholes in rural areas of Zimbabwe has become part of many election manifestos by both members of parliament (MPs) and local government councillors. Nyama and Mukwada (2023) opine that politicisation of the development process has resulted in partisan progress, thereby dampening the motivation of citizens to participate in development processes. This has resulted in the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) issuing a statement to regulate the drilling of boreholes by stipulating that one needs to acquire its approval or permit; as ground water falls under its mandate as governed by the Water Act (Chapter 20:24, Section 3). This pronouncement was made as the country was going towards an election in August 2023. The candidates for elections harp on community needs, promising them that they will attend to them as soon as they are elected into office. Community members in rural districts have been promised the constructing of boreholes on a 5-year cycle by politicians as the latter campaign for votes to become councillors, members of parliament or president of the republic (Gumbo 2020). Despite these campaigns by both potential election winners and losers, the communities in Goromonzi District still experience perennial problems of inadequate sources of water in terms of boreholes. The elected officials come into office and embark on fulfilling their election

manifestos to the public as their term progress in the five-year cycle. This study focuses on the provision of boreholes in Goromonzi rural district over the election term for both human and animal use.

One of the state-controlled newspapers, *The Chronicle* of 10 April 2023 had a headline that read: “Government drills 700 boreholes under President Rural Development programme.” The article indicated that more than 700 boreholes have been constructed in more than 700 villages scattered throughout Zimbabwe. It revealed that under this programme, the country’s 35 000 villages would each have a borehole provided by the government by the year 2025. The article added that a further 9 600 boreholes would be provided at schools in rural areas. Each ward would have 2 boreholes for horticultural projects. The issue of water access is one of the many tools that politicians use to canvas for votes, yet water provision and access should be a constitutional right for every citizen.

In this foregoing discussion, it is evident that government intends to boost water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes in the country, hence there is need to explore conditions that might impede its implementation. Therefore, the objective of this study is to investigate challenges facing the provision of water at district level of Goromonzi in Mashonaland East province of Zimbabwe. This paper is organised into the following themes: water resource development, challenges facing water and WASH in Zimbabwe, methods used in the study, results and discussions as well as conclusion and recommendation.

Theoretical Framework

The study is premised on the water access theory. The theory has been applied to various discourses of water governance and development. The water access, social contract theory postulates that water and sanitation are human rights that cannot be attained without commitment by duty bearers to provide water access to citizens. Ribot and Peluso (2003, 157) posits that access is ability rather than a right. In respect of this study, access is seen as an end in itself and it is therefore believed as the right thing to do despite any other accruing benefits of the practice. In reinforcing the paper’s position, Racelis (1994) views participation as an essential need in development.

Water Resource Development in Rural Zimbabwe

A study by Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (2017) has shown that in rural areas, problems related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) can be addressed largely through the construction of boreholes, thereby improving access to water. Community access to treated water is a fundamental goal for many governments with the support of world organisations like the United Nations (UN). Once prioritised by government, this is expected to cascade down to members of parliament and councillors in local government in order to enable construction of technological resources that provide water and treatment facilities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Africa Development Bank (ADB) engaged in partnership with UNICEF, the Zimbabwe Red Cross and Government of Zimbabwe to improve the provision and accessibility of potable water to rural communities. A UNICEF (2022) report indicates that the ADB hosts the Transition Support Facility (TSF) which supports renewable energy sources for powering borehole pumps and water sources located in poor communities. The aim was to reduce the need for children to go out and fetch water from contaminated sources. The ADB installed 61 solar-powered stations for water and rehabilitated 164 boreholes in Zimbabwe. Fifteen new boreholes were constructed. The total population in the communities in which these projects were carried out totalled beyond 854,975 people.

In a UNICEF report, DeVillez (2014) acknowledges that Zimbabwe is well established in regard to WASH standards and guidelines which have been adopted over a long period of time. The norm is to install a standard hand pump that is prescribed nationwide. The programmes meant for different districts around the country allowed for modifications to be made on the standard pump stations in order to suit

different terrains. This is a shift from the one-size-fits-all design as it addresses challenges in areas where the hand pump was not suitable for use. Therefore, alternatives were developed and Zimbabwe has the skills to adopt a diversity of options. Experiences in districts such as Gutu and Mberengwa revealed the need to vary designs that supply of potable water through alternative modifications to the conventional designs (Deville 2014). In this regard, the need for detailed project planning skills which incorporate local knowledge and experience cannot be overemphasised. Local government authorities set technical standards for the provision of water sources and points. Accounting for variations that may occur from district to district, the technical personnel can adopt and install sustainable facilities. The UNHCR report (2023) posits that it is mandatory for practical WASH programmes to comply with guidelines provided by local authorities and service standards in order to ensure easy access to water of sufficient quality and quantity at any given time.

Challenges Faced in Water Provision and WASH in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the financial viability of WASH programmes is hampered because of an inflationary economic environment which had increased from 26.5% in December 2023 to 34.8% in January 2024 (Trading Economics, 2024). This is a situation completely outside the control or influence of any rural development programme. The dwindling national budgetary support from government is made smaller by inflation and does not cover what it is intended for. Thus some local government programmes regarding provision of clean water hang in the balance as funds run out quicker than expected (Chifamba, 2019; UNICEF, 2022).

More optimistically, DeVillez (2014) projects that the WASH programmes in Zimbabwe are geared towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. However, the accuracy of reporting some activities is a challenge as some records are inflated by government in order to portray a picture of utmost success since every development partner is expected to report its programmes to a government department in its area of operation. These reports are needed on a monthly and quarterly basis so as to ensure compliance. The *NewsDay* newspaper of 1 July, 2021 had an article titled “Govt onslaught on NGOs starts;” reporting that the Harare Metropolitan Provincial Development Coordinator asked all development partners to register and report to his office. Specific numerical targets on activities were identified and recorded under WASH reports, but the indicators used in the Logical Framework Matrix were not in line with what was measured.

Scholars (MacNeill & Wozniak, 2018) and Sibanda et al, (2022) noted that inadequate water and sanitation services have been found to increase the cost of living for poor families and refugees. Incomes of poor households are subsequently lowered as families experience riskier lives on account of inadequate water supply. Women and children suffer more than men as they walk long distances to fetch drinking water for their households. Vulnerable girls and women are at the risk of being sexually abused in some remote neighbourhoods. This complicates their lives as they can contract diseases, girls can fall pregnant and drop out of school. The solution to all these problems could just be better provision of water and sanitation sources within safe boundaries of communities.

World Wildlife Fund-Africa (2022) posits that access to clean drinking water is a must everywhere in Zimbabwe. However, impacts of climate change which manifest as droughts are not making things any easier. When long periods of drought are experienced, there is also more conflict occurring between people and wildlife, especially those who are resident in places closer to protected areas of game. In these protected areas, people source drinking water from outside their villages by walking long distances to fetch it. When the animals run out of water or food, they roam into villages in search of it and attack people they encounter long the way. This results in the tragedy of the commons. World Wildlife Fund Zimbabwe launched an initiative to install a borehole in Malalume village, Bulilima District which is located to the south of Hwange National Park (WWF-Africa 2021). This has brought to

an end the long periods which the villagers, health and business centre workers have to be out scouting for potable water. After several attempts to drill boreholes failed to yield positive results, WWF Zimbabwe eventually managed to successfully install a reliable source of borehole water which now supplies the safe potable resource to villagers far away from wild animals.

Muboko (2022) notes that boreholes that have been constructed in rural areas which experienced perennial domestic water shortages have positively impacted on the livelihoods of villagers. Muboko (2022) cited an example of one participant who confessed that she used to wake up before sunrise and would spend a greater part of the day covering long distances on foot in search of potable water. The UNHCR (2023) reveals that the emergency water standards state that a person should not walk for more than 500 metres in search of water. Boreholes which were constructed recently are fitted with solar power to drive the water pumps. Rural District Councils decide where boreholes are to be sited, taking into consideration views from the respective environment committees.

WWF-Africa (2022) reported that for Masikili village dwellers in Hwange district; a new borehole has been set to provide safe water to around 300 people. The other boreholes were placed near Chizarira National Park in Binga district, one in Kalombe village and the other at Siyambizi village. Some previous experiences narrated by villagers were about getting water from an old well. They disclosed that it was so difficult to access water, as it took a full hour to fill a single bucket. The newly constructed boreholes are now benefitting a population of around one thousand one hundred people.

Drawing evidence from water experts and those who craft water policies, Mambondiyani (2020) found that in Zimbabwe; ground water has been generally depleted by drawn-out floods. Many hand-pumped boreholes dry up in the course of the year, forcing the rural people to crowd on a few sources of water. Annual rainfall is no longer enough to raise the water table sufficiently in Zimbabwe so as to feed the boreholes with adequate water.

Although in most areas; boreholes are being constructed in various places as a way of increasing water provision, some are contaminated. This contamination has resulted in people not using the water from these boreholes. Utete et al (2018) highlight that pollution and contamination in water bodies is caused by industrial and domestic waste, pesticide, sewage effluent and fertilizer runoff from surrounding farms. This has resulted in water salinity and it causes waterborne disease such as cholera and typhoid to be prevalent.

In the case of Harare; the capital city of Zimbabwe, Magidi (2019) observed that as the town was expanding, there was an increased demand of water and sanitation. This has resulted in shortage of water provision in the city. Norton relies heavily on water from Harare, as it does not have its own water treatment plant. When Harare experiences water crisis, it also starves its beneficiaries; thereby cascading the water and sanitation challenges to them.

Method and Materials

Description of Study Area

This study was carried out in Goromonzi Rural District Council (GRDC). GRDC is a local government authority situated in Mashonaland East Province of Zimbabwe, which is about 40 kilometres south east of Harare; the capital of Zimbabwe. Goromonzi is one of the districts that are located close to Harare. GRDC is one of the nine local authorities that are found in the province. It was established in 1992 under the Rural District Councils Act Chapter [29:13]. The district is found in the agro-ecological region II which is characterised by 135mm of water. Below is figure 1 showing study map of Goromonzi District.

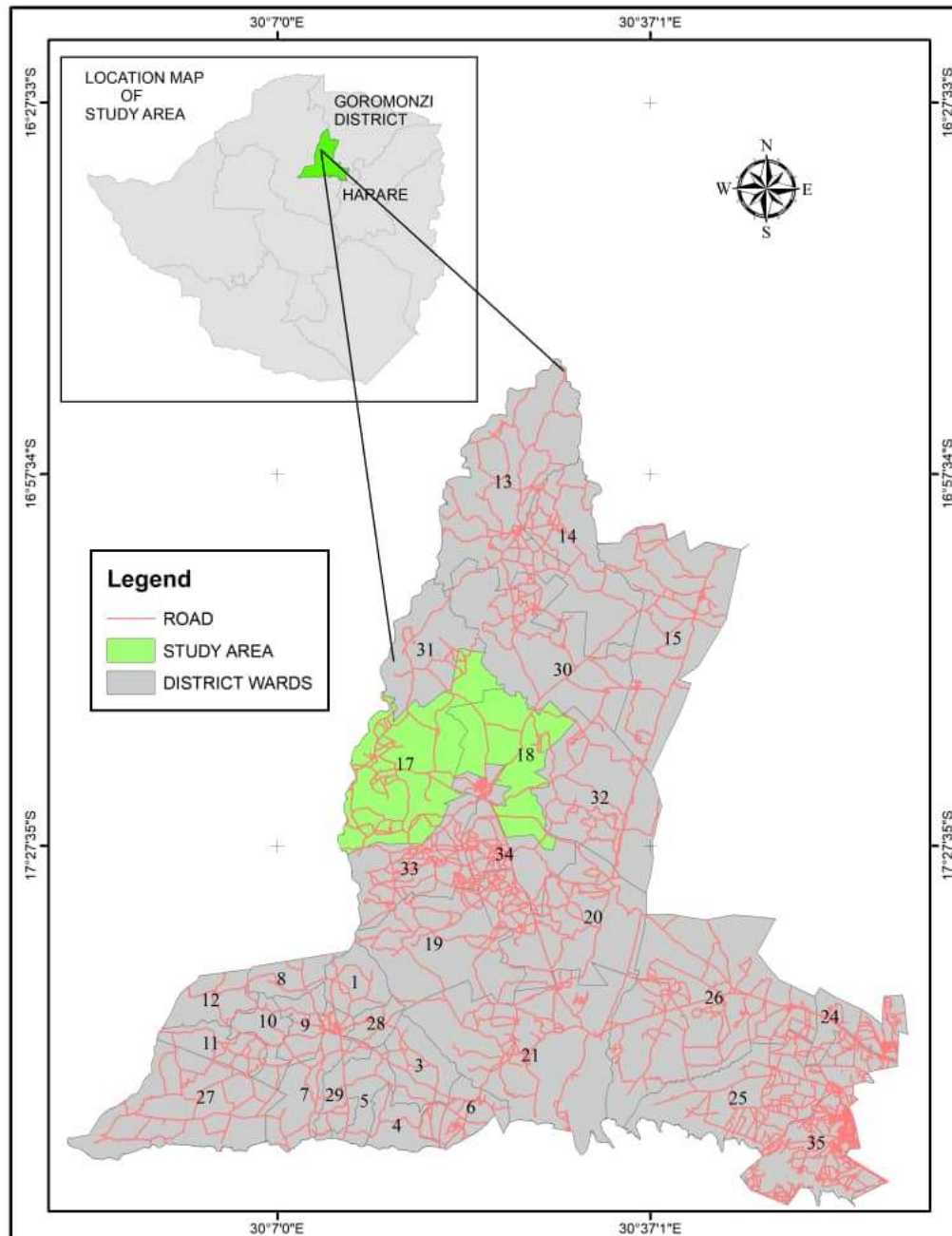


Fig 1: Geographical Location of Goromonzi District

Goromonzi Rural District is divided into 35 wards, which are home to 386 199 people; composed of 187,193 males and 199,006 females (Zimstat 2022). Due to its proximity to Harare, Goromonzi District provides labour force to Harare as people migrate to the city every day. Some farmers practice horticultural activities as it is endowed with rich fertile soils. Goromonzi District is affected by urban expansion as people are now relocating to this district for residential area construction. Kunzvi dam is being constructed in this district and is earmarked to supply water to Goromonzi and Harare. The construction of Kunzvi dam is in line with sustainable development goal 6, which focuses on universal and equitable access to improved drinking water for all by 2030 (United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals report 2023). Water is also a challenge, as they are mining activities that are taking

place in this district. A total of 49% of people in the district utilise perennially unsafe water sources, therefore there is urgent need for safe water provision (Zimbabwe Population Services 2022). The temperatures vary between 15 to 20 degrees Celsius (weather and climate 2024). Communal farming is also practiced and these people rely on rain fed agriculture whilst commercial areas supplement with irrigation. Mostly, child headed households are highly affected by access to water as a result of poverty.

Basing on information by the Zimbabwe Population Services (2022) census statistics, only 4 732 of the district's population lives in urban growth points. The population in the sprouting growth points is just a tiny fraction of the rest of the population residing in the surrounding rural areas.

Data Sources and Analysis

This study adopted a 'qualitative' research paradigm with a case study design. Domboshawa is used as a case study to understand the water provision in the district of Goromonzi. Data were collected by way of surveys and interviews. Primary data was collected from thirty (30) residents of Goromonzi District through interviews. The 30 residents composed of 20 female and 10 males between 18-65 years. These were selected from a cross section of residents who had assembled for a field day on a farm near the growth point of Domboshawa. The researcher deliberately selected five (5) participants for key informant interviews; which included community leaders such as councillor, government official from the ministry that is responsible for water and NGO staff who are responsible for constructing boreholes in the district. These key informants were purposively selected, basing on their knowledge of water provision in the district. Thirty residents who were reached for data collection are statistically enough as Creswell (2013) posits that a sample of 10 respondents is enough for qualitative research.

Prior to the field day, questionnaire and interview guides had been used to check their reliability on five (5) potential respondents from a rural village in the district. This has resulted in adjusting the questionnaire and the interview guide so as to maximise targeted questions to each respondent. Ethical considerations were placed at the fore during data collection as all the respondents were informed about the research and made aware that they could pull out of the interview anytime when they were not comfortable.

The data from the questionnaire survey and interviews were analysed thematically according to the interview guide employed for data collection.

Results and Discussions

The Challenge of Water Access in the Village

When asked to state the challenges that they were experiencing in accessing drinking water in their villages, the participants gave varied responses. Long distances to water sources appeared to be a major constraint. For example, one participant; **P6** from Chisuku Village in Ward 1 said: "Water access is a problem as I walk a distance of 2 kilometres to the nearest water point." Another villager **P3** from Sabhuku Village in Ward 23 said: "We walk up to 2 kilometres to the borehole that is nearest. Our wells dry up in the hot season and we are obliged to walk the distance."

The availability of boreholes near homesteads is still a pipe dream for many residents in Goromonzi District, where some villagers walk distances of up to 5 kilometres to access borehole water. This poses challenges to both people and livestock. Sharing river water with animals is a practice that is being shied away from in the developing countries by means of constructing boreholes for village dwellers. In their study, Burton, Tidwell, Chipungu and Aunger (2016) submitted that up to 80% of

people in the sub-Saharan Africa depend on drinking water from unsafe sources, including rivers and near-dry river beds, swamps, lakes and dams.

However, one of the councillors who were interviewed from Goromonzi District indicated that: “Water is no longer a challenge as it used to be in the past since the RDC has constructed some boreholes.” This has resulted in council to meet its social contract by enhancing access to water to citizens in the district.

His response paints a contrary picture on the accessibility of water points. He compared the current state of water availability with how the situation used to be in the past. However, the statement that ‘water is no longer a challenge’ projects a picture that does not reflect the views of ordinary villagers.

Domboshawa and Majuru growth points have borehole water points that were revealed to be generally accessible by residents. During an interview, it was revealed by **P4**, a resident of Majuru Growth Point who said:

We have a borehole that is close by, so water is not a challenge. People from nearby villages at times come to fetch water from the growth point. Some walk from places that are six kilometres away to get here, especially in the hot and dry months of September and October when water shortages are critical. Some use ox-drawn scotch carts to ferry water.

The above narrative shows that growth points are business centres that were planned by government with the hope that they would grow into towns in future. The resident sheds light on the onerous distances that some villagers travel to fetch water from the boreholes at the growth point. The movement by resident for a distance of close to 5 kilometres to access portable water is contrary to the United Nations Water Regulation Framework (2017) states that a person should not travel for over 1000 metres to access safe and reliable water sources. At the water point, the United Nations Water Regulation Framework (2017) stipulates that they must not spend more than 30 minutes and further prescribe that this water must be portable.

Schools are also affected in accessing water as some boreholes are malfunctioning. This has affected agricultural lessons that are undertaken by schools and also hampered the sanitation process. **P29**, an elderly woman shared that:

I learnt that there was a water challenge at school during the school development meeting, so I had to approach the councillor and the District Development Fund to repair the malfunctioning borehole. Later the water situation at the school was solved after the borehole was fixed’.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all individuals, regardless of where they are by 2030 (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal report 2023). There is need to address water-related challenges for all people as water access is a human right.

Source of Drinking Water for People and Animals

The most prioritised sources of drinking water for people are boreholes, followed by wells and rivers in which villagers’ source water from as last resort. In order to reduce their exposure to water borne diseases, the villagers who depend on water from unprotected sources such as rivers and wells, which are open to contamination from overland flows, are advised by health workers to boil it:

As villagers, we use borehole water for our consumption as it is safe. We rely on it throughout the year. Those without boreholes rely on wells. As for animals, they rely on rivers and dams for water.

Since boreholes are the most prioritised source of clean water, their construction must be prioritised by government as well as NGOs, who are a key development partner in supplying rural communities with clean water in many sub-Saharan countries. In the case of Goromonzi District, domestic animals usually get water from dams and rivers. In times of drought when the rivers dry up, villagers dig shallow wells along the riverbed to abstract water for both themselves and their livestock. In his studies about water and contamination in Norton, Magidi (2019) reported that water contamination has affected fish production and portable water for people who reside in the town and other surrounding communities. Water contamination should be resolved for citizens to fulfil their right to access to water.

Participants' Views about Government-Constructed Boreholes

Some respondents recalled a period when government construct boreholes in their neighbourhood, although others professed nothing had been done for them regarding improvements in water supply. It is important to note that access to water has become a politicised issue by some sections of the Goromonzi rural community that are profiteering from it by selling it. One villager, **P10** shared that:

The government recently construct one borehole that we use for domestic water supply. We thank the government for this initiative as it has helped us to access water close to our homesteads.

Another villager, **P6** had different opinion. She reported:

We have not seen the government workers constructing boreholes in our area. We will be very happy if they give us just one borehole for our needs.

P11, a local government worker, made the following statement:

Ten boreholes were constructed by government in the whole district and two were drilled by donors. More will be constructed in the near future to ameliorate the challenge of water shortage.

With a total of twelve boreholes constructed during the past decade as further revealed by **P19**, it means only two boreholes were constructed per year.

NGO Constructed Boreholes

NGOs are actively involved in borehole drilling in all districts throughout the country. NGOs are development partners that are working to compliment government efforts in addressing WASH situations in villages. **P8**, a councillor from an opposition political party narrated:

Some boreholes sponsored by NGOs are presented to the people on the ground as having been constructed by government or as ZANU PF projects. The villagers do not question it. They just ululate because they now have better access to drinking water when a borehole is close to their homesteads.

This means that some boreholes counted as government constructed were actually drilled by donors. The drilling of boreholes by NGOs close to peoples homesteads reduces the distance that people walk and enhance water and sanitation provisions. During the cholera pandemic NGOs played a pivotal role in fighting this scourge.

Boreholes Promised by Politicians During Election Years

During election years, prospective councillors and MPs use the shortage of water for drinking as a campaigning point to rally their supporters. The promise to construct boreholes in the rural areas is used as a bait to garner support. However, some community members now consider the promises as hollow

because their communities still suffer from lack of access to safe drinking water. **P3**, a villager in the area asserted that “They talk about constructing boreholes so that we can vote for them.”

P20, another villager added:

From our experience, whoever wins this ward or constituency forgets about our need for access to safe drinking water. The talk about constructing of boreholes in our area is an election song. In fact, they talk about the borehole and constructing a proper bridge river 5 kilometres away from this village. These have never materialised. This was concurred by **P1**, who asserted that:

As a community, we have to engage traditional leaders because water is a challenge. Councillors always promise but nothing yet has happened, I hope we will have boreholes soon as water is life.

The narratives above show that politicians always talk, but come short of delivering what they promise to rural communities. Once elected, the winning politicians face the reality of sourcing for funds to install boreholes. Some situations that the elected officers come across have been noted as follows:

- i. Local governance expert, the budget for each ward is given in local currency which suffers from inflationary pressures. The loss in value makes any allocation for projects fall to less than the original value midway through the five-year tenure of office between elections.
- ii. **P10**, the quotations for borehole drilling and equipment are done in foreign currency, usually the US dollar, and the budget runs out sooner than expected.
- iii. **P6**, during the campaign season the prospective councillors and MPs do not have any assurance that they will receive funding for the boreholes from government or from NGOs. They just promise in the dark and when they fail to get boreholes constructed, the villagers lose trust in them.
- iv. **P23**, Some NGOs now insist that their donations to communities must not be misrepresented by the ruling ZANU PF party representatives who tell the community that their party has sponsored the boreholes. During the inauguration of the borehole, the donors must be there physically to speak to the community members so that unscrupulous party activists do not misrepresent facts.
- v. Local governance expert, the district councils have introduced handover mechanisms where the council and the community can co-manage the maintenance of boreholes. This gives residents the opportunity to have a sense of ownership of water points they depend on. However, this does not reflect the real situation on the ground whereby NGOs and government departments train local villagers on how to repair boreholes.

P18, a sitting councillor summarised how his ward has benefitted from a borehole established in his ward:

Water is a challenge but as a councillor I make sure citizens have access to water. We have drilled a borehole in my ward. People were walking long distance of up to 5 km to fetch water before. This can result in women and girls to be sexually abused along the way, especially during dawn.

The long distances travelled by villagers to access water are a reality in Zimbabwean rural districts. This corroborates the finding by MacNeill and Wozniak (2018) that women and children suffer more than men as they travel or walk long distances to fetch drinking water for the households and that girls and women are at the risk of being sexually abused in some remote neighbourhoods.

P24, a local government worker mentioned the animosity that exists between the councils run by the opposition party and the central Local Government in charge of council, which is headed by the ruling party. There is a sustained effort by the ministry to disrupt programmes run by councils under the opposition party so that there is no remarkable progress they can achieve. The provision of boreholes has suffered stillbirth in those wards that are under the councillors who belong to the opposition party.

Conclusions

The provision of water in the Goromonzi District is pivoted on the provision of boreholes. The Ministry of Local Government; which is the parent ministry responsible for spearheading local development, should work with local authorities under its ambit. Water provision should not be politicised by political players as people have a right to water within a walking distance as stipulated by the United Nations water framework. The government must work to improve access to water by constructing boreholes and teaching people how to maintain them. When people are taught about borehole maintenance, this will reduce costs as well as distance that people walk to the nearest water point. People who are empowered know about their rights and ask for accountability from leaders thereby making themselves to have water provisions at their homes and schools. The issue of water provision is not only affecting women and girls, as it also affects the entire community livelihood sources; as the community relies mostly on horticultural farming due to its proximity to Harare. The study recommends that government should improve on the construction style of boreholes so that they can avoid collapsing in times of floods. Political players are urged to avoid politicising every project that will be implemented in the district. There is need to conserve water during the time of heavy rains than to lose all of it as run off and suffer during the dry spell.

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