

# The HEAL ZIMBABWE Healing Bulletin

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*Two football teams from Gokwe pose for a photo before final kickoff*

## Youths kick out Political Violence in Gokwe South

Kugara Hunzwana Peace club established by a community that works with Heal Zimbabwe in Gokwe South Ward 12, has utilized sports for peace tournaments to propagate message of peace and build social cohesion among the youths in Gokwe South.

On 3 August, 2016, the peace club organized a sports for peace tournament at Svisvi Primary school where 6 youth soccer teams from the ward and 4 netball teams participated in a peace cup. The teams that participated in soccer include Bhanya, Halfway Bullets, Set 4, Red Arrows, Misa Sports and Same Age boys while netball teams which participated were Svisvi Queens, Bhanya, Halfway Bullets and Set 4.

Earlier in the month of May,

the peace club had carried out a conflict mapping of the area and noted that political violence particularly during elections was hampering prospects for peace and unity in the area. The peace club targeted the youth as they are usually used to spearhead political violence by politicians. To avert this, the peace club then decided to organize a peace tournament where they specifically targeted youth soccer teams from the area. The peace club managed to mobilize 400 community members for the soccer tournament.

Before kickoff of the soccer tournament, Kugara Hunzwana peace club chairperson Rangarirai Mupatsi addressed all teams and other members of the community and stressed the importance of peaceful co-

existence and the need for tolerance among the youths as this is key for prevalence of peace in the area. "...This tournament is a milestone in our peace building efforts, I'm happy that all the teams in our ward came for this tournament. This tournament is symbolic in the sense that if we are united like this we can achieve real peace at all times...", he said.

The soccer tournament saw Bhanya and Same age boys storming into the finals after a fierce competition which saw four other teams being eliminated through knock outs. Bhanya went on to win the coveted peace cup. Each team that participated received a soccer ball engraved with peace messages. Speaking after the tournament, Bhanya football club captain, Tichaona

Bere welcomed the initiative by the peace club to target youths and encourage them to be peace champions in the area. "...Kugara Hunzwana peace club has played an important role in building peace in our area, its good they targeted the youths because youths play a key role in building peace too...", he said. The netball tournament trophy was won by Svisvi Queens club which battled out with Halfway Bullets.

The sports for peace tournaments come against a background where the peace club has been carrying out various peace building activities in the area such as collaborative neutral platforms (nhimbesh) in a bid to build social cohesion and peace. Other activities being carried out by the peace club to build peace in the area

include Community dialogues and Women safe spaces for reconciliation.

Youth sports for peace tournaments are sporting activities meant to mobilise young people to come together and play games. Sports are a unifying agent for young people and their communities, particularly those from divided communities. During sports for peace tournaments, youth have an opportunity to interact and form lasting relationships with others from various socio-economic and political groupings, backgrounds as well as geographic locations. The sports for peace tournaments are implemented by peace club as a way to build peace in local communities.

# Need for water unites villagers in Mbire



*Peace club members taking part in the nhimbe*

**P**revalence of peace in most rural communities is something that every community member yearns for as it brings development. However to achieve that, there are a lot of hurdles that communities must overcome. In most rural communities, the effects of climate change have greatly affected such an achievement. Water sources have also dried up and this has created a lot of conflicts and scramble for this natural resource within communities. Against all odds some communities have managed to strive for peace by rallying community members together through various activities that encourage

social cohesion and development. Such is the story of Kubatana peace club which operates in Mbire ward 12 which has been established by a community that works with Heal Zimbabwe. On 5 August 2016, the peace club mobilised the local community for a collaborative neutral platform (nhimbe) where they were fencing a local borehole. The event was attended by 70 community members who included Village head Masanduka. The borehole serves four villages in the area which are Masandauka, Dzaramba, Tudhu and Chiwapura. The peace club utilized the nhimbe of fencing the borehole as an opportunity to address the conflict of water that they identi-

fied when they carried out a conflict mapping of their area in the month of May as a major cause of most conflicts in their area. Village head Musandauka hailed the initiative by the peace club as a positive step in encouraging social cohesion and peace among community members. *“Today is a historic day for us, although we have water challenges in our area, but we have realised that working together like this encourages prevalence of peace and help us to be responsible community members,* he said. Several community members who spoke to Heal Zimbabwe at the nhimbe hailed the effort by Kubatana peace to try and bring peace

in the area and expressed willingness to join the peace club.

**T**he nhimbe by Kubatana peace club comes against a backdrop where all community peace clubs established by Heal Zimbabwe have carried out conflict mapping exercises in their areas where they identified activities that they would implement to minimize conflicts and the stakeholders who would help in mitigating the conflicts. Community peace clubs in Gutu, Zaka, Tsholotsho, Buhera, Gokwe, Muzarabani, Mazowe, Buhera, Mutasa and Chipinge are also carrying out activities such as nhimbés, dialogues and sports for peace in order to minimize conflicts in their areas.



*Village head, Musandauka outlines the importance of peace*



*Councillor Jeketa responds to some questions raised during*

## Community peace club vow to end violence and champion peace.

A community peace club (CPC), Mutonhori peace club that has been established by a community that works with Heal Zimbabwe in Zaka ward 22 has intensified its peace building initiatives in the area. On 11 August 2016, the CPC mobilized community members for a collaborative neutral platform (nhimbe) where they were carrying pit sand required for a school block construction at Muchokwa Primary school. The nhimbe was attended by Ward Councillor, Mr. Jeketa, Headman Mutonhori and seven other Village heads. The collaborative platform was part of the peace club's action plan after it successfully carried out a conflict mapping exercise earlier in the month of July. During the mapping exercise, the CPC noted that there was need to engage more duty bearers and rights holders in the activities of the peace club in order to spread the message of peace and social cohesion. The nhimbe afforded villagers an opportunity to interface with their local leaders on pertinent issues that affect development and threaten peace in the area.

At the nhimbe, Ward Councillor, Jeketa noted that in the past, violence had stalled development as there

was no spirit of unity and oneness among community members. "...In the past, it has been difficult to work together because people had become enemies of each other but its encouraging that Mutonhori peace club has been initiating peace initiatives in the area. We should never allow should always strive to build peace in our area" he said. Community members present also vowed to continue cultivating a culture of tolerance as this is key for the promotion of peace and development in the area. The nhimbe was attended by 150 community members. Nhimbés are one among many activities being implemented by community peace clubs to rebuild community relations and social cohesion.

A nhimbe is a neutral platform where people from diverse social-economic and political groupings come together to work as a community for the common good of their community or village. A nhimbe follows the traditional practice of bringing together people to work as a family in the direction of a peace club. The process of holding nhimbés contributes towards improved community cohesion and reduces conflicts.



*Community members taking part in the nhimbe*

# Tsholotsho community peace clubs strive to end water conflicts through Amalima

Water remains a precious resource that is vital to peace and development. Tsholotsho is a semi-arid region which receives minimal rainfall and this greatly affects water reservoirs such as boreholes and dams which end up drying up before rainy season. In most cases, people end up competing or sharing water sources with livestock as water sources fast dry up. The few functional boreholes in the various wards are old and not always reliable through the dry spells. When they do break down due to over-use and demand, community members have to contribute money for the repair. Given the harsh economic environment that has seen rural communities being the most affected, some community

members fail to make contributions towards the repair of the boreholes. When this happens, most community members accuse those who would have failed to pay contributions as having contributed to the breakdown of the borehole. In some cases, defaulters are even threatened that they will be denied access to water. This has thus created conflict around water sources. It is against such a background that Isolezwe peace club that operates in Tsholotsho ward 1 carried out a conflict mapping exercise in the month of May. During the conflict mapping exercise, they identified water being the major problem that was fueling most conflicts in the area since the few boreholes in the area were not meeting

the community's water demands. The peace club also identified key stakeholders whom they should engage in order to resolve the conflict.

To engage stakeholders, the peace club identified a collaborative neutral platform as an activity that would rally the community together in preparation for the community dialogue that was going to be convened by Traditional leaders in the area. The nhimbe would also enhance social cohesion and promote peace and encourage community members to live peacefully. The peace club members organized their fellow community members to embark on road maintenance. They selected the road that connects Samahuru clinic and Sadaka clinic. Shrubs

had blocked the road made it difficult for vehicles to transport medicals to Samahuru clinic and Sadoka clinic. The peace club also managed to mobilize community members from Ward 1 who saw the need to actively participate since Samahuru clinic was beneficial to the whole community. Kraalhead, Reuben Ndlovu highlighted to the community that the purpose of the ilima was to educate the community on the importance and need for peace in the community. *"Today we are gathered here and our message is clear, peace begins with all of us, as it is important for devel-*

*opment,* he said. The ilima was attended by 50 community members from the area and the peace club working with Traditional leaders will convene a community dialogue where they will discuss on possible ways to end water conflicts in the area. The nhimbe is part of Heal Zimbabwe community peace clubs initiative to help end and minimize conflicts within communities. Other initiatives aimed at building social capital spearheaded by peace clubs include soccer for peace tournaments and women safe spaces for peace.



*Isolezwe peace club members taking part in the nhimbe*

## About Heal Zimbabwe Trust



celebrating diversity • overcoming adversity

Our mission is to rebuild national cohesion through promotion of tolerance and peaceful co-existence in local communities with a vision of a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe, which celebrates political, cultural and religious diversity and promotes peaceful co-existence in local communities



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