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DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES

A dissertation submitted to the Midlands State University to the Department of Local Governance Studies in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of ScienceLocal Governance Studies Honours Degree

EVALUATING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EXTERNAL FUNDING IN

UNDERDEVELOPED RURAL AREAS OF ZIMBABWE. A CASE OF MBIRE RDC

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Declaration: I hereby declare that this research is a product of my own individual, industrious, and original efforts. The work has not been presented elsewhere for academic or any other conceivable purposes. The views of others used to augment or clarify issues have duly been acknowledged.

APPROVAL LETTER

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The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to the Midlands State University for acceptance of a dissertation entitled: Evaluating the significance of external funding in underdeveloped rural areas of Zimbabwe. A Case of Mbire RDC

SUBMITTED BY: KUDZAI PERCY SIYAVIZVA (R12211T) in partial fulfilment of the requirements of a Bachelor of Science Local Governance Studies Honours Degree

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this piece of work to my late mother Stella Makotore who passed on in 2003 when I was still a little boy for her insurmountable love. It is only through the legacies of her love which made this dissertation possible. She has always wanted to see her only son growing up having the best of life. This work serves to satisfy the wish of my mother showing her that your son is now a man with intellectual capability. I wish to continue painting a smile on her face bearing good fruits of her sweat so that she can be proud of me.

Abstract

The study evaluated the impact of external funding in Mbire RDC through the assessment of the projects that are being implemented. The thrust of this project is premised on the fact that despite the presence of donor agencies Mbire RDC remains one of the most underdeveloped and impoverished district in the country. Donor funding has proved to be insignificant since the local communities continue to perform dismal in every aspect of their lives. The socio-economic livelihoods of the society remain miserable whilst there are over seventeen non-governmental organizations operating in the district. The study embarked on scholarly review and perspectives concerning external funding and underdevelopment. The study findings highlighted that total positive transformation will never take place since there are numerous factors militating against development. These challenges were investigated through interviewing the government departments, the local authorities, the non-governmental organizations operating in the district, questionnaires to the community, observations and documentary reviews. It utilized both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The major findings was that there is too much political interference, the prevalence of corruptive tendencies, stifled internal policies, the public attitude, high dependency syndrome and lastly but not least lack of sustainability. The study noted that exclusion of some structures in a rural set up compromises citizenry participation. The study regarded these factors as major impediments to the continuity and viability of externally funded projects. Finally, the research made conclusions and recommendations, one of the recommendations being that there is need to regard the community as the stakeholders in planning and management of projects rather than beneficiaries which creates a sense of ownership.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
MRDC	Mbire Rural District Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
RDC	Rural District Council
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management for Indigenous Resources
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HDI	Human Development Index
HPI	Human Poverty Index
PPPs	Public-Private Partnership
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
WFP	World Food Programme
LGDA	Lower Guruve Development Association
PASS	Poverty Assessment Study Survey
PAC	Productive Asset Creation
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisations
KARIBA REDD	Kariba Reduced Emission Degradation and Deforestation
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I: RESEARCH INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

CHAPTER V: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

LIST OF APPENDICES

Chapter I
INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Zimbabwean rural local authorities resorted to public-private partnership as a response strategy in addressing the needs of the people under their jurisdiction. The rationale behind being that the provision of services to the public has been inevitably deteriorating over the years. The quest of external intervention is to see rural local authorities utilising the funds in an accountable manner to improve service delivery. However, it is surprising that in Zimbabwean rural areas where non-governmental organisations are heavily operating livelihoods remain miserably impoverished. The research seeks to evaluate whether the existence of external funding is really addressing the needs of the rural people, the research also seeks to investigate the main challenges hindering the effectiveness of external funding. The study will embark on a needs assessment focusing on Non-governmental organisations operations incorporating all the concerned stakeholders. The chapter will focus on the following topics; the background of the study, history of Mbire RDC, statement of the problem, significance of the study, objectives, delimitation, limitations and the definition of terms.

1.1 Background to the study

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country which comprises of the urban and the rural areas. ZIMSTAT (2012) stated that rural areas form the larger population of Zimbabwe with 60% and 40% for urban areas. Since the post-colonial era in the early 1980s rural areas facilities were not so good that people migrated from the rural areas to urban areas. In so doing this caused a massive influx of the population in the urban areas increasing pressure on resources and services. However, this scenario did not relieve the rural local authorities as the situation started to worsen and service delivery continuously deteriorated alongside the economy in the early 1990s. It is argued that there are numerous factors which initiated this random deterioration inter alia the new economic policies that were put in place such as the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme new

polices (ESAPs) .

A few years later the Land Reform Programme followed with grave repercussions to the economy and to the social lives of the people accelerating a collateral damage which was already underway. Automatically service delivery in every sector was compromised but the impact was largely seen in local authorities since they are close to the people. The situation became very tense that local authorities seemed to be neglecting some parts of the district under their jurisdiction. This situation became totally unacceptable which led to the formation of one of the most impoverished and underdeveloped Mbire Rural District Council. By so doing the situation attracted the intervention of external funding as a measure to activate the livelihoods of Mbire socially and economically.

This study regarded external funding as resources intervention of private sectors engaging in partnerships with the local authority in funding sustainable projects. External funding aims at complementing the fiscal base of local authorities which are performing dismally so as to enhance effective and efficient service delivery. The main key players of external funding are the Non-Governmental Organisations which are generally the aiding agencies in underdeveloped nations. The community, the local authorities and government departments are also major players of external funding.These organizations are mostly internationally funded and their funds are directed towards addressing the needs of the marginalized groups.

1.1.1   Historical Background of Mbire RDC

Rural District councils are set by means of Presidential proclamation which is established in the Government Gazette as enshrined in the Rural District Council's Act Chapter 29:13 Section 8(1). The proclamation will include the type of the council, the name of the council, the area which the council is operating and number of Wards under its jurisdiction. Whenever there is need for the establishment and adjustments for the council, the president with the minister's advice may pass a recommendation. The minister may set up a commission to find out the system that would serve the interest of the residents and the state. The commission then writes a report to the minister and the minister would make her/his recommendations after considering the report.

Mbire RDC is located some 230kms north of Harare. It covers an area formerly known as lower Guruve. Mbire RDC came into being on the 5th of July 2006 after Guruve RDC splitted into two districts. The split saw Mbire RDC standing on its own after Presidential Proclamation to split the former Guruve district into two. It is one of the eight administrative districts of Mashonaland Central Province. The newly born district seemingly consisted of the most neglected and impoverished rural areas faced the consequences of its birth at a greater height before it pulled any development stunt. It was unfortunate that the newly born district was welcomed with the 2008 total economic fiasco which comprised of excessive droughts, economic sanctions, subsequent shut down of industries and hyperinflation. In this manner service delivery was severely undermined that the situation attracted external funding from various stakeholders within and beyond borders which are basically the Non-Governmental organisations. The NGOs came as way of complementing the local tires of governments' effort in trying to deliver quality services to the public.

The area stretches from Mahuwe rural service centre in the south, bordering with Guruve RDC. The border is made up of an escapement that stretches from Mt Darwin passing through Muzarabani to the Zambezi River. In the western side, Mbire RDC borders with Doma Safari. In the Eastern side it borders with Muzarabani RDC, Utete and Musengezi River forming the boundary. In the northern direction, the council borders with Zambia, the Zambezi River forming the kanyemba Zambian border. In the North-east the district borders with Mozambique and the boundary is formed between the two countries towards the Musengezi River.

According to ZIMSTAT baseline survey conducted in 2012 census report, the district has an estimated population of eighty one thousand people. The district is divided into 17 wards as shall be shown on the district map. It has three female councillors and fourteen male councillors. The district has a total of 12 clinics, 1 district referral hospital, 34 Primary schools and 15 Secondary schools.

The main source of revenue for Mbire RDC is the CAMPFIRE programme since it is in the semi-arid area of Zimbabwe. In this programme the council engaged three Safari operators who

were given hunting concessions in the areas under Mbire RDC's jurisdiction. The operators receive 50%, the council 23%, CAMPFIRE 2% and the community receives 25% of the total revenue which they get from their monthly hunts. Game monitors are deployed to monitor the daily activities of the operators.

From its inception in July 2006, Mbire RDC sought to play a more influential role and promoting effective local governance and lobbying on its behalf and build partner support from the public, the government, the private sector and international development agencies.

Fig.1 Mbire RDC Map
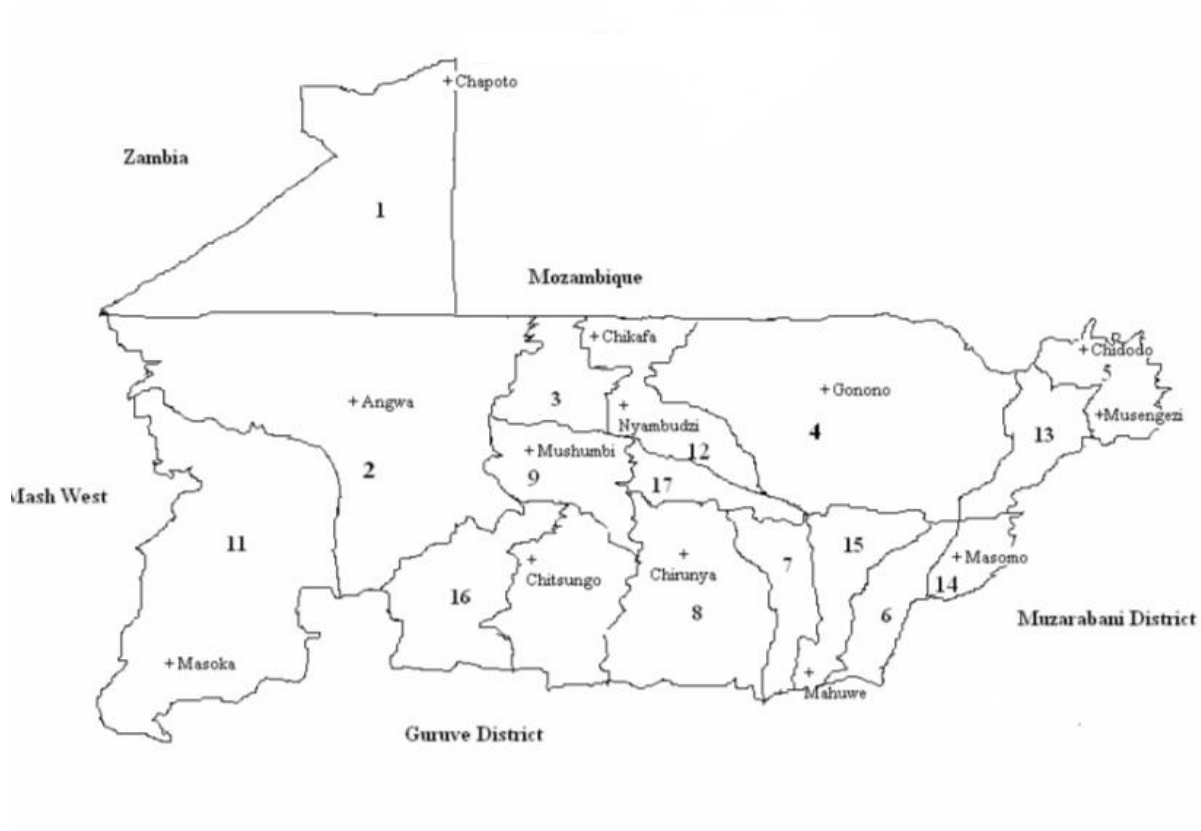
1.1.2   Regional context

The study decided to take a glance at regional level on how NGOs are initiating rural development in selected countries of Southern Africa. Most African counties like South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana resorted to external funding. External intervention is significantly playing a critical role in changing the lives of rural populace in the mentioned countries. Nzimakwe (2008) pointed out that the concept of non-governmental organization (NGO) must be recognized in line with its remarkable purpose of increasing the quality of lives especially in miserable situations. There is a remarkable rapid growth of NGOs in South Africa which are busy undertaking development initiatives making a handful contribution to the South African society .It can be realized that South African local economic development is performing very well due to NGOs like, inter alia, Kagiso Trust and Rural Foundations .These organizations are complementing the local authorities by promoting community development forming programs that do away with the legacies of apartheid. Beyond the region, In parts of Africa like Ghana Non-Governmental Organizations have formed an important ally with the local authorities in ensuring an efficient and effective development process. Ghana seems to be more dominated with local NGOs which plays a pivotal role in complementing the state efforts.

1.2   Statement of the problem

Mbire RDC is widely known for its backwardness in terms of social, economic and infrastructural development. This can be apparently shown by low literacy rate, miserable poverty, poor infrastructure, high levels of unemployment and disease infested. The district is located in the Zambezi Valley with the prevalence of floods and dry spells which greatly affect crop production that the local people survive on flood plain cultivation which doesn't sustain the whole community. The local authority partners with various development organisations funding the implementation of numerous local economic projects as a measure to sustain services and enhance development and rescuing the society from poverty and hunger but it seems there are some hindrances to the total eradication of poverty. In spite of the inflow of external funding intervention there are no indicators to show that there is a positive impact on their socio-economic front of the district. Mbire RDC continues to unleash poor service delivery embarking on unsustainable projects forming a poverty infested society. Hence the investigation revolves around the factors that are militating against utilization of donor funding, eradication of poverty

and development. The major hindrances seem to be corruption, politics, public attitude, internal policies among other things.

1.3   Objectives

To explore the major restricting forces that are militating against rural development in rural district councils in a bid to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of external funding.

- ➢ To evaluate the significance of external funding in rural development

- ➢ To assess prevailing challenges which deters the maximum utilisation of donor funding in Mbire RDC

- ➢ To assess externally funded existing projects and their socio-economic impact to the livelihoods of the people of Mbire.

- ➢ To recommend poverty alleviation strategies that can be utilised by Mbire RDC and other RDCs

1.4   Research questions

- ➢ Does external funding initiate rural development?

- ➢ Which are these challenges and how do they affect the operations of non-governmental organisations?

- ➢ What can be regarded as socio-economic in relation to the livelihoods of Mbire?

- ➢ What are the solutions that can be put in place to get rid of these challenges and improve the welfare of the society?

1.5   Significance of the study

It can be apparently seen that underdevelopment symptoms continued to befall on the district of Mbire despite the availability of external funding. The study seeks to expose the major perpetrators who or which renders the failure of the intended idea. The investigation will clearly outline each and every aiding agency and its activities in Mbire RDC. The local authority is also one of the major key players to the success of donor funding since it's the one which articulates the key issues to be addressed at the local level. In this manner it is logical to interrogate the in-depth elements when the local authority is receiving the private actors, whether the local authority is properly executing its roles or it largely deters the operations of the donor activities. It is significantly important to locate the viruses that have a greater bearing on supressing rural sustainable development in Mbire RDC. Several scholars wrote about rural underdevelopment but have failed to highlight tangible factors why a positive change fail to kick start even aiding agencies are in place. Most local authorities and the government will benefit from this research since it's going to expose the unforeseen and the common problems which deter the operations of non-governmental organisations. Misi (2013) in his related research pointed out that despite donor funding in Mudzi RDC the socio-economic livelihoods of the people remain minimal. The study is an updated version to the similar literatures which will benefit the present and future generation in the related academic circles.

1.6   Delimitation

The study was carried out at Mbire RDC in Mashonaland Central. The study will focus on analysing partnerships established by Mbire RDC with numerous Non-Governmental Organisations in a quest to improve the livelihoods of the rural people. It will highlight if there are any changes which were brought about by this initiative in addressing the needs and expectations of the rural society.

Mbire RDC is situated in the northen part of Zimbabwe in the Dande Area within the Zambezi Valley. It is made up of 17 political wards each being represented by a councillor. Mbire RDC has an estimated population of 90 000. In the southern side Mbire RDC is separated from Guruve

RDC with an escarpment which stretches from some parts of Muzarabani RDC forming a boundary of the district with Mahuwe growth point, ward 6, ward 8 and ward 14 which are situated along the escarpment. In the eastern side, the district shares the boundary with Muzarabani District which stretches to the north-east where the district will continue to share the boundary with Mozambique. In the northern side, ward 1 share the boundary with Luangwa District of Zambia the mighty Zambezi River demarcating Kanyemba shopping centre and Fera growth point of Zambia. The western part is mostly dominated with hunting concessions since it's a wildlife infested district. In general, this explains Mbire RDC.

1.7   Limitations

➢ Due to mixed feelings of the respondents towards the operations of the local authority and private actors some tend to give false information either negative or positive which greatly compromises the quality of data to be collected.

➢ The researcher faced some resistance from the council officials due to fear of exposing information which they regard as confidential so somehow the researcher would not come up with a true picture. However, clearance will be sought for the protection of the researcher and for cooperation from the Council Officials.

1.8   Summary

The chapter looked at the background of the study exploring the Zimbabwean situation which attracted the intervention of external funding. It went on beyond borders highlighting the regional context on how donor funding is compatible on Zimbabwean counterparts in Africa. The statement of the problem gave a brief analysis on the actual situation regarding to underdevelopment in Mbire RDC. More significantly, the study is necessitated by the restraining factors to development. The next chapter will recognise various related authorities who pursued relevant theoretical frameworks in complementing this study.

Chapter II
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0   Introduction

The following chapter seeks to assess various literatures and perceptions of numerous scholars that were put forward in examining the significance of external funding, its challenges and causes of underdevelopment in developing countries. The study will explore their opinions filling up the ideological gaps which shall be identified in the long run in a quest to improve the quality of material related to this study.

2.1   The conceptual framework of External Funding

The concept of external funding has been mostly understood in developing countries where external funding is playing a significant role in initiating development. External funding came in as a standing measure to fight against extreme poverty which has befallen rural areas in most parts of developing countries. These voluntary organisations are there in giving hope to developing countries in achieving MDGs. United Nations (1997) pointed out that, the Poverty Assessment Study Survey (PASS), carried out in 1995, showed a high incidence of poverty in Zimbabwe, with 62% of the population classified as poor and 46% classified as very poor, The study also found that 75% of the poor live in rural areas, compared to 39% in urban areas. Of the rural poor, 72% were found among female-headed households, compared to 58% from male-headed households. The main causes of poverty were identified as unemployment, retrenchment and drought. Poverty reduction is no doubt the greatest challenge the country is facing today. Local authorities are failing to embark on local economic development which provides business development, workforce development, community cash flow and infrastructure development. It is very apparent that underdevelopment is the major inflictor of poverty in rural areas. The coming in of external funding is more like a reactive measure in addressing the unwelcoming repercussions of underdevelopment. Kuhnen (1987) pointed in the course of time it became obvious that this was more or less a treatment of symptoms instead of causes, and the gap gradually widened between the developed and less developed countries of this world .It can be

realized that development efforts proved to be futile clearly because they gave attention to the immediate problems not digging the roots which gives birth to them which are blatantly causes of underdevelopment.

2.2   Types of External Funding

External funding can be recognised in various ways. It depends with the issue on the ground to be addressed**.** This determines the type of funding to be embarked on. The donor organisation may also determine the type of funding depending on their area of interest. The following are the types of external funding from the updated literatures that were consulted during the time of study.These types were extracted from the Unicef Public Partnerships document of October 2015.

Regular Resources-Regular resources (RR)are the most adaptable commitment for UNICEF and pivotal for the organistaion to have the capacity to store its Strategic Plan. As non-reserved resources, these can be most deliberately utilized. Regular Resources are the establishment on which UNICEF assembles programs that change the lives of children, with an emphasis on the individuals who are heavily marginalised. They are not fated to any particular project or action, and can subsequently be moved towards regions of developing need or to fill crevices as required. Unfaltering and unsurprising RR financing permits UNICEF to respond rapidly to new difficulties through surges in crisis reaction, and additionally to furnish seed capital with which to create imaginative methodologies and influence resources in conveying projects.

Thematic funding- While Regular Resources continue to be the most adaptable commitments for donor agencies, thematic funding is the second-most productive and compelling commitments to the organisations. Thematic funding disbursed on a needs premise, and takes into consideration longer-term arranging and manageability of projects. A financing pool has been built up for each of the Strategic Plan 2014-17 result regions and in addition for compassionate activity and sex. Resources accomplices can contribute thematic funding on the worldwide, provincial or nation level.

Humanitarian funding- In a humanitarian emergency, donor organisations can quickly give life-sparing aid to meet the rights and needs of women and children by acquiring vital resources in an opportune way. UNICEF does this by issuing UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children which highlights the circumstance of women and children worldwide attracts consideration regarding the support expected to offer these children and women. UNICEF also effectively taking part in the inter-agency strategic response strategy.(SRPs). It also dispensestremendously the required assets inside 48 hours of a sudden helpful emergency through the Emergency Program Fund (EPF).

*Pooled fund*s-Pooled funds are made of contributions from other benefactors. This modality is managed for several nations through direct allocation to country offices such as thematic funding (Medium-Term Strategic Plan and humanitarian through a joint programme mechanism using the administrative agent or managing agent. UNICEF (2015) reiterated that joint funding such as MDTFs and pooled funds for joint programmes is held in a trust account, which is not recognized as revenue to UNICEF until the funds are disbursed for programmes.

2.3   Theoretical framework of Underdevelopment

The causes of underdevelopment have been contextualised in various theories by numerous scholars. This study has the quest to furnish readers with the theoretical explanations that were put forward by other remarkable sources. The inclusion of these theories helps readers to comprehend the term underdevelopment. Furthermore these theories go deeper in exposing the causes of underdevelopment.

2.3.1   Modernisation Theories

These can be called the backwardness theories. Engerman (2011)propounded out that modernization was a belief system, an uncommon instance of American radicalism that formed how American authorities comprehended and acted towards those nations they saw economically backwards. Michael Latham ranks as a pioneer in the presently thriving chronicled grant on America's endeavours to modernize in the rest of the world in the other half of the twentieth

century. According to modernization theories, there are factors that are internal which greatly influences underdevelopment within communities. These factors include illiteracy, traditional agrarian structures, the traditional attitude of the societies, low division of labour, lack of proper infrastructure and poor communication facilities. The modernisation theories held the above mentioned points responsible for underdevelopment experienced in developing nations. Kuhnen (1987) pointed out that contrasts in structure and verifiable historical bases are considered of little significance; international dependencies are not considered. The modernisation theories highly apply to a situation in Mbire RDC currently. The district is too backwards that it's only 30% of the total population that can read and write which can be regarded as very poor. This is basically caused by the fact that the community does not prioritize education that they can persuade their children to go to school.

Children are walking long distances at least 10kilometres to access a nearby primary school which is a scenario which highly discourages both parents and their children. In this manner, female children are at a greater disadvantage since they are being impregnated at a tender age. This is a situation which attracted NGOs like Save the Children and Women and Gender in partnership with the local authority. The partnerships mainly focused on the wellbeing of children in the district encouraging them to go school. Save the Children started funding children with all the resources necessary for them to develop a positive attitude towards school for instance bicycles, books, wheelchairs to those with disabilities and even the payment of school fees. It is because Save the children realised that Mbire RDC will remain backwards if it doesn't prepare for the future generation.

Infrastructure and communication facilities in Mbire RDC are very poor in the whole district which deters a lot of investors. Network is even very poor even at one of the main shopping centre which is Mahuwe though Econet Wireless is trying to improve the issue of network in various parts of the district. The modernisation theories state that difference in infrastructural development as compared to industrialised countries is the degree of backwardness which has to be made up for, so that the developing countries can reach the stage of industrialised countries as soon as possible. Roads are one of the major problems which have led to the withdrawal of numerous investors which had seemed to be rendered by the abuse of funds by the government

officials. On the map the road which stretches from Mahuwe to Kanyemba of about 150km metres is marked tarred on the map whilst on the actual ground is a stone gully dust road which only allows high terrain vehicles. The backwardness of the district also came through corrupt actions of the government officials. It was only through the external philanthropist intervention of the hunters such as Charlton Mclumn and HHk safaris in the hunting concessions who managed to mobilise resources to resurface the main road since it carries a huge amount of traffic but not conducive.

2.3.2   Dependency theories

Dependency theories points out that the developing countries are too depended to the industrialized countries which render their economies stagnant. The level of development in in industrialised countries and the downward development of third world countries are seen as parts of a historical process that developing countries are always dependent. The success of the industrialised countries development process is usually guided by their political and economic interest. According to the dependency theories underdevelopment is not regarded as backwardness but as intended downwards development. There are various causes of dependence chief among them being the economic factors which can be made apparent by the external trade theory. Another dominating factor is political interest which can be stressed at length through imperialism theory. The weakness of these theories is that the only focus on the genesis of the situation but does not pay attention on how to overcome the situation.

External trade theory
The external trade theory postulates that the structure of international trade only permits industrialised nations to enjoy the benefits of it through the concept of supply and demand. The unfair transfer of resources between the two unequal nations makes it impossible for development to kick start in developing countries.

Theories of Circular Deterioration of terms of trade- The manner in which industrialized countries produce products and buy raw materials from the developing countries and the other way round suppresses economic growth of developing countries. Technological advancement in

industrialized countries enables them to improve their living standards through increased incomes. Due to the demand of the products which they produce which is elastic they tend to enforce high prices which greatly unleash problems on the economy of third world countries. In return raw materials are exchanged on low prices because of their inelastic demand. In this manner the theory points out that there seem to be a deterioration of relations between the agricultural sector and the industrialized one.

*Theory of Immiserising Growth-*the immiserising theory emulates the theories of circular deterioration of terms of trade since it advocates for increment of exports in compensating low prices imposed by the developed countries. The structure of supply and demand intensifies but causing more dependency and no development takes place to the agricultural economies. Consequentially, this situation speeds up industrialization enhancing their economies to grow bigger.

2.4   The Concepts of Development

2.4.1   Social Development

Billance (1997) defined social development as promoting a sustainable society which caters for human dignity by empowering the neglected groups both women and men, to undertake their own development, to improve their social and economic status and to acquire their rightful place in the society."Social Development is equality of social opportunities" Amartya Sen, 1995.The human development report (1999) definedhuman development as the process of ensuring people's choices. The most vital choices that people should be granted include a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and income, assets and employment for a decent standard of living. Human development is more concerned with the formation of human capabilities such as improved health or knowledge. It also concerns the utilization of these capabilities. The Copenhagen Social summit (1995) differentiated social development into three aspects which include poverty eradication, employment generation and social harmony.

Tamilnadu Social Development Report (2000) pointed out that the human development reports of UNDP have developed indices such as the Human Development Index (HDI), the Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender-related Development Index (GDI).

*The Human Development Index-*The Social Development Report (2000) put the HDI in terms of several dimensions which are life longevity, knowledge basically adult literacy and combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment. The HDI also includes decent standard of living the real income per capita.

*The Human Poverty Index-*this aspect represented the most deprived group of the society, it looks at the deprivations of major elements to a decent human life.The human poverty index uses indicators that capture non-financial elements of poverty, such as life expectancy, adult literacy, water quality, and children that are underweight (Angus Maddison, 2002). It also looks at the percentage of the education levels and the illiterate adults. The overall economic provisions generally the percentage of the people without access to health services and water.

The Gender-Related Development Index- it measures the above mentioned variables taking note on the issue of gender equality between women and men. The social development report (2002) pointed out that it is the availability and accessibility of resources equally to both men and women and the number of women who occupies influential positions in the society

2.4.2   The Economic Development Concept

Economic development is a process whereby an economy's real national income as well as per capita income increases over a long period of time. The term economic development is usually used in numerous other synonyms such as economic welfare, economic growth, economic progress, secular change and social justice. According to Prof Meier and Baldwin economic development is a process whereby there is an increment in the economy's real income over a long period of time. The authors referred the process as the operation as actions which brings about change in certain variables basically in the supply of the important factors and the structure

of products demands. A developed economy has better arrangement of production in corners, improved infrastructure, mode of transport and communication, efficiency of labour, improved standards of education, high expectations of life, flamboyant leisure and more recreational facilities and capital resources.

2.4.3   Political Development Concept

One can only tell that there is political development due to some certain indicators which deals with democracy basically human rights and freedom of trade unions. The workers Education and Environmental Project (1996) pointed out that trade unions stresses the significance of democratic structures, respect for their rights and their inclusion in the process of making decisions which are essential elements of political development. Diamond (1990) propounded that democracy is a meaningful and extensive competition among individuals, groups, political parties in attaining power in government at regular intervals without inflicting force, a highly exclusive level of political participation in the selection of leaders and policies through regular free and fair elections. Democracy renders good governance whereas World Bank (1992) defined good governance as sound development management encompassing public sector management, legal framework which promotes development, accountability and transparency.

2.5   The Historical background of external funding

Gilmurray et al (1979) asserted that the origins of Non-Governmental Organizations date back to the conclusions of the Second World War II in the 1960s. The rationale behind their formation was premised on the rehabilitation of a war devastated Europe socially, politically and economically. Initially they sought to provide welfare services which included psychological counseling meant to minimize social trauma caused by the war (Sibusisiwe 2011)

Since the pre-colonial era the idea of community development have been prevalent in enhancing the lives of the society. Misi (2013) said that soon after independence on the 18th of April 1980 a post war imminent reconstruction took place and many foreign donors intervened in supporting of it. Sichone (2003) mentioned that the reconstruction of the economy was basically fruitful

then because it was perhaps reintegrated in the world's economy. Fernandez (1987) pointed out that the voluntary sector have always been available in articulating the needs of the poor people, initiating development in the unreached areas, provision of essential services and inflicting behavior change, controlling discrimination, educating the localities in handling the environment and capacitating the marginalized groups such as the disabled in enhancing their productivity.

Uwhejevwe-Togbolo (2005) propounded that a striking upsurge was realised as being under way all around the globe in organizing voluntary activity and the creation of private, non-profit or non-governmental organizations. The third world countriesare characterized by poverty mostly due to prevailing political atmospheres in their countries. Due to this scenario the benefits of the economy are concentrated in the same hands not being distributed evenly apparently because it is the same regime that occupies all the lucrative positions over the years.

In the early 1990s, the government of Zimbabwe made several economic policies, the Economic structural adjustments Programmes (ESAPs) which ended up as a fiasco turning to be one of the major perpetrators of economic meltdown. Frank (1972) in Misi (2013) propounded that externally imposed constraints on health, education and welfare measures and social programmes, liberalization of price controls and the dismantling of state owned enterprises contributed to the widening of internal disparities. There was trading imbalances which continued to inflict more damage on the already deteriorating Zimbabwean economy. In this manner, poverty and hunger rocked the Zimbabwean communities which saw the inflow of external funding especially in remote areas like Mbire RDC. Misi (2013) reiterated that poverty is usually noticed as the barrier to sustainable development and the main cause of the dependency syndrome in developing countries that needs external assistance.

The significance of external funding has been increasing every day in making the lives of the communities in developing countries worthwhile. Zimbabwe is estimated to have in excess of 2000 NGOs which are engaged in a wide range of development work stretching from children's rights, advancement of women, disabled persons, HIV/ AIDS, environment protection, democracy and governance, vocational skills training, poverty alleviation to human rights, humanitarian aid to rural development (Sibusiwe 2011) It can be realized that more than 50% of

the budget of countries like Mozambique is based on external funding. Krieger (2012) pointed out that the most recognizable aid in Africa was being received in Ethiopia due to its lamentable record of politics.

2.6   The role of Local Authorities on External Funding (NGOs) in Zimbabwe

Local authorities are local tires of government responsible for making and implementing policies at local levels. In this manner, it is the duty of the local authorities to receive NGOs who seeks to operate in their areas of jurisdiction. The local authority is also obliged to source for external funding in the manner public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the best interest of the public. This responsible authority has an obligation to register and to monitor the donor organisations operating in the district. The District Administrator's office has an advisory role on incoming donor funding organizations. The donor organizations can only be legitimized by producing a clearance letter from the Provincial Administrator's (PA) office.

The organizations shall also attain a Private Voluntary Organization registration number from the Government Department of Social services which shall be shown to the local authority. The desirability of the of the organization will be deliberated through the convening of the special social services meeting which shall determine the need for the organization's operation. The social services committee meeting deliberations will decide whether to grant the organization the authority to operate in the district or not. If the social services committee does not see the essence of the organization in addressing the needs of the public usually it will be denied the authority to operate. In a case that the organization has been granted the chance the committee will recommend the organization to the full council for final endorsements. Misi (2013) pointed out that this is a procedure and a political move to make sure that donor organizations succumb to local laws governing the countries.

When the donor organization approaches the local authority and the recommendation is made and adopted by the full council the organization will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which guides the relationship between the local authority and the organization. The (MOU) is generally the code of conduct between the two. The contents of the MOU are based on the consensus reached by the two .For instance Mbire RDC signed a MOU with World Vision which stated that it

shall build offices in the district but upon its withdrawal after the contract has expired the offices will be council's property. Zimbabwe's Non-Governmental Organizations Bill stated that the council has a new responsibility to cancel the registration in a case that the organization has ceased to operate if no longer furthering its registered objective.

However, these procedures seem to be tiresome and time consuming to the detriment of social and economic development. It can be realized that the local authorities are taking long in scrutinizing NGOs rather than paying more attention to the desired change needed. Misi (2013) pointed out that the local authority is empowered to enforce accountability on the part of the donor organizations, so there is need to put in place the relevant legal frameworks establishing structures to monitor and evaluate the progress of these organizations. The local authority will monitor and evaluate the activities of the organization during the implementation of projects to see if the local populace are benefiting.

It can be argued that local authorities seems to be lacking goal orientation since their dependency syndrome is becoming high, If the organization withdraws from a certain project the local authority will also withdraw so there will be no sustainability. Local authorities do not realize that these projects are meant to benefit their people; instead they are focusing on putting the organisations on a tight leash so that they won't meddle in Zimbabwean politics. The Rural District Council's Act Chapter 29.13 empowers rural district councils in Sectioned 74 to monitor the implementation of development plans and policies within the council area. In this manner they tend to be very strict with the NGOs hindering their flexibility. It is also the responsibility of the local authorities to provide suitable and strategic points or land for NGOs to establish their projects.

2.7   Legislative framework

An NGO can only operate in Zimbabwe when adhering to a certain legal framework. The most important statutory instrument which guides the NGOs is the Private and Voluntary Organizations Act Chapter 17:05. The Private Voluntary Organizations Act Chapter enshrines

those private voluntary organizations to be registered. It postulates that "no private voluntary organization shall commence or continue to carry on its activities or seek financial assistance from any source unless it has been registered in respect of the particular object or objects in furtherance of which it is being conducted". The statutory instrument apparently shows that NGOs can only operate when it is registered so that it can be easily monitored and evaluated.

2.8   The motive of external funding

 The idea of aid is based on several motives. According to Sahn and Younger (2000) the motive of donors varies depending on the political and economic climate. Sahn and younger (2000) further reiterated that such compassion is very eminent in the context of humanitarian agencies if the need for assistance is highly noted, usually through the lens of world media coverage. The humanitarian agencies are provided wonderful public relations by the world media.

Misi (2013) pointed out that the second motive of the aid emanates from from the recognition in a globalized world, that countries smaller or larger should be interdependent. The idea behind is to promote the economic potential of one another. Initially that is the logical reason of globalization. For instance controlling of the spread of diseases like Ebola requires combined efforts of all nations. Huge margins of inequalities promote massive supply of migrants' workers to richer countries which usually brings an unpleasant situation since it recently led to xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Steinberg (2006) supported this by pointing out that weak states won't be able to protect themselves in terms of armed circumstances in a foreign land.

The third motive is the pro-active pursuit of interests (Misi 2013). This might be economic or political in nature. White (2000) stated that aid is the instrument for managing alliances in the international domain. For instance China adopted an aggressive funding strategy to leverage access to Africa's natural resources. To China it is a win-win situation as they increase Foreign Direct Investment to Africa (FDI), they also gain in exchange for mineral rights among other attractive incentives associated with doing business in Africa (Misi, 2013). The aid date back to years during the liberation struggle when Zimbabwe needed material and technical support and the two saw it possible to engage into post struggle business. Since Zimbabwe had suffered

heavy injuries from the liberation struggle China continued to be available during reconstruction. This led to the establishment of Chinese companies in Zimbabwe like Sino-Zim group of companies. It is one of the powerful companies supporting commercials farmers producing cotton in Mbire RDC. It provides them with all the necessary inputs. In general this is the typical pro-active pursuit of interest.

Some scholars interpreted the motive of external funding differently. Some schools of thought have propounded that external funding has been used as an exploitation instrument by the west. External funding has been denounced as immensely bringing about development in African states rather they are being held accountable for harming African governments, increasing level of dependency, motivates corruption, and renders poor governance and poverty. According to the World bank (2000) asserted that there is no correlation between aid and growth in African aid has harmed development by supporting governments whose policies have actually impoverished people but at the same time there is no evidence that aid works better in better policy or geographical environments.

2.9   The Impact of external funding in Rural Development

Donor funding is playing a pivotal role in Zimbabwe and other parts of Africa in changing the impoverished communities. Non-governmental organizations have been mostly noted as an epitome in complementing government efforts through their activities. They are major contributors to development processes in Africa. Gaist (2009) stated that the Non-Governmental Organizations have often been recognized as very essential for democracy since the grassroots provide them with firm support and their undoubted ability in developing and empowering the poor communities. It can be argued that with the situation in Zimbabwean rural areas these are well desired organizations to rescue the rural communities which are beyond being poor. Nzimakwe (2002) also advocated this kind of NGOs propounding the they are hugely significant players in rural development as they benefit from the goodwill and reception of the communities, resultantly external funding have become crucial mechanisms as far as social development is concerned.

Chakawarika (2011) stated that the idea of NGOs if defined as the mechanisms of service provision focusing on two concepts namely humanitarian aid which is basically the improving the welfare of the people and advocacy which promotes participation in government policies and institutions. This work is however more likely to be focusing on their impact on humanitarian bases.

2.10   Relationship with the stakeholders

NGOs need to establish strong and transparent relations with the local stakeholders which includes the local governments departments, traditional leaders, business community, civil societies, religious groups and the public for their projects to be successful. It can be realized that these relations are very fragile as the traditional leaders are attached to their traditional values therefor they are very much awake to their cultural dilution. In this manner, it is very diplomatic to approach the local traditional leaders since the rural society invest their trust in the traditional structures. For instance in Mbire RDC ZAPSO embarked on a Behavior Change project following a sudden rise on the spread of HIV/AIDS. It incorporated traditional leaders and leaders of these groups to lead on this project so that they would not face resistance. It can be noticed that some religions do not accept control measures such as circumcision that they need to be engaged for intense education through their leaders. In some projects collaboration of the public is very essential through provision of labor because it avoids needless expenses. Misi (2013) pointed out that partnerships gives credibility to projects and it's a way of reducing cost avoiding unnecessary expenses and funds are channeled towards programs.

2.11   Roles of other stakeholders

As mentioned above there are numerous stakeholders which plays a significant role as far as rural development is concerned. The inclusion of these organizations enhances the height of sustainability and the impact of the projects. These stakeholders are close to the people and they better articulate the needs of the people. Most of these stakeholders can be regarded as mobilisers for the public during programs. Boone (1996) propounded that merging with stakeholders is vital in developing sustainable projects. The major stakeholders in rural development processes

mentioned on the above subtopic but they will be discussed in this one as well looking at their explicit roles.

The public is the major stakeholders of external funding because it is the group which is directly affected positively or negatively by the actions of other stakeholders. Mowforth and Munt (1998) reiterated that development enforced into the society without the community's inclusion and approval may compromise sustainability. They have got several responsibilities on development processes. The public has the responsibility to cooperate and they usually contribute in terms of physical labor. They also has the responsibility to expose their actual needs so that they can be addressed

Government departments are ministries of government operating at district level. They represent and offer services of government at district level. For instance in Mbire RDC there is Women Affairs, Social Services, Irrigation, Veterinary Services, Agritex among others. These departments provide technical advice according to the stipulations of government if they are concerned to the projects underway.

Traditional structures are one of the most powerful structures in a rural set up. They are the custodians of the traditional values and beliefs molding public moral in a rural society. . Selly (2007) pointed out that the success of the local economic development projects begins with the lowest development structure which is the VIDCO which directly links with the local populace. This committee is presided over by the village head and this is where the needs of the people are deliberated and captured.They are very effective when it comes to mobilization of the public. Skipping these structures is a mere a waste of time because the public respect the communication which comes through their traditional leaders.

Religious groups used to be taken for granted in development processes in the early years. Later on development institutions realized that most of the people are now devoted to numerous religious doctrines, thus they saw it logical to incorporate religious leaders whenever development issues are being discussed. Meerkerk and Bartelink (2015) reiterated that religious groups usually manage to offer structure especially when other actors of the state collapse.

2.12   External funding and politics

We have now a phenomenon of NGOs, or shall I call them phenomena, for they really are a type of government in the background of a formal government. I don't know whether this creature is for the better or for the worse, but in our country we have seen a situation where they have exceeded their terms of reference, and perhaps we might have to reconsider the advisability of having NGOs.'(Robert Mugabe: 2008 cited by Bertha Chawarika 2011)

Due to the prevailing political landscape in Zimbabwe the political eye views these organizations as pursuing motives of the opposition parties. From the above mentioned quote it can be apparently shown that the government does not trust the operations of non-governmental organizations. Most African governments have reacted in an unwelcome manner to these aiding agencies because of their advocacy for human rights. For instance in Zimbabwe the drafting of repressive polices was a political move to put in place an investigation process into the affairs of NGOs.

The probability of surviving such a political atmosphere is very low such that some organizations tend to withdraw since they do not want to operate in a harsh political condition. Political heterogeneity in the Zimbabwean local authority also deters development at a greater height. For example councilors has the tendency of politicizing external funding that projects ends up in the wrong wards beneficiaries being aligned to the ruling party. The non-governmental sector has expressed concern that the pendulum in aid motivation has swung too far towards politics and security. The needs of the poor are taking second place to geopolitics, according to the view cited by Boone (1996) cited by Misi (2013)

2.13   Participation and external funding

 Richards and Hall (2000) pointed out that community participation initiate local support for development projects and encourage community ownership. If participation is not managed well it negatively affects project management so there is need to incorporate people's attitudes, knowledge and management will. Participation gives participants the platform to air out their views in decision making process enhancing a feeling for empowerment. According to Sproule (1996) pointed out that local presentation in the decision making process promotes fairness in

profit sharing and social concerns could be addressed. The projects receive high levels of acceptance from the community if they feel to be part of them. Development imposed on a community without local support and participation may not be sustainable and face high levels of resistance.

The research will classify two different types of participation which are passive participation and interactive participation. Pretty (1994) stated passive participation as development plans created without the input of the community by external institutions who then give roles and positions for the community to fill. Interactive participation is the type of participation which is recommended for development to take place. Warburnton (1998) interactive participation involves people participating in joint analysis (between locals and professionals), which leads to action plans and the formation of new local groups or the strengthening of existing ones.

2.14   Summary

This chapter deliberated multiple literatures that are related to the research. The most significant part of the chapter is formed by the theoretical framework of underdevelopment which explains numerous theories of underdevelopment and briefly outlined the main concepts of development. This chapter traced the historical background of external funding in Zimbabwe and its motive in the underdeveloped countries. The general assessment of the impact of external funding was highlighted in this chapter. It also managed to explore theoretical reviews that hinder development in general and the factors that may enhance development as far as governance issues are concerned.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

3.0   Introduction

This chapter presented methodological aspects and techniques taken in conducting the research. It incorporated numerous techniques and methodologies which shall be deliberated below. These include the research design, the study population, sample techniques, sample size, data collection procedures, analyzing the procedures and data presentation.

3.1   Research Design

White (2000) pointed out that research design is a basic term which encompasses a number of disintegrated but related aspects associated with the research study. White (2000) further went on to state that these aspects are the focus of the study, the ultimate selection of the relevant methodology, the intended techniques to be used when collecting data and the method selected to analyze data and its interpretation. According to Zikmund (2003) in emphasis referred to the research design as the master plan highlighting the procedures and methods for bringing together and analyzing the required data. Misi (2013) pointed out that research design can also be called research methodology.

The research design gives a framework for data analysis and collection showing the research methods that are appropriate.The researcher embraced a descriptive research design in responding to the research questions and the research problem. The research design is usually regarded as the research draw up, since it addresses the three main salient issues which includes relevance of the data, spells out how and what data is to be collected and how the results will be analyzed. According Walliman [2011] the research design provides a framework for the collection and analysis of data and subsequently indicates which research methods are appropriate. The type of the research design adopted is largely influenced and determined by the research problem. It entails the assessment and evaluation of the situation on the actual ground. Respondents are allowed to express their perceptions, opinions, attitudes, emotions, experiences and behavior concerning problems they encounter in their daily life.

The study focused accurately on describing the variables. It also gave a precise approach to the investigation of beliefs, values, motives and attitudes since the researcher was enabled to mingle with the participants using the language which enabled them to express their views. The logical reason behind choosing a case study was the desire to interrogate challenges that hinders visible development in the presents of external funding in Mbire Rural District. The research will use both quantitative and qualitative approaches which shall be discussed below

3.1.1 Quantitative Research

A quantitative research is concerned with measurement of phenomenon in-terms of amount and numbers. Creswell [2003] a quantitative research is one in which the inquirer uses post-positivist knowledge claims (that is, cause and effect thinking, reduction to specific variables and hypotheses and questions, use of measurement and observation, and the test of theories), employs strategies of inquiry such as experiments and surveys, and collects data on predetermined instruments that yield statistical data. Quantitative research makes it easier for the comprehension of statistical data by individuals with different literate levels. It utilizes charts, graphs, tables etc. to illustrate the data.

3.1.2   Qualitative Research

Qualitative research involves interpretation and evaluation of data. According to Walliman [2011] qualitative data cannot be accurately measured and counted and are generally expressed in words rather than in numbers. He further mentioned that these are essentially human activities, and attributes such as ideas, beliefs, customs, and mores that are investigated in the study of human beings and their societies and cultures cannot be pinned down and measured in any exact way. The researcher is exposed to the prevailing research problem and is in a position to interact with the community and get to understand their plight. The researcher also collects data through interviews and observations and draw interpretive and descriptive conclusions from the data.

3.2 Study population

It is the targeted total population on which the research is relying on. The respondents of the research will be drawn within this population. Kombo and Tromp (2006) referred to population as the total collection of elements about an inference. According to Best and Khan (1993) population is any group of people that have a variety of characteristic in common that the

researcher is on. The study was carried out on a total population of Mbire RDC with an estimated population of about 90 000.The district is divided into 17 wards of which most of them at one point have been privileged to have a project going on. In this case most of the households one way or the other have participated in the group projects and are well vested with the operations of NGOs in the district. The district has 17 political councilors who have the responsibility to work with the Non-governmental organizations with the advice from the local authority officials.

Fig.2 Shows the study population
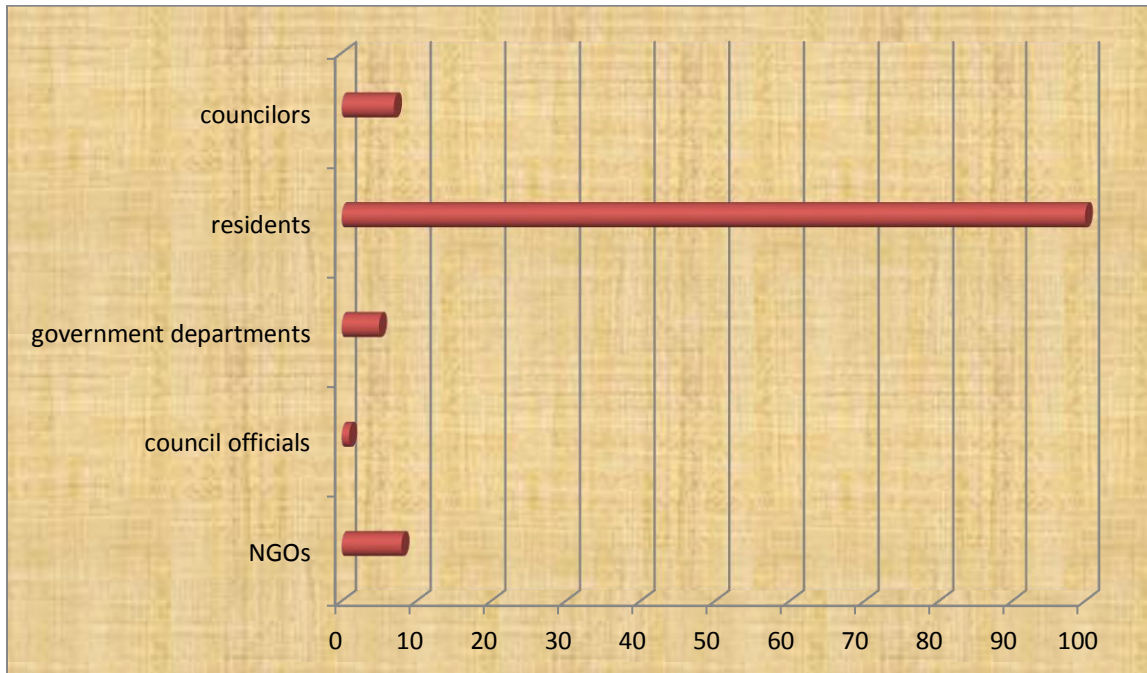
Source: Author

3.3   Sampling

According to this research a sample is a selected group of people out of the total population which the researcher used to deduce the characteristics and opinions of the rest of the population. According to Wallimam (2011) sampling is the process of choosing a small group of cases out of the larger group. The researcher preferred to use random sampling to select non-government organizations and group projects in different wards. Snowball technique was employed in choosing beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The respondent official from the local authority

who happened to be the Executive Officer in the Department of Social Services was chosen with a purposive sampling.

3.3.1 Sample Size

Shapiro (2013) sample size refers to the amount of elements that were selected from which data were collected. The sample size should be sufficient enough to have a representative characteristic of the whole population unit.Walliman (2011) argued that 'it is commonly acknowledged that assumptions drawn from the study of a large sample are more substantial than those from a small one'. The sample size of this research study is comprise of respondents from Council Officials, Government departments, the councilors, non-governmental organizations and Mbire residents which justifies adequate representation of all stakeholders.

3.3.2 Sampling techniques

Sampling is a significant aspect in general particularly when inquiring. Leedy (2004) reiterated that a sample is a representation of the entire population selected to give a picture of what the rest of the population is like. Misi (2013) pointed out that it is a subset of the population which is a perfect representation of the population from which it was extracted. The logical reason behind sampling is because the geographical diameter of the district is very large that to reach all residents is practically impossible. Moreover it is time consuming and requires a strong financial budget. Nyatondo (2015) stated that to address this scenario, there need to employ probability sampling (systematic, cluster, simple and simple), which relies on random approaches to select the sample and non-probability sampling (purposive, quota, snowball and convenience), which is based on selecting the sample through nonrandom means.

Stratified Random Sampling

Stratified sampling allows the researcher to discover subgroups in a population and produce a sample which reflects the entire population by randomly choosing the subjects. The targeted population is within the jurisdiction of the Mbire Rural District Council and will be divided into stratus and these will include council officials, government officials, NGOs officials and residents. The concept of random selection means that there is no criterion which is used to select respondents.

Table 1: Category and Target Population

TARGET GROUP	TARGET POPULATION	SAMPLE SIZE
Non-Governmental organisations	8	4
Council Officials	1	1
Residents	100	20
Councillors	7	4
Government departments	5	3
TOTAL	221	42

Source: The delivery of health services by local authorities 2014

Merits

❖ Stratified sampling produces accurate results due to its great precision.

❖ Stratified sampling is economics in the sense that it requires a smaller sample.

❖ A stratified sample is free from unrepresented sex, in a way it addresses issues to do with gender.

❖ Ensure the obtaining of sufficient sample points to support a separate analysis of any subgroup

Demerits

❖ Stratified sampling only requires a complete list of the population for it to yield accurate results.

❖ There is need for more administrative attention for effective examination of the sample.

Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling is judgmental in nature and can be also termed an informant selection tool. Westfall (2008) pointed out that the person choosing the sample uses his/her knowledge or experience to select the items to be sampled. The research targeted elements among the samples

developed by stratified sampling that are already in a position to give out information on the going on projects without hesitation. The technique managed to select the Social Services officer from the local authority due to his expertise in working with the NGOs. It also selected some representatives from the government departments with knowledge of working the NGOs. This justifies the technique because it totally removes unnecessary subjects of the population to ensure relevant data only. Purposive sampling selection is based on the researcher's opinion on those who he/she thinks can provide accurate information on the concerned study.

Merits

- ❖ Generalizations of the samples can be justified through purposive sampling; such generalizations might be theoretical, analytic or logical in nature.
- ❖ Purposive sample encompasses a variety of sampling techniques which ensures the achievement of numerous results in a qualitative research designs the researchers may use.
- ❖ It is time conscious and focused since it eliminates all the unwanted candidates
- ❖ There is costs reduction when using purposive sampling because it picks the right candidate for the right information.

Demerits

- ❖ The sample participants being studied may not ultimately reach to the heart of what is being researched.
- ❖ Usually the selection criteria used might be uninformed that the data extracted might end up being subjective.
- ❖ It does not provide a wide range of questions which apparently expose the attitude of the researcher on a subject.

3.4   Research Instruments

There are numerous types of instruments which collect data and can be used in a case study research. The instruments include observations, interviews, tests, sampling, tests, documentary analysis and discussions. These techniques have got their advantages and disadvantages at the

same time. Robbins (1997) put forward some of the justifications to initiate a case study and when and where these research instruments can be appropriate:

(i)   Use of direct observations, when figuring out what people do in public

(ii) Use of questionnaires and interviews, when investigating when investigating what people think, feel and believe.

(iii) Use of questionnaires and interviews, when investigating people's activities in private

In this manner, the research employed interviews, questionnaires, observations and documentary reviews.

3.4.1   Interviews

The researcher scheduled guidance for the interviews and categorized them in relation to the type of respondents to be interviewed in the research. Notes were being taken down as recording of data coming out of the interviews on a separate sheet of paper. The interviews targeted the social services officer in the local authority, the NGOs operations officers, and the government departments concerned.

Saunders et al (2006) pointed out that an interview is a purposeful dialogue between two or more people. Interviews play a significant part in sourcing information on a case study. There are numerous forms of interviews such as open ended, focused and surveys interviews. The researcher made use of the open ended to the key participants who commented about certain events, providing insight into events and proposing solutions to issues. The questions were designed in such a way that they avoided biased information usually related with questions that are suggestive to the participants. Misi (2013) stated that suggestive kind of questions introduces deliberate bias and compromises data quality.

Merits

❖ Questions can be clarified and verified during the interview

❖ There is immediate data collection as compared to questionnaires which took time surfing the information from the responses

- ❖ Interviews allows probing of questions when the respondent seem not to be clear in responding to the question
- ❖ They provided an opportunity to see expressions in a way of body language for instance if the respondent is not comfortable to go further
- ❖ Observation and noting of non-verbal responses during the interview including the quality if work of the members in the projects compared to non-members

De-merits

- ❖ It is time consuming
- ❖ It can be disturbed by the provision of false information from the officials

The interviews schedules were given to both the beneficiaries and the non-beneficiaries and ward councilors. Questions were designed and categorized in manner which would suit the respondents.

3.4.2   Questionnaires

It is a pre-planned research instrument where questions are compiled in advance to be responded to by the participants. Haralambos and Holborn (1993) pointed out that a questionnaire is a formally prepared list of questions and maybe guided by answers to soliciting information from the respondents. A set of questionnaires were made available to the Mbire RDC Department of Social Services since the head of this department work hand and glove with the non-governmental organizations, because he/she is in charge of the social activities carried out in the district. The councilors collected the questionnaires and distributed to their respective wards. The questionnaire targeted respondents were the residents only.

Hague (1993) regarded questionnaires as advantageous and effective for a large population. According to Misi (2013) questionnaires is an effective way to gather information without giving pressure to the respondents

Merits

- ❖ There is more objectivity on questionnaires as compared to interviews, and responses are done in a more standardized manner.

- ❖ It is generally swift to gather information using questionnaires.

- ❖ Questionnaires can extract information from a large group of people.
- ❖ Residents expose their true feelings and emotions through paper and pen such that responses are a true picture of what is happening.

Demerits

- ❖ Some questions are liable to misinterpretations especially with the residents because some of them are not educated enough.
- ❖ The data that might be generated by open-ended questions is too much that they require more time surfing.

3.4.3 Observation

This method is when the researcher gets on the actual ground observing the true experiences on the delivery on the externally funded projects. At this juncture the researcher will be passively involved in the activities of one or two projects. For instance the researcher attended a Productive Asset Creation Workshop which incorporated all the stakeholders on how the selection and registration procedures were going to be done. The researcher went on to the ground to one of the nutritional garden projects and the construction of the dip tank. In this manner the researcher was fortunate to have an opportunity to observe the impact of external funding.

Merits

- ❖ It provides a true picture on the behaviours and attitudes of the participants towards the projects.
- ❖ It allows the researcher to have a feel of how is it like to be part of the group
- ❖ There is an opportunity to discover new unexpected outcomes positive or negative.

Demerits

- ❖ Usually provides a biased view because the presents of the researcher affect the behaviour of participants in a way.
- ❖ Researcher perception may distort the data
- ❖ Behaviour or set of behaviours maybe atypical

3.4.4   Documentary Review

It is the use of documents such as letters, administrative documents, memorandum, and agendas among other things. Chikowore (1993) stated that archived documents can be service records, list of names, organizational records, survey data and other such records. According to Saunders et al (2007) documented data refers to written material such as minutes, reports, notices, policies as well as diaries. Documentary reviews enable the researcher to collate information from several sources like primary data collected through interviews, questionnaires and observation. The researcher accessed literature from the District Administrator's office, the local authority and the non-governmental organizations. The documents consisted of the projects annual reports, project documents, bank statements, project review reports to mention but a few and these were previously implemented projects.

3.5   Validity and Reliability of Data Collection Instruments

The instruments provide data which is credible with remarkable quality in the end of the research. According to Cohen and Manion (2004) the validity is the measure of the height to which the instruments are purported to measure. Reliability is considered as producing results that are very clear and precise, which doesn't need any clarification. The researcher will formulate questions that are comprehensive that the responses may be precise and static. Participants are to be assisted in a way that they manage to respond to many questions in a short given time. The researcher presumes full cooperation, encourages respondents to answer independently to the question because the vocabulary will be simple to understand. These factors validate the point of using these instruments to extract information from the population.

3.6   Data Collection Procedures

Data collection procedures refer to some kind of formal protocols that were followed by the researcher to collect data. The researcher was granted the permission by the Midlands State University in form of a letter to access organizational information from the council. Donor organization list was obtained from Mbire Rural District Council in the department of social services and the District Administrator's office. The rationale was to randomly sample donor

community projects. The researcher sought guidance from the local authority staff to access where the projects are located. The researcher went on to administer the questionnaires to the respondents and collected them in 3 days.

3.7   Pre-testing

Pre-testing of questionnaires was conducted to come up with a more comprehensive version, improving on wording, question sequence, and layout among other things. The researcher drew a sample from friends and colleagues in the district and this was a new experience in completing a similar questionnaire. From the responses the researcher got from the pre-test respondents enabled him to figure out the loopholes of the questions and where there is need for clarification as well as the space needed on each question. The researcher used the same approach on interview questions. This exercise was carried out with volunteer respondents representing the focus groups, the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, councilors and the non-governmental organizations.

3.8   Research Ethics

'Research ethics refers to the moral and ethical obligation that the researcher has toward the participants, ensuring that the research is carried out in a way that is ethically and morally acceptable' (Nyatondo 2015). The researcher has the moral and ethical responsibility on how he/she treats the participants. Williman (2011) propounded that human participants in your research always raises ethical issues about how you treat them when you working with them. There for it is very significant to identify potential dilemmas in terms of morality especially when it comes to issues to do with language, culture, tradition and political affiliation. These are salient issues which a researcher should pay close attention to avoid distortion of results. It is also significantly important that the researcher highlight the purpose of the study to the respondents to get rid of false perceptions. The researcher should also recognise the authors of the literatures used during the study with proper citation to avoid plagiarism.

3.9   Summary

This chapter is made up of the research methodology. Effective data collection instruments were selected in this chapter so as to extract information from the respondents. The chapter mentioned numerous data collection methods which include sampling procedures, observations, questionnaires and interviews data collection instruments. These data collection methods have been noted in their advantages and the disadvantages. The components of the targeted population studied were the residents, the local authority, relevant government departments and the non-governmental organizations. The other equally important part of this chapter is the data collection procedures, pre-testing and the research ethics which concludes the chapter.

Chapter IV
DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.0   Introduction

This chapter is focused on the presentation of the data extracted in relation to the research questions. It will assess whether there is a relationship between the research findings and the research objectives of the study. The research was conducted using several research instruments which include interviews, observations, questionnaires and documentary reviews. The collected data will be presented in form of graphs, pie charts, tables and certain variable will converted to percentages. The data was collected Mbire Rural District Council officials, Non-Governmental Organizations operating Mbire, Government departments, Projects beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The findings of the research will be greatly linked to the objectives of the research in chapter 1.

4.1   Response Rate

Survey monkey (2009) defined response rate as the percentage of people who respond to a survey .If the response rate is high it means that the data that is going to be presented represents a huge population so there is more accuracy. A high survey response rate helps to ensure of the survey results are representative of the survey population. Response rate can be calculated using the following equation

$$\text{Response Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of complete surveys}}{\text{Total number of people contacted}}$$

4.1.1 Interview response rate

The table below shows interviews that were intended to be carried out and the actual interviews that were carried out.

Table 2: Interview response rate

Informants	Intended interviews	Actual interviews conducted	Response rate %
Non-governmental Organizations	5	4	80
Government Departments	6	4	67
Local Authority	1	1	100
Councilors	7	7	100
Total	**19**	**16**	**Average 84**

Source: Author

The above table shows the number of intended interviews and the actual interviews that were conducted. The table managed to illustrate the percentages of the response rate   and finally came up with the average response rate. The total number of interviews that were supposed to be carried out is 19 and the actual number of the interview carried out is 16 which give an average percentage of 84

4.1.2 Questionnaire response rate

The following table shows the questionnaires that were distributed and those that were answered with intended people. Questionnaires were distributed from Mbire RDC to all other concerned respondents of the research. It will expose the response rate of the respondents

Table 3: Questionnaire Response Rate

Informants	Sample size	Male respondents	Female respondents	Returned questionnaires	Out of scope	Response rate %
Beneficiar	20	7	13	17	0	85

ies						
Residents of ward 3,8,9	25	9	16	22	0	88
Non-beneficiaries	15	7	8	14		93
Traditional leaders	5	5	0	5		100
Total	65	28	37	5	0	Average percentage 91%

Source: Author

The above table clearly illustrated the total number of people who were expected to respond to the questionnaires. It is shown that among 65 people 58 managed to respond to the questionnaires which gives the research an average percentage of 91%. Women are the dominant respondents consisting of about 57% of the total percentage.

4.1.3   Fig.3 Overall Response Rate

overal responses

12% non-responders

0 — 0

88% responders

- non-responders
- responders
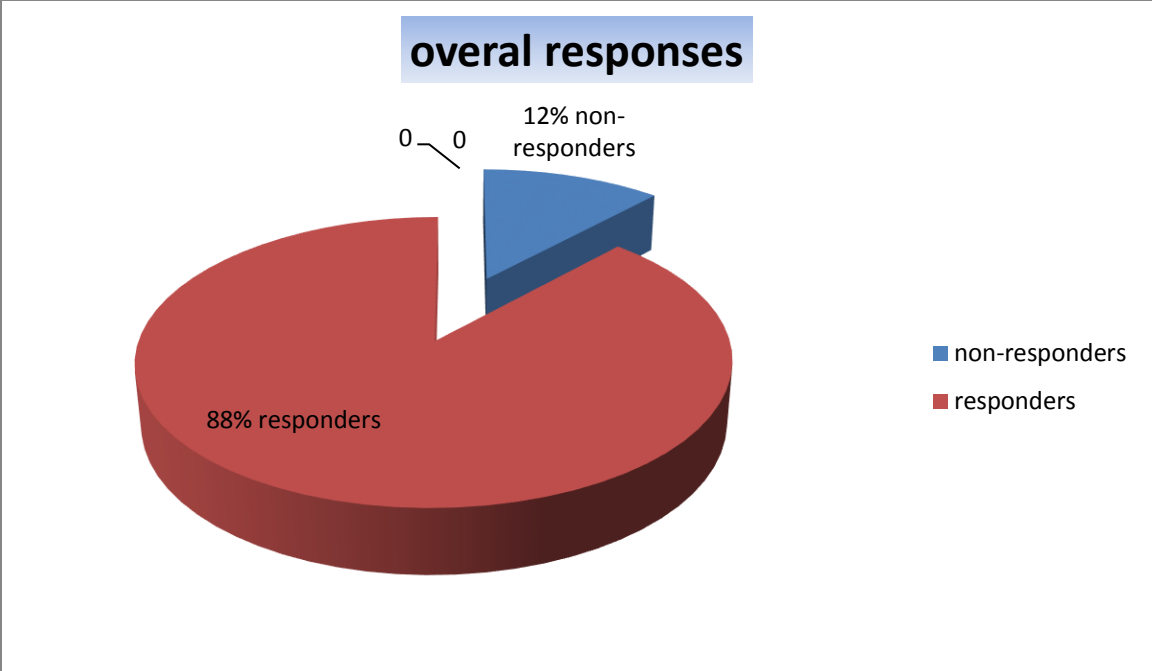
Fig shows the overal average response rate. It shows that 88% was the maximum responses the study got from the targeted respondents. The remaining 12% shows the number of the non-responders who expected to be responding. The reason why the researcher did not get the intended 100% starting with the interviews is the some of the interviewees had tight schedule during the time of study that I did not manage to engage especially professionals from the NGOs and those from the government departments. Some of the questionnaire respondents lost papers upon collection that they did not manage to return the responses.

4.2   Age Demographics

The research data is made up of variety of opinions from different age groups. The responses were views that were responding to the research problem. The following diagram will illustrate several age groups who responded to the questionnaires and interviews.

Fig. 4Age demographic data
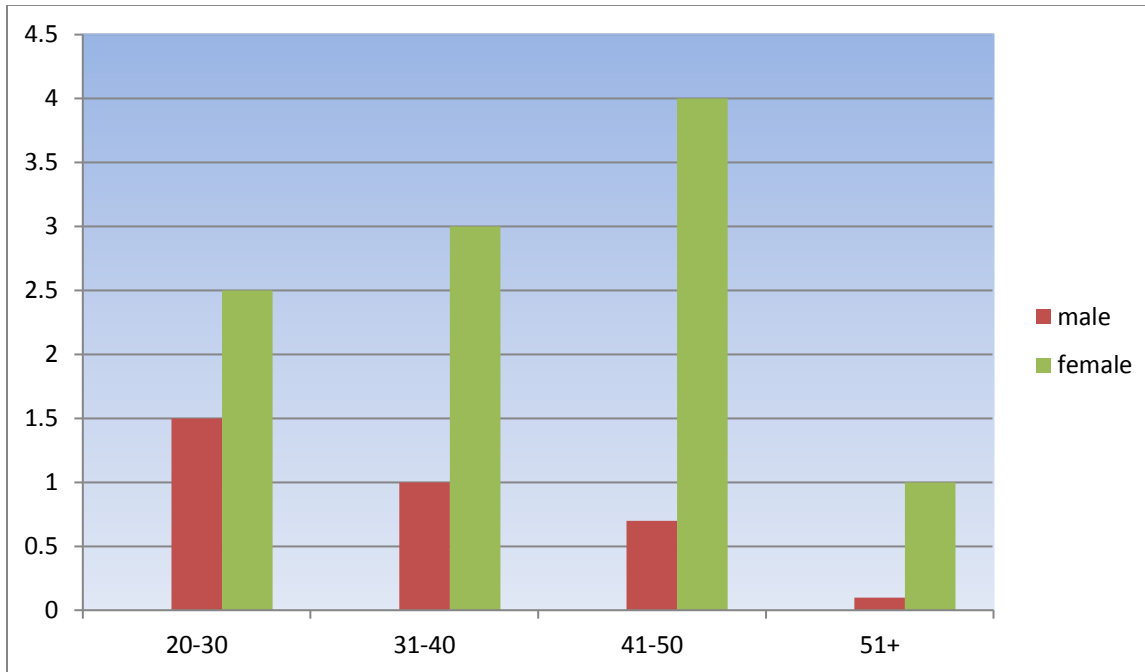
Source: Author

The chat above illustrates the age groups which participated during the research study. The chat shows that women participated more than men. The researcher analyzed that women responded more than men because women are participating in externally funded projects more than men. Women from the age of 41years to 50 years are dominant in these projects because they have big families to take care of and they are widows. The chart shows that as men does not participate grow older they tend to commit themselves to some other things and their mobility is very high. The late ages of 51+ are no longer active so they do not have much responds and they are no longer participating in the projects.

4.3   The impact of external funding in Mbire RDC

The following seeks to examine the impact of external funding in Mbire district basing on the data gathered during the research. It will note various organizations and the projects they implemented in addressing the needs of the local citizens.

For instance in Mbire RDC the intervention of World Food Programme (WFP) and Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) in 2014 with the Productive Asset Creation (PAC) projects. The respondents pointed out that this collaboration came as a measure to address the shortage of food in the district since it receives low amounts of rainfall with high temperatures. Their agricultural outputs per household are negligible such that they cannot sustain their lives. The Productive Asset Creation encompassed projects like market gardening and construction of dip-tanks. WFP engaged the local authority and other concerned government departments in the district for the initiative to be fruitful and the society was mobilized and almost every household in the district participated in this initiative. In a way it initiated local economic development through selling of vegetables that are being produced in these schemes.

Table.4 WFP and LGDA PAC projects in Mbire.

Ward	Name an of the project	Number of households participating	Co-coordinating and Monitoring department
Ward 1	Mazhekute : Nutritional garden	157	WFP,LGDA,MbireRDC,Min of Irrigation
Ward 4	Majongwe : Dip tank	120	Veterinary Services, Public works
Ward 8	Chitsungo : Dip tank	117	Veterinary Services, Public Works
Ward 12	Madzomba : Nutritional garden	221	WFP,LGDA,MbireRDC,Min of Irrigation
Ward 17	Masoka : Nutritional garden	109	WFP,LGDA,MbireRDC,Min of Irrigation

Source:

The Table above shows the nature of the PAC projects and their impact. The projects became a significant part of the participants and indirectly of the non-beneficiaries. It attracted more than

700 households which means an average population of 2500 people are beneficiaries in 5 wards only which is a recognized percentage. The projects promoted local economic development through community cash flow and infrastructure. It can be realized that vegetables on the growth point market were being produced by these nutritional gardens which was quite an improvement in the society of Mbire. Before the situation was miserable that vegetables were being from the upper district of Guruve since the Zambezi valley is not conducive for agricultural purposes.

World Vision embarked on several projects and activities for more than five years in Mbire RDC. It managed to change the lives of the local inhabitants in different ways in different sectors of life. World Vision intervenes in matters of health, education, behavior change among other things. It has been funding the training of water point committees around the district and the rehabilitation of those boreholes. In several cases it donated school construction material and learning material at Mahuwe primary, Madzomba Primary, Makuwatsine Secondary School to mention but a few. It was complimented by the Norwegian organization called Save the Children before its withdrawal in 2014 which invested in childhood transforming children lives. Save the children advocated for universal education to all children. It looked for the extremely marginalized orphans which their hopes has been long eroded rebuilding it making them realize their future. Save the children funded education for the disadvantaged children enhancing their welfare in terms of food, shelter and clothes.

Silveira House is an NGO operating in Mbire RDC initiating community development in a joined venture with Mbire RDC. Silveira house conducted numerous development projects in the district. As a way of economically activate the youth of Mbire it embarked on carpentry project where most of the youth are earning a living. It also embarked on effective Village Heads training workshops in all the 17 wards of Mbire imparting knowledge on how these village heads can initiate development at grassroots level. Chief Chitsungo (2014) said that it is only through Silveira house in conjunction with Mbire RDC that they could comprehend better an animal called ZIMASSET.

Mbire RDC is one of the districts which are in the CAMPFIRE project due to its vast natural resources. However the district was gradually losing grip on its natural resources due to several

factors which include human activities. This scenario saw the coming in of Carbon Green environment conservation NGO which is operating in Mbire District implementing the Kariba Reduced Emission Degradation Deforestation project (KARIBA REDD+) .Through this project the NGO is funding natural resource conservation workshops so as to educate the local communities the benefits of preserving their natural resources.

Table .5 Shows a list of selected local and International NGOs in Mbire and their activities

Name of the NGO	Activities	Targeted groups	Impact Assessment
World Vision	Community development: Income generating projects, schools, clinics	All age groups both sexes	Schools and clinics improved their service delivery
Save the Children	Education,Health and nutritional programmes, Water and Sanitation	School children	Over 500 children benefiting from the projects
Oxfam UK,USA	Poverty alleviation and Rural Development	Men and women	Improved socio-economic welfare of the society
Carbon Green	Natural Resources Conservation, Water and sanitation	Men and women	Improved natural resource conservation
WFP	Food security, Nutritional Programs, Eradication of Hunger	All age groups working with men and women	Improved diet in the district
ZAPSO	Behavior Change Programs focusing on HIV/AIDS	Youth, religious groups, men and women	There is improved behaviors as far as anti-social activities are concerned
Silveira House	Training workshops for Rural transformation	Youth and traditional	Youth are able to generate their own

		leadership	income

Source: Author

4.4 Challenges faced by NGOs in carrying their operations

There are various factors which revolve around the reasons behind underdevelopment in Mbire RDC in the presents of external funding. Mutebile (2002) figured out that external funding dominance in Africa's development motive and the intended impact of aid activities and over all development effort was not yielding satisfactory results on the actual ground. There are numerous impeding factors which are suppressing the kick start of development which includes corruption, politics, public attitude, government policies to ,mention but a few.

4.4.1 Politics

Non-governmental organizations revealed that external funding is facing pressures from the internal political landscape. It seems the organizations are facing intense political intimidation at all levels that the situation really compromises the impact of their operations. Mbire RDC has not much been affected by the national political heterogeneity in the country for the past 10years since the district is too backwards that opposition parties have negligible impact in enlightening the inhabitants of Mbire. The investigation exposed that the policy maker's side of Mbire RDC is dominated by the ruling party. In this case, functionalism which rocked the ruling party lately has trickled down to the local tiers of government negatively affecting the services at local level. These divisions are affiliating in the operations of NGOs in the sense that projects are being diverted towards certain political interests. At the end of the day projects are being implemented in the wrong wards just because there is a powerful councilor in that ward.

Four (4) non-governmental organizations exposed that at some point they tend to shift from their intended idea which compromises the effectiveness of their operations in the district. Non-Beneficiaries to the externally funded projects that were engaged highlighted that Mbire is

dominated by the ruling party that decisions that are made are uncontested. The respondents argued that maybe if Mbire was characterized with significant political heterogeneity especially in the policy makers, some decisions would be contested and it would give some kind of balance in providing services to the local inhabitants. They further went on to point out that since it's a one party dominated district decisions are made on a one line command based on the party seniority.

The respondents noted that political heavy weights in the district at some point interfere during the implementation of externally funded projects. Apparently this hinders even distribution of resources and the exclusion of other groups in development projects. The outcomes of the interviews also highlighted that war veterans diminish the vitality of externally funded projects since they tend to manifest during the selection of beneficiaries. This scenario renders dismal performance of projects since these war veterans are strong allies of the ruling party which does not allow the smooth flow of NGO operations.

4.4.2   Internal policies and interference

According to Ferraro (1996) aid on its own has little and insignificant effect on growth but aid interacting with good policy has a positive impact on growth. Policy seems more important on aid effectiveness in lower income countries. From the research carried out it seems most organizations shares the same notion that the government regulations are not user friendly to the rapid growth of development in Zimbabwe. Internal policies encompass the legislative framework which is the rules and regulations which guides the operations of NGOs. Chawarika (2011) reiterated that in 2008, the government of Zimbabwe introduced the NGO bill which essentially maintained the repressive measures of the PVO act but went deeper to introduce new provisions that stiffened registration procedures. These include the unfriendly PVO Act and the NGO bill which binds as polices for the operations of the NGOs. The NGOs pointed that with the situation currently prevailing in Zimbabwe there is need for the Zimbabwean government to establish policies that does not limit the capabilities of non-governmental organizations. NGOs pointed out that the process is time consuming and some of the funds that are meant for service delivery are diverted towards the registration process. It was also noticed that NGOs are not

flexible because they are not being granted responsible autonomy; the monitoring exercise being carried out by the government is too excessive.

Over 50% of the respondents pointed out that whilst we agree that government has a legitimate oversight regulatory role, it became an obstacle to the activities of humanitarian assistance. The relationship between the government and the non-governmental organizations is said to sour due to the notion that these organizations are here to aid the opposition party to do away with the old regime. The interviewees reiterated that the relationship is constrained and intolerable since the funding is from the western countries like Britain.

4.4.3   Corruption

Zimbabwean local authorities have proved to be a haven for corruption for the past decade that they have lost the public trust. This can be supported byMan-wai (2010) who pointed out that local authorities are characterized with poor or bad leadership, who still loot the treasury. This is due to various cases that have occurred in both urban and rural local authorities. It seems Zimbabwean local authorities have adopted corruption as a culture for the public to access their rightful services of which it deters external donors from other countries. Other critics claim that aid allocations by lateral donors are far more robustly dictated by the political and strategic interests of the donors than by concerns over good governance in the recipient nations (Riddel, 2007 in Misi 2013). A few governments, notably Australia and the Nordic countries, do show a tendency to discriminate in favor of less corrupt governments, presumably because they do not have colonial legacies and are therefore free from specific political pressures, but on the whole these donors remain the exception (Burnside and Dollar, 1997 in Misi 2013).

In almost all questionnaires and interviews corruption seems to be one of the chief factors impeding development in Mbire district and even in Zimbabwe as a nation. The respondents highlighted that office bearers are abusing their administrative power for selfish ends. It has been noted that NGO operations officers are not using all the funds when implementing their projects. Rather sources pointed out that they are diverting the funds towards their personal endeavors especially on funds meant for inductions and workshops which they seem to be taking for

granted. This scenario compromises the implementation of programmes automatically because the resources that were supposed to enable the proper induction workshops are being misused. Workshops are carried out as a preparation meant to impart knowledge in other concerned stakeholders for the projects to be carried out in the district. If the process is half-baked what it means is that the whole following project is bound to fail.

The respondents also reported nepotism tendencies by the councilors especially when allocating resources. Usually NGOs provide resources that should be distributed to the people using the councilor's discretion since he or she knows the real people in need. The respondents pointed out that the situation allows the councilors to manipulate the public trust and distribute the resources based on personal interest. In this manner the intended idea is diminished since the people who are supposed to benefit are neglected and the wrong people are benefiting due to corruptive selection criteria by the councilors.

4.4.4   Dependency Syndrome

Dependency syndrome is one of the diseases acting against the significance of external funding which penetrated rural communities which are receiving external aid. Bartle (2012) defined dependency syndrome as a developed mentality and assumption that a community cannot do away with circumstances befalling it without external assistance. The author further argued that this situation is worsened by external help which keeps showing up even in small problems. The respondents showed that usually projects are bound to fail following the withdrawal of the NGOs which are funding them. The community and all other stake holders have the tendency of relaxing such that most of the projects that are left behind collapse. NGOs reported that there is lack of innovation for projects to generate money so that they keep running rather they wait for donors to inject more finances. It seems the community cannot come up with new ideas on its own that it relies on the directives of donor agencies. One of the NGOs operations officers pointed out that the villagers and other concerned stakeholders should know that external funding is there to give them direction on how to cause development in a struggling society. It is very unfortunate that the community assumes that they are supposed to be paid to work for

themselves. In this manner the projects immediately stops upon the withdrawal of NGOs because most of these projects highly depend on the availability of these organizations.

4.4.5   Attitude of the public

The public has its own different ways of limiting the significance of external funding in the district. This is usually determined by the relationships that exist between these organizations and the people. It is very important to note that the general people also evaluate whether they are benefiting or not from the programmes and projects being implemented. This situation influences determine the kind of public reaction to projects and programmes how they accept and how they interact with them. The public respondents pointed out that it is the duty of the non-organizations to educate the public and make people understand the significance of other programmes. For instance the circumcision programme which faced a lot of resistance in the district the respondents seemed not to be well vested with the intended benefit. The NGOs pointed out that the community is not playing its role in safeguarding the logical reason behind the establishment of these projects. In fact others are stealing the produces destroying the security mechanisms in place which deters their fellows who are participating in the projects.

Fig 5Shows the impact of the challenges faced

Extend of problems being faced
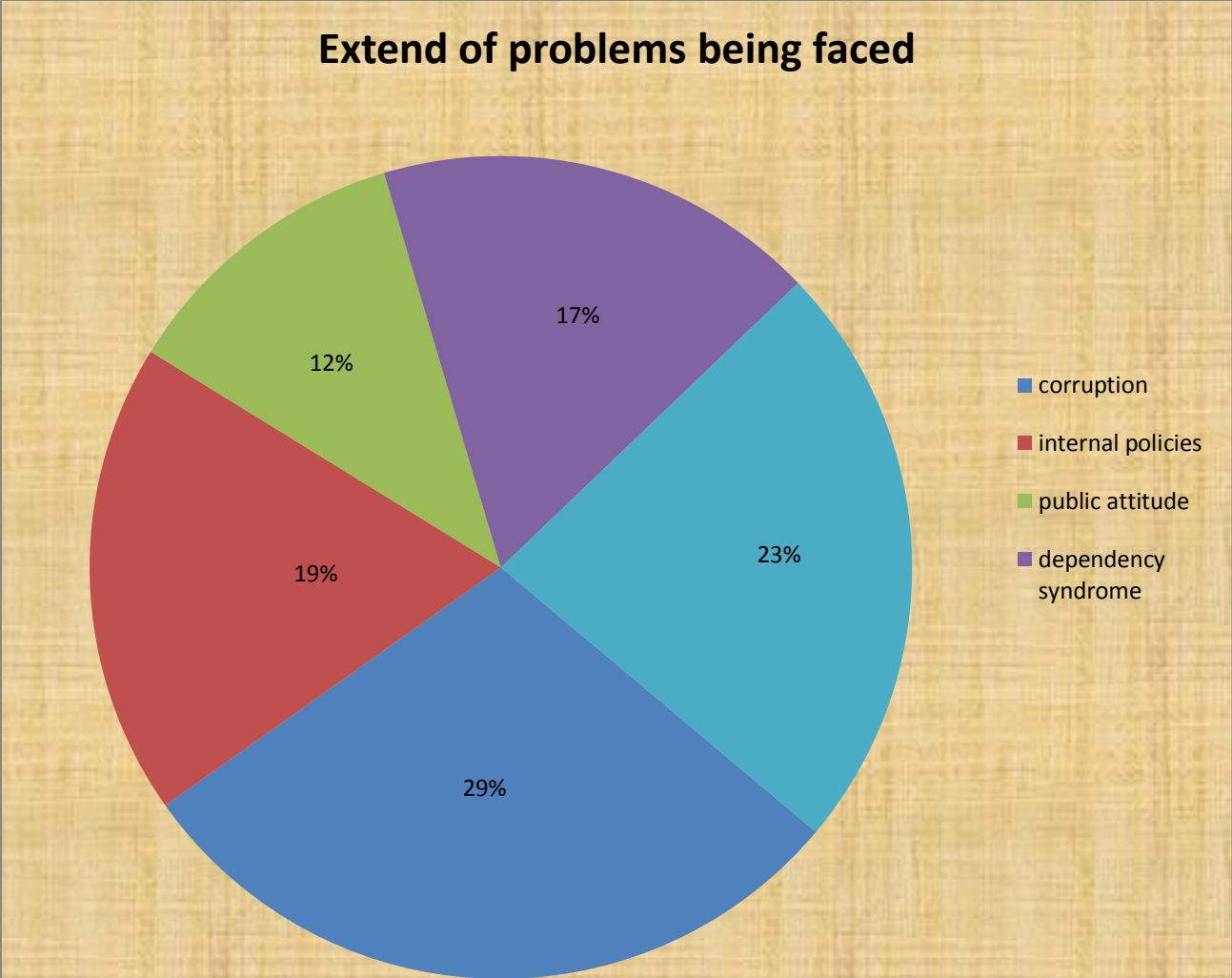
Source: Author

4.5 Sustainability

Bartlett (2012) pointed out that sustainability is usually implied when sustainable development is defined as in the report of the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations which defined sustainable development as the development that addresses the desires of the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generations. Sustainability is one of the major indicators which show that projects are being successfully implemented. The researcher noted that lack of sustainability is one of the problems being faced by externally funded projects that underdevelopment may remain inherent. The researcher noted the problem as emanating from both the Non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders concerned. The respondents showed that everyone has a blame to shoulder as far as sustainability is concerned. NGOs are

failing to provide mechanisms that ensure the continuation of projects upon their withdrawals. It seems that the failure begins during their pre-workshops where they embark on partially baked workshops. The community does not give the chance the youth to participate in their numbers that the projects won't sustain for more than five years. The respondents reported that the average age group participating in most of these projects is above 40years which shows lack of sustainability. A typical lack of sustainability can be apparently shown by the respondents in fig.1.

4.6   Summary

The chapter focused on data presentation and analysis. This chapter deliberated several issues depending on the responses that were received during the field. The research had a remarkable response rate with an average of 86.5 which made the research more successful. There are several challenges of that were pointed out in this chapter which are hindering the success of external funding.   These challenges form the most part of this chapter and they include corruption, internal polices dependency syndrome, politics to mention but a few. The author shall note some recommendations to these challenges in the next chapter.

Chapter V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0   Introduction

This chapter will provide a summary of the research, conclusions and recommendations. These recommendations are going to be available to improve the significance of external funding since its highly compromised. These recommendations were drawn from the challenges that were highlighted in the previous chapter.

5.1 Findings Summary

The research objectives are as follows, to evaluate the significance of external funding in rural development, to assess the prevailing challenges which deter the maximum utilization of donor funding in Mbire, to assess the externally funded existing projects and to recommend alleviation strategies that can be utilized. There are also research questions which link with the objectives. The statement of the problem outlined the problem that initiated the draft of this piece of work. The significance of the research was also noted which outlined the logical reason behind the study identifying key issues to be addressed by the research.   These are main aspects which guided the research throughout.

The research is made up of the literature review which airs out the theoretical perceptions and views of other scholars. The research manages to examine other schools of thought with the similar related material. The research included the research methodology and the research instruments that were used to collect data. The research used interviews and questionnaires to gather data from the respondents. The data was presented and analyzed in chapter four and gave the average percentage of the participants their age and sexes.

The research sought to evaluate the significance of external funding against the underdeveloped rural areas in Zimbabwe through the projects that are being implemented addressing the first and the third objective. Among the findings it can be noticed that there were over 30 projects that were running during the time of the research. New projects were coming in and the old projects

were being rounded up. The research had to find out the effectiveness of the old projects that were already put in place finding out whether they had addressed their purpose of implementation.

The researcher found out that there are numerous factors impeding the significance of external funding in rural areas which is the second objective. The findings of this research noted corruption as one of the chief factors hindering development at a greater height. The worst part of this corruption is that it has penetrated even in the NGO operations officials. Due to this situation the targeted group remains sidelined and the society remain impoverished.

Internal policies also pose a great threat to the flexibility of NGOs which is one of the matters which drags development issues in rural areas. NGOs are confined to the stifled rules and regulations of its operations which hinder innovation and fast growing of development. The communities of Mbire RDC largely depend on donor funding which has become a much bigger problem. One of the NGOs reported that the problem they are encountering is that, it seems there is high dependency syndrome that the community cannot do anything without the hand of donor aid. Apparently if the donors run out of finances nothing new may come out of the community and development will remain stagnant.

The dependency syndrome goes hand in hand with the issue of sustainability. The researcher noted that the projects lack continuity once the donor agencies withdraw from the projects. The research finds out that the demographic chart illustrates that the ages of the participants do not permit the continuation of projects.

The general findings also found out that even there are prevailing challenges to the significance of donor funding quite a number of the local inhabitants were benefiting from the donor funded projects. For instance one respondent from Sangojena Ward 9 pointed out those organizations like Carbon Green has done a wonderful job through drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes. These are water and sanitation projects that were partly successful which are being taken aback by the public attitude that has a tendency of vandalizing the property.

5.2   Conclusions

After all the chapters have been deliberated the researcher came forward with the following conclusions

> There are numerous challenges surrounding the successful implementation of projects. These challenges are the major pillars of underdevelopment accelerating poverty in the rural society. The research findings noted that there are only few that are benefiting from donor aid that are able to meet their social and economic needs. The reason behind being that corruption has crippled a free and transparency flow of these projects apparently the wrong people is becoming beneficiaries. Stifled policies which don't allow flexibility of the donor agencies, the public attitude which draws back any development initiative, a sad dependency syndrome and an autocratic political interference are concluded as the major perpetrators of underdevelopment.

> External funding is very significant in fast-tracking rural development looking at the projects that were implemented in MbireRDC and their impact in the presents of these so called inherent challenges. The general current impact shows that if the challenges are surmounted before it comes to the worst rural development may kick start at a larger scale. The reason why the current development seems negligible is that the targeted groups are passively participating in the projects that are being implemented and some are totally excluded.

> The existing funded projects are partly addressing the needs of the local inhabitants due to lack of public consultation. It seems the donors and the local authorities did not conduct a proper needs assessment that they ended up implementing the wrong projects benefiting the elite group in the district which is not the intended idea. For instance the Mbire RDC-Zimbabwe Housing Project Trust (ZHPT) partnership was not a poverty alleviation strategy and did not benefit the marginalized groups. However, it was meant to improve the housing standards of the Mbire RDC which can be regarded as development as well.

> ➢ The research seeks to conclude by giving recommendations of the challenges affecting the significance of external funding rendering underdevelopment. There are several strategies that can be put in place to do away with those challenges. These strategies shall be discussed in the following sub topic.

5.3   Recommendations

From the deliberations that have been made the researcher seeks to make some few recommendations

❖ Strengthening anticorruption control measures

The corruption control measures should be put in place in all levels. Non-governmental organizations top officials should make some random audits to their finances. The selection criteria of the beneficiaries should be done through a thorough evaluation so that the intended beneficiaries benefit. This should be done to avoid nepotism which has become a major cock block of development for the past decade widening its roots every day.

❖ Stakeholder participation

The research noted that there is need for massive stakeholder involvement of any kind. It seems there are protuberant and respected figures that are being excluded in development initiatives. Some of the projects are facing resistance because traditional leaders and religious leaders are not being consulted. Apparently these two hold grip to a bigger chunk of the rural society and their inclusion goes a long way as far as rural development is concerned. The involvement of these structures may give a positive public attitude towards the projects.

❖ Flexible policies

The researcher recommends that the rules and regulations of NGOs shouldn't be stifled they should be friendly to the philanthropists. If the government unleash policies which deters the operations of these organizations it will become a no go area for several other funders. Realizing that our society is impoverished and the only way is donor aid the government should not be politically emotional when making their policies. This allows a free inflow of the donor agencies because they will feel like they are wanted

❖ Sustainability mechanisms

The research recommends that when NGOs are implementing their projects they should make sure that sustainable mechanisms are in place. This should be done to ensure continuity of projects established. Sustainability can be ensured through proper induction and education of the community. NGOs should also make sure that a large number of participants are coming from the youth in this manner a project can last for more than a decade. For instance in Mbire a larger number of participants ranges from 41-50 years which does not show any sign of continuity once that group is gone.

❖ **Establishing an independent syndrome**

There is need for the community to desist from the dependency syndrome for a meaningful development to take place. The local authorities should evaluate the necessity of external funding on other problems so that they become innovative in solving their own problems without any external intervention. Sometimes the withdrawal of the NGOs due to financial constrains demotivates the participants such that the localities abandon the project upon the withdrawal. In this manner the researcher recommends that the community should be taught to carry out some small development initiatives on their own.

5.4 Summary

This chapter deliberated the research findings highlighting the main objectives of the research. There are several conclusions that were drawn from those findings concerning external funding and the challenges it faces. The chapter had to put forward several recommendations specifically for the challenges which are being experienced.

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Appendix I: Questionnaire for the households

Description of the Research:

My name is **Kudzai .P. Siyavizva**and I am a final year student in the Social Sciences Department at **Midlands State University**. I am working towards my **Bachelor of Social Sciences Honors in Local Governance Studies**. As part of research project, I have to design

and implement a research study. The purpose of my study is to gain further understanding on the impact external funding in underdeveloped rural areas of Zimbabwe.

Risks and Discomforts:

There are no known risks associated with this research.

Confidentiality:

Your name will remain anonymous throughout the entire study.

No one will be able to be identified from any of this information.

Instruction:

Complete the questionnaire by completing in the spaces provided. Should you need more space please feel free to use extra paper. It will be appreciated if you answer all the questions fully.

Male   [   ]   Female   [   ]   Age   [   ]

1. What projects are being implemented in this village?

………

………

………

2. Which are the organizations started these projects?

………

………

………

3. How have the projects contributed to social and economic welfare in your household?

………

………

………

4. Has there been any impact from the donor funded projects?

………

………

………

5. What is your perception of the projects implemented by the donor funded organisation(s) in your village?

………
………
……

6.How would you describe your level of ownership of the projects implemented by the donor organisation (s) in your village?

………
………

7. What is your opinion regarding current/future funding of projects implemented by the donor organisation(s)?

………
………

8. What do you think are some the constraints that affect the implementation of the project(s) in your village?

………
………

9. What would you recommend in order to improve the performance of how projects are designed and implemented to benefit your household level?

………
………

Thank you for your time!

Appendix II: Local Authority Interview Schedule

Designation of Respondent: ....

Date: ....

Instruction:

Interviewer asks questions while writing down the responses.

1. What kind of procedure is required for the registration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in the District?

2. From your point of view and analysis, are all the donor projects alleviating poverty and vulnerability among the people of Mbire?

3. What kind of mechanism(s) is/are in place that you enforce as the governing authority to monitor progress on the NGOs activities?

4. (a)What is the level of stakeholder participation in the implementation of non-governmental organization's projects?

(b) How do you ensure stakeholder participation in the implementation of these projects?

(c) How do communities partake in the decision making processes and the needs assessment procedures before and prior to the project implementation?

5. It has been noted that some of the NGOs are not resident in the District in terms of having offices on the ground whilst some do have. Have you noted any differences in terms of compliance and efficiency between organizations that have offices and those operating but not having offices on the ground?

6. When an organization is pulling out of the District, what are the mechanisms in place to ensure sustainability?

7. Are there any operational problems that you have experienced or are on record that have resulted in a dispute between local authority and any NGO? If problem exists/existed, how is it being solved/how was it solved?

8. As regulating Authority, what does your policy say regarding immovable property belonging to the organization that has come to an end of project cycle?

9. Who decides the nature of project(s) the donor organization(s) implement in the District?

10. How sustainable (ability to continue operating after stopping of funding support) have been the NGO projects in the District? Please cite examples in each case.

Thank you for your time

Appendix III: Donor Organisations Interview Schedule

Name of the Organisation: ....………..

Designation of Respondent: ....

Date: ....

Instruction**:**

Interviewer asks questions while writing down the responses

1. How did your organization choose Mbire as a District of choice to come to work in?

2. (a) What project(s) is your organization into? Include the year you started programming?

   (b) When is your current project coming to an end? What happens thereafter to staff, movable and immovable properties?

3. Your organisation went through some kind of registration before you finally start working. Describe the process.

4. Do you see the process above worthwhile and necessary? Do you have reservations on some of the procedures that you have to endure?

5. How do you describe your relationship with the following centers of power in your work? .The District Administrator's Office

ii. The Local Authority

iii. The Ward Councilors

iv. The Traditional Leadership

6. To what extent do you involve the people in the communities you operate in? Take note of the different stages like before, during and after/towards the end of cycle periods?

7. Do the communities in Mbire have capacity to take over the running of the projects once organizations like yours pull out?

8. What mechanism(s) are always in place to caution and help communities to ensure sustainability after coming to the end of project cycle?

9. Are there any operational problems that you have experienced or are on record that have resulted in a dispute during your time in the District?

10. (a) Which of the projects that you implement have been **successful**, *partially successful* and those which had **little or no impact**?

(b) What have been some of the factors leading to successful, partial success or failure of the implementation of the projects you indicated above?

11. (a) In your own view, what have been positive and negative impacts of your projects?

 (b) How sustainable are these projects?

Thank you for your time

Appendix IV: Interview Guide for Ward Councilors in Mbire

Name of Ward: .... **Date:** ....

Venue of Interview: ....

Instruction**:**

Interviewer asks questions while writing down the responses.

1. For how long have you been Councilor for this Ward?

2. Which donor organizations have been operating in the Ward?

3. For how long have been these organizations operating in your Ward?

4. What type of project(s) is/are being implemented by these donor organizations?

5. How have these projects addressed the 'real needs' of the community?

6. To what level are you involved as Councilor in the implementation of these projects?

7. How many people/households have benefited from these donor organizations?

8. How do you perceive these projects as a community?

9. What are some of the challenges associated with these projects?

10. What are your suggestions that can improve the implementation of these projects?

11. How sustainable are these projects after the donor organizations pull out?

12. Do you have any other comment in relation to the discussion we have just had?

Thank you for your

Appendix V: Government Departments Interview Schedule

Name of Ministry /Department: ....

Designation of Respondent: ....

Date: ....

Instruction**:**

Interviewer asks questions while writing down the responses

1. In your opinion, do you think donor aid is necessary in the District?

2. Please elaborate the registration process that the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) go through before they start operating in the District?

3. From your opinion, what is the level of involvement of the people on the ground on the projects being implemented by the donor community in the District?

4. What do you think about stakeholder participation? Is it real on the ground or the donor organizations do whatever they want once permission to program has been granted? Cite instances you know without writing the names of people or organization(s) involved.

5. Elaborate the kind of working relationship you have with the donor organizations in the District?

6. You have seen donors come and go away after coming to the end of their project cycles. Do you know of any strategies being put in place to ensure sustainability after the organization(s) pull out? For example, handing over of the project(s) to beneficiaries to run on their own etc.

7. Some sectors say there is duplication of Donor aid. What do you think? You can cite examples?

8. Which of the projects that have been implemented have been **successful**, **partially successful** and those which had **little or no impact**? Please point to some key examples of success and failure.

9. In your opinion, what have been some of the factors leading to the **success**, **partial success** or **failure** of these projects?

10. In your own view, what have been **positive** and **negative** impacts of the projects being implemented by the NGOs in the District?

11. How sustainable are these projects?

12. Is there anything you want to add and that you think has been left out in this questionnaire involving donor funding and sustainable development?

Thank you for your time