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RESEARCH TOPIC

AN EVALUATION OF THE CASH AID STRATEGY BY ACTIONAID

IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY. THE CASE OF RUWANGWE

WARD 4, NYANGA DISTRICT.

BY

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APPROVAL FORM

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my lovely parents Michael and Martha Muzungu. In the darkest hour, times of testing and tribulation, you stood rooted in God's grace.

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ABSTRACT

It is no longer a secret that food insecurity is a global virus. Due to shortages of nutritious and safe food millions of people have been driven into graves. Malnutrition and the rise of diseases have not spared the ones left behind. Initially food aid was seen as the best solution by the developed countries but the prevalence of conflicts in recipient countries and the nature of foreign aid threw the dream of having a food secure world into the dungeons. Governments tried but to provide agricultural subsidies to boost production to developing countries. Climate change derailed this plan and the only solution remaining is the adoption of cash aid as a panacea. It is in this study that the researcher makes an effective evaluation of the viability of cash aid in promoting food security in Zimbabwe generally. The study focuses on Ruwangwe Ward 4 found in Nyanga North under Manicaland Province. The remote area lies near the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border where the effects of climate change have led to chronic food insecurity. The researcher conducted a study to see if the problem can be solved. The success of the cash aid in this area will then be used as a model in tackling similar cases that have bedevilled Zimbabwe and the whole world in the past decades. Examples have been drawn from other countries in a bid to motivate Action Aid Organisation in carrying out this project in Ward 4. The researcher tried to make use of all professional procedures that should be adhered to in making academic research. Use of diagrams and lucid cases has been done to provide a clear understanding to anyone who is interested in consulting this study for any meaningful use.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Action Aid
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, China, India, South Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GAPVU	Gabinete de Apoio a Populacao Vulneravel
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NWC	Neighbourhood Watch Committee
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
RAU	Research Advocacy Unit
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe Africa National Union Patriotic Fund
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe Statistic Agency
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Policy

CHAPTER 1: THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

This study seeks to understand the effectiveness of Action Aid non-governmental organisation's interventions in an effort to solve the problem of food security in Zimbabwe but with particular focus on Ruwangwe Ward 4 of Nyanga District. The strategy used by the NGO is that of giving cash aid to the most vulnerable people in the Ward. Action Aid started operating in the area in September 2016 up to the present. Therefore this study will be also in line with the same time frame. Prior to the intervention of Action Aid, several NGOs also operated in the area and these include Concern World Wide, World Vision and Plan International. Even though they assisted people in the area the problem has persisted which prompted Action Aid to apply a different method with the hope that food security will be improved.

The study draws many case studies where cash aid was successfully applied by other NGOs, bilateral and multilateral institutions as a way of solving problems of food security. Thus the researcher has the hope that Action Aid may be successful in this mission if it executes this project well. The research aims to establish results which will help other NGO's and even the government to see if they can adopt this as a strategy of promoting food security. However this remains to be shown as the study progresses. This chapter has been divided into various sections which are introduction, conceptual framework, theoretical framework, statement of the problem, research questions and objectives, significance of the study, limitations, delimitations and finally the summary. These sections are the steps through which the researcher goes until reaching the final stage of successfully completing the study.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The dilemma of food insecurity which the world is facing today is posing more threats to human survival than ever. The developed countries cannot be directly affected but the continuous pouring of billions of tonnes of food aid and billions of dollars to the developing countries speaks volumes. The developed countries saw it necessary to assist third world countries including Zimbabwe, having realised food insecurity is a global virus whose imminent threats have led to conflicts with millions of deaths recorded worldwide. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) (2010) estimated that globally, 925 million people are food insecure. The reason that has been given for the failure to meet the food demands of people has been the issue of climate change and economic crisis affecting Zimbabwe. These two aspects shall be discussed below and the steps taken by the government to address such issues shall be outlined. This will help us to see the incapability of the government itself in trying to solve the problem thereby appreciating the intervention of NGO's in the crisis as justified.

Now more than ever the world is facing serious threats posed by climate change. Brazier (2015: viii) remarked that there is no doubt that climate change will affect the lives of every person on this planet nomatter who they are and where they live. Research by Brazier (ibid) shows that in Zimbabwe rainfall will decline by between 5%-18% by the end of the century especially in the South thus the burden of energy, clean water, death of livestock and migration will also increase. Considering that Zimbabwe is strongly agro-based with the practice of subsistence farming being common especially in rural areas, there is likelihood that erratic rainfall patterns and high temperatures will cause a decrease in agricultural production. According to the 2012 Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency report 67% of the 13 061 239 people living in Zimbabwe are rural based which means that 8 751 030 live in rural Zimbabwe and are at risk of food insecurity. If agricultural production is considered the

backbone of Zimbabwe's economy with the United Nations (2010) estimating that it provides 70% employment and an annual contribution of 13% to the national Gross Domestic Product of the country then there is need to harness climate change by adopting strategies that will allow the people to cope well with those changing weather patterns.

Another constraint to effective food security in the country has been the economic hardships that the country has been experiencing. To Zimbabwe the turn of the new millennium was seen as the end of its continental and world glory. In 2000, the country embarked on the politically motivated Fast Track Land Reform Program and the use of brutality in political elections, causing gross human rights violations of the MDC members. Zimbabwe had broken a great deal of peace agreements like ZIDERA, the renewed Lome Convention of 2000 and withdrawal from the Common Wealth in 2003 exacerbated the crisis. The West had no option but to technically separate the country from the rest of the world through blanket and individually targeted sanctions, withdrawal of financial aid and the expatriation of donors from the country to the neighbouring countries. Local professional embarked on a mass exodus into the diaspora leaving behind them poor services delivery. Thus Makaye and Munhande (2008) alluded that during the period professional morale was at its lowest ebb.

However the government of Zimbabwe initiated a plethora of measures that were aimed at harnessing both climate change and economic crisis. Such included the initiation of the Presidential Credit Input Facility Scheme, the Farm Mechanisation Programme of 2007 policy, the Grain Marketing Board Input Scheme, engaging the BRICS countries and lately mending its relations with the financial multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. We will look at these strategies and possibly expose their shortfalls then look at the intervention of NGOs.

The Presidential Inputs Facility Scheme was launched during the 2008-2009 farming season. This was after the President of Zimbabwe realised that a hungry nation is prone to a multitudinous challenges so there was urgent need to empower the 2000 Land Reform beneficiaries and the vulnerable households through inputs. The Bulawayo 24 News (2014) noted that the scheme was intended to benefit 1.6 million households in Zimbabwe. Each family received 50 kg, Compound D, 50 kg Lime fertiliser, 10 kg of maize and those in the semi-arid regions receive each household a 5 kg package of millet and sorghum. According to farming experts the inputs should be used over a space of 0.2 hectares and spreading the inputs over an extensive area will result in the diminishing of yields. However from the period 2008 to the present the country has been facing deteriorating financial constraints. This means the inputs have been reduced with most households reportedly getting 25 kg of both Compound D and Lime fertiliser instead of the 50 kg of fertiliser.

This program has been proved futile due to many factors. Firstly by acknowledging that there are a total of 3 059 016 households in rural Zimbabwe only 1.6 million are benefitting which is approximately half of the rural population. This means the other half is left freezing in the coldness of hunger and food insecurity. The World Agroforestry Centre (2017) classified 85% of Zimbabwe as semi-arid and receiving less than 800 mm of rainfall per year. This means that 85% of the people receive a package of 5 kg millet or sorghum from the President's Input facility Scheme and 15% receive 10 kg of maize. This impression leaves a lot of question on whether the scheme is really intended to end the food problem or not.

Corruption has also been rampant which has also affected the failure of the Farm Mechanisation Scheme and the GMB Input Scheme. The Farm Mechanisation programme was initiated in 2007 under the auspices of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. The agricultural machinery including tractors, ploughs, combine harvesters, hay bales, planters, cultivators, seed drills and others that were meant to promote large scale production. The initiative was

seen by Manyeruke and Hamauswa (2012) as a strategy of trying to revitalise the gains of the Land Reform Programme. However the farm equipments were disbursed along political lines with the biggest ZANU PF bigwigs benefitting more than the expert farmers. The programme was affected by shortage of fertilisers and spare parts of tractors. On the same note the GMB Input Scheme whereby the GMB allocated inputs also affected food production. The GMB had no criteria for selecting the beneficiaries. This promoted corruption as non-farmers bought inputs and channelled them into the black market especially fuel and fertilisers.

NGO's like Action Aid, World Vision, Plan International, Care, Concern World Wide, Oxfam and others intervened in the crisis. Lewis states that NGOs have been there for centuries but the period 1980 saw an increase in international NGOs and by 2000 the UN estimated that there were about 35 000 well established large NGOs worldwide. In 2004 an estimated US\$23 billion coming as financial aid from NGOs was directed to developing countries with Africa receiving the highest amount of money. The importance of NGOs is that they all embody a philosophy of recognising the centrality of people in human development as stated by Cernea (1988:8). In Zimbabwe NGOs operate under extreme scrutiny as they are also viewed as the neo-classical priests of regime change agenda by the ZANU PF government.

Ruwangwe Ward 4 area lies in Nyanga district in the northern part of Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe, roughly sixty kilometres from the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border. The area is occupied by the Hwesa and Manyika people most of whom were displaced by the colonial white settlers from the fertile region of Nyanga North. The district covers a total of 5,780.75 square kilometres, a density of 21.9 per square kilometre and a total population of 126,599 people according to The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2012). The area is well known for the predominantly high levels of illiteracy and poverty. The climatic conditions are far from being favourable as a shift in the rainfall patterns during the past decades has led

to serious droughts and many people now fully rely on drought resistant crops such as sorghum, millet and rapoko for survival.

The presence of Action Aid in the area is not a new. As early as 2009 Action Aid made awareness and prevention programmes against cholera outbreak in the area. Later in Action Aid (2016) stated that the devastating effects of El-Nino induced drought have left close to 4 million people in need of food aid in Zimbabwe. Action Aid and it implemented the school feeding program in Nyanga. The NGO decided to focus on food security and since June 2016, Action Aid has been operating in primary schools through feeding programmes. In November 2016, the organisation extended the program to household levels after realising that food insecurity was also common at household level. This same programme was successfully implemented in Ghana in 1994 in Bawku District after a serious food shortage. Every family received 10000 cedis. According to Buchanan-Smith et al (1995) the programme achieved its primary objectives. Hence it is expected to yield the same results in this area.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In its attempts to provide food security to the people the state has failed due to various reasons. These include few quantities of agricultural subsidies are now supplied than before, lack of agricultural expertise to help people in using government supplied subsidies. Climate change has ended all efforts of government due erratic rainfall and high temperatures that not even the resistant crops can withstand. Therefore NGOs have come in to assist the communities since they have been well acquainted with development from grassroots level especially rural development. This is because in developing countries much of the population is concentrated in rural areas so where there are more people there is more need. Alix (1998) is of the view that many NGOs have a reputation of performing better in rural development.. In developing countries there is always the belief that the rural people will accrue more

benefits if they get first hand access to resources. Therefore Action Aid has moved in to prove the myth. For a year the organisation has been in the area but the people are still struggling to cope with the devastating effects of food insecurity. This has led the researcher to make an investigation on why the situation has failed to improve despite this effort.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- To examine the effectiveness of NGO interventions to promote food security in Zimbabwe

1.4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To examine the factors leading to the adoption of the Cash Aid strategy in Action Aid's efforts to mitigate food insecurity in Ward 4 of Ruwangwe area, Nyanga.
- To trace Action Aid's administration of the cash aid as a strategy to promote food security in Ward 4 of Ruwangwe area, Nyanga.
- To examine the impact of the cash aid strategy adopted by Action Aid in efforts to promote food security in Ward 4 of Ruwangwe area, Nyanga.
- To identify the challenges encountered by Action Aid in meeting the goal of ensuring food security through the Cash Aid Strategy in Ward 4 of Ruwangwe area, Nyanga

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.5.1 GENERAL QUESTION

1. Are NGO interventions effective in promoting food security in Zimbabwe?

1.5.2 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What factors have led to the adoption of cash aid as a strategy to promote food security in Ward 4?

2. Is Action Aid adequately monitoring its project in the area?

3. What impact has cash aid on the recipients in the community?

4. What challenges are militating against the realisation of food security through the use of cash aid?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study has been carried out for various reasons. Firstly it wishes to acknowledge the role of the government in providing assistance to the rural subsistence farmers. This goes a long way in promoting food security. It is also a study that aims at appreciating the coexistence of the state and the third sector in times of crisis. It empowers the ordinary citizen through contributing to issues that affect his/ her day-to-day living through research interviews. The researcher will be in a position to know how poverty affects development of people and then suggest possible interventions to use. The research will also be used by other scholars who are interested in this field of study. Adding on to the above the study is more likely to put the rural marginalised communities on the radar of the international community so that assistance can be scaled up not only in areas of food security but even in health, education, politics and other critical areas of development. Therefore it is a report worth carrying out for the benefit

of communities, individuals, the researcher and any institution which will be interested in consulting this research.

1.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study made use of Amartya Sen's (1981) theory of Entitlements. According to the theory starvation and famine occur not because people have food to eat but because there is not enough/sufficient food for the people. Amartya Sen noted that people have four different ways of legally acquiring food using entitlements for which they can exchange for food. These include producing own food, use own labour, inherited or transferred entitlements as well as trading what one owns in order to get food. However Sen noted that despite the availability of these endowments people can also fall into famines. For instance, a sharp fall in food availability may cause people with endowments to lack sufficient food accessibility since food prices are likely to be higher in such instances, causing some people to lack access to the food (Food Availability Decline). Using the Bengal 1943 case by Sen we see that after the 1942 Japanese occupation of Burma, no rice could be exported from Burma to Bengal which reduced food availability to the Bengalese. This triggered an increase in rice prices, for example Sen (1981:54) stated that in the Bengal region around December 1942 rice prices per maund/kg were between 13-14 Indian rupees but rose to 21 rupees in March 1943, 30 rupees by May 1943 and it reached 37 rupees by August 1943.

This theory is suitable in this study for a variety of reasons. Firstly the theory was able to bring out a new dimension of food accessibility when we are dealing with food security issues, which is a good observation by Sen. This is in line with the situation in Ward 4 where food is available to a few individuals as well as at national levels but the majority are poor and unemployed people have no access to enough food due to lack of money to purchase the food. The theory also considers the role of climate change and failure of government to

provide necessary food amounts to the Bengal region. Sen stated that other than the short supply of rice from Burma the three types of rice crop (aman, aus and boro) were all affected by a fungus disease destroying tonnes of rice. The October 1942 cyclone which hit India was followed by heavy torrential rainfall that destroyed the crop that had survived the fungus tragedy which left the people in the area more vulnerable. Cholera outbreak, smallpox and malaria also followed the floods and many people died during the period 1942-1943. This caused a death up to 3 million people according to Sen (1981:52).

The British government played its role even though it had its own weaknesses. Firstly as the famine loomed the government hoarded and stockpiled rice for its British garrison of soldiers that was manning the Bengal border fearing Japanese invasion while at that time it paid less attention to the ordinary people. As the crisis continued the government supplied rice to selected public outlets under the Bengal Chamber of Commerce Foodstuffs Scheme and the Calcutta Corporation in which 300 000 people were employed to distribute food thus saving millions of people. However the government failed to regulate prices leading to a free purchase where market prices began to rise astronomically to disadvantage the poor rural farmers, artisans, fishermen and other low paying job professions. This helps the researcher to understand more his research since the government efforts in the area have been applied though with limited success like in this case.

This theory helps me to understand the fact that famines and starvation occur because there is totally no food to eat but they can be a result of one's entitlements value depreciation against a sharp increase in food prices. This is not only in the context of Bengal and the area under study but globally this has been witnessed and proved as a true cause of famines and starvation. It also clearly showed the researcher that a government should be democratic if it is really meant to help its people during times of food insecurity. This is because the British government prioritised its white soldiers while people were calling for emergency food

assistance. Failure to prioritise human life simply means by any government means that particular government failed to develop because human well being lies at the pinnacle of any development endeavour. Therefore the government of Zimbabwe has a role to play in either directly supplying the needs of the people or creating a free environment (democratisation) for NGOs to operate which will necessitate their timely intervention when the government itself has failed.

1.8 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This section seeks to define the major concepts underpinning this study. These are food security and non-governmental organisations.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) (1996) defines food security as a situation whereby all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. It encompasses for major dimensions which are availability, accessibility, stability and utilisation. FAO (2006) explains the four indicators further as follows. Food availability entails the availability of sufficient quantities of appropriate food quality supplied through domestic production or imports including food aid. Food accessibility is concerned with having adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Such include money, livestock or labour. These are entitlements that are supported by Sen's 1981 theory. Utilisation entails using food through diet, clean water, sanitation and health care. These are necessary for the attainment of longer life expectancy. Stability is the last concept which combines the above three. The presence of the three above indicators is an indicator of food stability.

Cleary (1997) views non-governmental organisations as the organisations that pursue activities to relieve the suffering, promote interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services and undertake community development. NGOs have four characteristics which are voluntary, no-profit making, not self-interest driven and they are autonomous entities. Lewis (2001) agrees that before 1985 there was little or no mention of NGOs in the academic literature save for a brief discussion on humanitarian organisations such as Oxfam. Edwards and Hulme (1992) supports the view by acknowledging that by the mid-1990's NGOs were becoming the favoured child of the official development donors. Today governments and multilateral institutions view NGOs as important actors in development (Brodhead 1987).

1.9 LIMITATIONS

- Financial difficulties were experienced during the study. The researcher had no adequate resources like time as well as research instruments. Inadequate funds to travel through the whole area of Ruwangwe or Ward caused the researcher to leave a few geographically separated areas unreached during the research. However the researcher took advantage of the local and central Ruwangwe growth point where many villagers came for shopping. There he sat and was able to identify people from the unreachable villages through verified assistance from local villagers and he interviewed those people.
- Suspicion from some of the respondents due to the political situation prevailing in the area and the fears among the community members that I would betray them to the NGO which would suspend its operations in the area. This affected my interview as not everyone was comfortable in answering my questions but I made use of my research ethics and my student identity card. I promised the interviewees that I would

never publicise their information. Portraying my student ID card to them brought to a sense of relief and they became more open since they realised that my study was purely academic.

2.0 DELIMITATIONS

This study aims to examine the effectiveness of NGO interventions to promote food security in Zimbabwe in general but the research will be limited to Nyanga District and specifically Ruwangwe Ward 4 area. The researcher discovered that other than some areas in Zimbabwe having been studied by some scholars, this Ward has been a perennial recipient of both government subsidies and NGO assistance for a time spanning over a decade. Even though the area has been well privileged to have such attention, the problem of food insecurity still persists this time more threatening than before. This has prompted the researcher to undertake a study so that he brings to light the underlying causes that many people and government may have been failing to expose as the principal causes of persistent food insecurity in the area. The study focused on Action Aid NGO some NGOs like Concern Worldwide, Care International, Plan and others have been focusing on giving direct food aid to the people in the Ward. However Action Aid has defied odds by coming up with a different strategy of giving cash aid to the people. This will help the researcher to see if this can be the best possible intervention to the food crisis since various strategies have been employed and proved ineffective before.

2.1 RESEARCH ETHICS

In this study, the researcher followed ethical considerations with the aim to ensure the successful conduct of the research and professional completion of the study. Brink (1999) is

of the view that as the researcher engages in the process of data collection, “he or she has to consider whether his or her research procedures are likely to cause any physical or emotional harm to the participants involved in the study”. Bearing in mind that this is a community based in a rural setting, there is no doubt that there are certain cultural values and protocols that should be observed and respected. Failure to comply with research principles can be detrimental to the study.

Firstly, the researcher sought permission from the responsible authorities before carrying out the research. These included the police force, the neighbourhood watch committee, the village headmen, councillors and the Action Aid authorities who also provided the researcher with some background statistics about the Ward 4 area. This is important as it helped the researcher to reach more participants through his strong connections with the local authorities. It also helped the researcher to avoid clashes with the local people.

The researcher also observed the principle of informed consent in carrying out the research on the field. Before conducting the research, he fully informed participants about the research first and informed them that they could choose not to participate or to volunteer as informants. Village members were also informed during village meetings. Here, the researcher also utilised village headmen to inform people about the research and its benefits to the society itself. Names of informants were not divulged at all. Actually, the researcher utilised pseudo names to maintain privacy and confidentiality rights of informants. The researcher also informed respondents that the information they provided was to be utilised for academic work only.

2.2 STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation is made up of five chapters. Here they are arranged in a chronological manner. Research proposal, literature review, research methodology, findings and data analysis and chapter five is made up of the conclusion and recommendations.

2.3 SUMMARY

This chapter has is made up of various sections where the researcher was looking at various aspects in relation to his study. First of all the chapter had an introduction where it pointed out that the study is meant to understand the reasons causing persistent food insecurity in Ruwangwe area. It was acknowledged that the problem is a global virus but the study has dealt with this area since it seeks to unearth the problems causing continuous food shortages. It made use of Sen's theory which helped the researcher to understand what really famines are and how they occur. Even though NGO has been operating in abundance in the country, this study focuses on Action Aid's Cash Aid strategy in Ward 2 of Ruwangwe area of Nyanga. The research maintains high ethical considerations for the successful completion of this academic study and dissertation structure has been provided as a way of showing academic order. These include background to the study, problem statement, theoretical framework and conceptual framework, study objectives, questions, significance of the study, limitations and delimitations. The next chapter consists of a literature review where the extensive review of other related scholarly work shall be done precisely by the researcher. This will help him to position himself within an already well established academic context.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines literature that is relevant to the subject of this dissertation, that is, the role of NGOs in promoting food security. A literature review is regarded as the linchpin of any academic research study. Bless and Higson-Smith (1995) rightly pointed out that literature review is the extensive reading of whatever has been published that appears relevant to the research topic. By carrying out a literature review, one can establish how much work has been covered by other academics in that particular area of study and as a result one is more likely to identify existing gaps in knowledge as well as the weaknesses of those studies, so as to contribute new knowledge. Included in this review are the theories relevant to the study, that is, theoretical approaches such as the Basic Needs Approach, the Sustainable livelihood approach and the income based approach. Important to note is the fact that this work is thus built on already existing literature on the subject of food security, NGOs and Aid but also seeks to diverge in some ways from such literature.

2.2 ENTITLEMENT THEORY

Sen (1981:434) noted that the entitlement approach concentrates on each person's entitlements to commodity bundles. These include food and he views starvation as a result of failure to be entitled to any bundles with enough food. According to Sen, starvation is a function of entitlements not food availability. Sen sees entitlements as the possible strategy which can be used to militate against food insecurity. Entitlements are the special endowments that an individual has legally recognised total control over. The entitlements were divided into four broad categories.

These are trade based entitlements, production based entitlements, own labour entitlements and inheritance or transfer entitlements. Devereux (2000a) supported the theory by postulating that the Entitlement theory recognises four legal ways of acquiring food. These are growing it (production based entitlements), buying it (trade based entitlements), working for it (own labour entitlements) and lastly being given the entitlements (transfer entitlements). Sen (1981) noted that the exchange entitlements faced by a person depend naturally on his position in the economic class structure as well as the modes of production in the economy. However, with such endowments a person can still fall into the hunger trap because of a decline in exchange entitlements. For example, a sharp decrease in the price of the commodity owned by an individual can affect that particular individuals' ability to buy food as was the case with the Bangladesh famine of 1943. Under Sen's four ways of acquiring food cash aid can be seen as a transferred entitlement which gives someone food purchasing power.

This theory has been widely accepted as the major reason for the adoption of cash aid as a tool of alleviating hunger. The Overseas Development Institute (2001) reiterated that the rationale for a cash-based response derives from Amartya Sen's explanation of contemporary famines. Devereux (2000a) echoed the same sentiments as he postulated that the Entitlement theory recognise the four ways in which food can be acquired. The use of cash by Action Aid in its operations as an NGO is not a new phenomenon as it was once done in many areas where it was successful. For example the first case of cash aid was that of Britain when it was the colonial administrator over Sudan in 1948 when a famine hit the colony. Cash, coffee and other items were used by the government which were seen as more appropriate tools in the fight against the famine. Not only have NGOs implemented cash strategies in hunger alleviating but even the United Nations has been on the forefront of this programme. The

following cases have been given to substantiate the reason why cash aid should be used in food crises.

In 1994 Ghana was heavily affected by food shortages. The ODI (2001) noted that the Bawku West District of Ghana as severely affected by hunger. This was due to a decrease in agricultural productivity, high population density and erratic rainfall patterns. As a result, the food crisis became tense and Action Aid, a humanitarian organisation specialising in cash aid distribution, carried out a survey. It identified 1000 families that became the recipients of the aid. Every family received 10 000 cedi which was a one-off payment. Buchanan-Smith et al (1995) supported the intervention based on its outcomes. They asserted that the programme achieved its primary objectives. Recipients were able to purchase grain whenever they needed it, buy supplementary items and others were able to have their flour ground into grain. Thus the theory can be a useful model in supporting the Action Aid intervention in Ruwangwe in which over 150 households were given an amount of US\$ 10 each to buy food under the Cash Aid strategy.

The Entitlement theory states that people can also use the labour based entitlements where they can exchange their labour for food in times of food crises. This has been promoted by the United Nations Children's Education Fund when it initiated the same program during to the 1983-85 periods after the 1984 famine left many people for dead in Ethiopia. This was an even bigger exercise with 95 000 people comprising 18 900 families benefitting from it. Cash recipients were compelled to perform community-based work schemes (labour based entitlements) in exchange for the cash they had received from UNICEF even if the work was not proportional to the cash aid received. A UNICEF report of 1984 stated that most of the beneficiaries had bought clothing and some livestock (forms of entitlements). Others purchased farm implements, thus many people were able to do more than buying food with the money. UNICEF (1988) added that the result of the programme reports its achievements

as considerable. Kumar (1985) also observed that cash distribution as a panacea to food problems enabled the recipients to strike a balance between consumption and saving, with even the poor having the propensity to save.

Minimal transaction costs

Cash aid has also been viewed as more appropriate an intervention when dealing with food crisis because it requires minimal transaction. The costs of transacting cash aid are minimal and this means that the unit cost per price per beneficiary is significantly lower than it is for food. As a result, that transaction cost saved can make cash disbursement programmes more effective. For instance, more resources can now be allocated to targeting, monitoring and supervision which are identified as key areas of weakness when dealing with cash aid (Devereux, 2000b). Thus, by basing on the Entitlement theory, the use of cash aid as a panacea to food crisis can be a good intervention since it is less costly as opposed to the use of food aid.

Cash aid is faster

Cash aid has been seen as more faster than the use of food aid especially in terms of transporting costs and other related expenses. In most conflict ridden areas, the use of food aid has been greatly affected by the transport complications. Most of the aid workers have been subjected to harassment and some are killed in the process. The case of food aid to the Bosnian people during the 1995 Massacre serves to substantiate the fact that food aid can be a dangerous strategy as many United Nations workers were kidnapped and killed. The exacerbating issue may be the geographical aspect. Some areas are remote and usually hard to reach by road. For example, some areas in Ruwangwe such as the Bunganirwe, Gande and

Mashumba are hard to reach due to absence of roads. The use of cash aid can help to reduce such travelling costs through the use of modern cash transfer methods. However there is need to examine the weaknesses of cash aid since some scholars have identified its weaknesses. This will help the researcher to deduce if cash aid can be the most trusted strategy or not. These are discussed below.

Promotion of dependence

Dependency syndrome has been one of the major factors against the use of cash aid as a humanitarian intervention against food shortages. Stemming from the dependency theory by some scholars like Walter Rodney, Samir Amin, Andre Gunder Frank and others the belief is that as long as developing countries continue to get aid in whatever form, they are less likely to become self-sustaining in the long run. Aid breeds dependency among people such that they tend to hate working for themselves while reproducing at a high rate (Malthusian theory). This dissertation is driven by the need to evaluate if Action Aid's Cash Aid has had similar limiting results such as exacerbating dependency among the people of Ruwangwe Ward 4.

Regime change agenda

The fact that aid has been a regular phenomenon in the particular Ward has raised a lot of suspicion on the intended reason behind it. Considering that Ward 4 has been heavily linked to opposition political parties especially MDC since 2000, it is believed that aid a way of stimulating political support among recipients ahead of the 2018 presidential elections. Murphy and McAfee (2005) stated that food aid must be freed from the ties to a relatively small number of U.S aid interests that make up today's food aid a domestic boondoggle. The

U.S must end self-interested and politicised forms of aid. Thus it remains subject to criticism since it people view it as a political motive rather than an endeavour to promote food security.

Promotion of gender inequality

Some scholars have viewed Cash Aid as exacerbating gendered friction. In times of famines and food shortages like in the 1980's Zimbabwean drought, Keen (1992) found out that women preferred to be given food aid whilst men tended to be given money. Women did not want cash because men tend to divert funds from purchasing food to other uses and interests. It is the aim of this study to examine the effectiveness of the Cash Aid system, to see if the money did not increase gendered friction over the use of the funds and if the funds were utilised for the targeted goal, ensuring food security.

Encouraging consumption

Some scholars have argued that Cash aid encourages consumption rather than savings. While some early thinkers like Adam Smith emphasised on the importance of saving and investing for economic growth, scholars have seen the rise in consumption. For instance, in the case of the Mozambique's Gabinete de Apoio a Populacao Vulneravel (GAPVU) case in which 14 towns were targeted for food aid, there were reports by the ODI (2001) that the consumption was found to be high relative to investment. According to the UNICEF (1988) in a survey carried out in assessing the overall success of the project, many respondents admitted to have used the money to purchase assets using GAPVU cash aid. Such included clothes, kitchen utensils and little cash was directed towards buying productive assets like livestock, farm implements like fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and others. Devereux (2000b) believes that these utensils and clothing items were relatively cheap as compared to fertilisers, seeds and other items. This led to a temporary suspension of the programme as it failed to yield the results

that were expected of it by the (UNICEF 1988). It is thus interesting to examine whether this Mozambican case resonates with Action Aid's Cash Aid disbursed in Ward 4. This study is thus a quest to understand the effectiveness of this find in Ruwangwe in light of the possibilities of misdirection of funds found in the Mozambican case study.

2.3 SUMMARY

This chapter was more focused on literature review and in the first instance, it dealt with literature review as a concept. It was also examined why literature review should be carried out by academics when researching to produce knowledge. It appreciated that literature review helps scholars establish similarities and differences between existing literature and the ongoing research. The chapter also discussed the Amartya Sen's Entitlement theory drawing various examples from the scholarly work of individuals, organisations and institutions. The chapter also drew various examples from some case studies insofar as the strengths and weaknesses of cash aid as a form of humanitarian intervention in times of hunger is concerned. The next chapter is going to be presented after a field research and it shall be on data analysis and presentation. Factual findings obtained from the field shall be presented and analysed in depth.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

While chapter 2 of this study concentrated on reviewing relevant literature review, this particular chapter focuses on the methodology used by the researcher to obtain information relevant to meet the study's questions and objectives. The researcher shall start by examining what a research is, its importance to academic studies. The sections of this chapter shall also be comprised of various techniques that are used to gather data. It may also include an explanation of why the researcher is using a particular method or technique as opposed to others techniques. With such definitions in mind, this chapter presents the methods that the researcher used to gather information. It is also comprised of the following sections, the research design, methodology, data gathering techniques, target population, sample size and sampling procedures. It will also have a conclusion which will make a general overview of the major issues discussed in this chapter.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Best and Khan (1998) a research is a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. Parahoo (1997:142) defines a research design as a plan that describes how, when and where data are to be collected and analysed. The researcher applied a qualitative research methodology. Burns and Grove (2003:201) explain that a qualitative descriptive research is designed to provide a picture of a situation as it naturally happens. The following section focuses on what constitutes qualitative research, it explores the importance of using qualitative research method. It will go on to look at the various techniques used to collect data using the qualitative method. This will be discussed with the researcher drawing the experience he obtained from the field of study during data collection.

3.1.2 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Mack et al (2005) defined qualitative research as a form of scientific research in which an investigation is undertaken. The reason is to seek answers to a question, systematically using a predefined set of procedures to answer questions, collecting evidence, producing findings that were not determined in advance and producing findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study. It is regarded as the most accurate method of making a research due to some of the following strengths. Mack et al (ibid) stated that qualitative research has greater spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the study participant. By asking open-ended-questions the participants are free to respond in their own words and responses are more likely to be more complex, revealing than simply a “yes” or “no” response. There are three data collection tools that are widely used in qualitative research. These are in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participant observations (ethnography). This study used the interviews and focus group discussion methods only. This is because participant observation requires a lot of time to obtain data yet the student had some academic responsibilities. These two are discussed below and both will be linked to the study area.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The Illinois University (2005) defined data collection as the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer questions, test hypotheses and evaluate outcomes. The data collection techniques that the researcher used to obtain qualitative primary data from various respondents are interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). The following section will

look at the two methods citing their importance to the researcher and the research study as well.

3.5.1 Interviews

An interview is defined by Kahn and Cannell (1957) as a conversation with a purpose or a purposive discussion between two or more people. Interviews consist of the structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews. Healey and Rawlinson (1994) defined a structured interview as one when an interviewer reads out a set of closed questions in a particular order and noted the interviewee's responses. A semi-structured interview is one in which an interviewer has a pre-set type and order of questions but is prepared to add a number of questions. I applied the unstructured type of interview. Unstructured interview sometimes referred to as non-standardised interview has been defined as one in which the interviewer starts with a single theme (food security theme). The interviewer may explore the several aspects of a complex issue in depth by asking open questions which are specifically designed to invite explanatory or detailed answers.

The researcher first informed Action Aid authorities in Nyanga town who accepted my request to undertake a study in the area. The researcher was lucky enough to get US\$100 from Action Aid. That was used to buy refreshments for the people who gathered at the meeting. Ward 4 consists of 18 villages and the researcher could not make trips to all the 18 villages. So he made use of the Ward councillor Mr Nyakapanga whom he approached. After a successful short meeting the Mr Nyakapanga promised to contact the village heads who informed all the beneficiaries to travel to Ruwangwe Growth Point for a meeting with the councillor the following day. The village heads used their middle men (mapurisa aSabhuku) to get into the villages and spread the word. The next day all beneficiaries of the cash aid scheme travelled to the Ruwangwe Growth point which is central to all the Wards. We met

around 10:00 am. The councillor addressed the people who consisted of elderly, widowed women and the formally unemployed families. These were the people I had supposed to interview.

From every ward the researcher selected 3 interviewees. They comprised of 1 member from each of these categories, elderly, widowed and the unemployed householders. Therefore there were a total of 54 interviewees. As pointed out earlier the researcher used the unstructured interview. There were a total of 8 questions even though they were not structured questionnaire. They covered the specific issues that the researcher wanted to know. The answers were recorded in the researcher's camera. However there were difficulties that the researcher faced during the interviews. Some members failed to properly understand why the researcher was asking them such questions. There was a fear of victimisation and espionage among the interviewees. The researcher had to produce my recommendation letter from the university and student identity cards. The issue of using English was difficult for almost every interviewee since most of them were illiterates. The researcher had to translate the questions into Shona. The interviews ended around 12:00 midday and the researcher bought drinks and bread for the interviewees and the councillor. The interviews were over but the researcher had learnt some lessons from using interviews to gather data. Those will be discussed in the coming section as **advantages**.

Advantages of the interview

Drawing personal lessons from the interview the researcher was able to get primary information concerning how people experienced life on a day to day basis. The research helped the researcher to know how to carry out interviews in an ethical manner which would help him to solicit confidential information from interviewees without any problem. Some

researchers were reluctant to say more about their personal feelings and experiences on the cash aid programme. However they could even divulge more about how they interacted in the society, problems they encounter in making a living, their appreciation of the aid and other issues. Making a research on the ground helped the researcher to realise that other than solely focusing on issues of food security the interviewees had some other good ideas that could help to develop their lives. The interviewees stated that food security was improving but there was need for the government to promote health and educationally related NGOs into the area since part of the cash aid was being diverted to such services. The research empowered many local people such that they felt emancipated. Contributing ideas to the development of their ward was a critical issue which they had never fully obtained since in most of the programmes they had to heed to the donor wishes.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGD's)

This is another common method of gathering data from interviewees. According to Freitas et al (1998) focus group is a type of in-depth interview accomplished in a group whose meetings present characteristics defined with respect to the proposal, size, composition and interview procedures. The general flexibility of this study is that it can be used in conjunction with any other method of data collection. Morgan (1988) agrees that focus groups can be used either in their own right or as a compliment to other methods especially for triangulation and validity checking.

The researcher managed to use a camera to make recordings and a book in which he wrote the information obtained from the focus group discussants. This was done after making interviews since gathering up people together on a different date would be difficult. This time the researcher chose only 3 participants from every group with each representing the three categories. There were a total of 54 members and they were subdivided into 6 groups with 9

people in each group. The participants were nominated by their village members. This was intentionally done to promote broader democratic participation in decision making by the villagers themselves. The 3 participants comprised of two women and a man. Every group had a total of 40 minutes of discussion. The researcher made use of the given answers to reveal more questions hence it was not a structured questionnaire. The discussion started around 13:30 hrs and ended around 17:30 hrs. The researcher thanked the participants as well as the key informants especially the councillor and the Action Aid offices (in absentia).

During the discussion the researcher also encountered various problems. Initially the discussants were not willing to participate broadly and some could spend even 2 minutes without any contribution. They feared that the information would be revealed to Action Aid and other sensitive people who would end up victimising them. To cope with such a problem the researcher was able to introduce himself using his surname since he was a member from one of the villages. He was able to produce evidence that he was a student and promised that any leakage of information would result in him being sued for violating personal privacy and confidentiality of discussants. This helped the discussants to familiarise and contribute to the discussion until the whole session was completed. Some of the experiences that the researcher had personally derived from the research included the following.

Advantages of Focus Groups

An advantage that the researcher derived from focus group discussion include what Morgan (1997) described as having direct evidence about similarities and differences in the participants' opinions and experiences as opposed to reaching such conclusions from post hoc

analyses of separate statements from each interviewee. Initially the researcher had no full picture about how the people lived and how they used their cash aid for survival. Rather than assuming that they bought food, the researcher was able to realise that the money was used for various purposes with every discussant stating his or her own uses apart from buying food. Having people of various age groups discussing together made the researcher to realise how people within a society prioritised certain things over others. The elderly were concerned with buying food only while the other age groups had to use the money for school fees and other uses.

Another advantage of carrying out focus group discussions is the ability to obtain primary information. The researcher had the opportunity to interact with various people whose life experiences varied. Their providing firsthand experience made it easier for the researcher to have the best form of data that can be collected using qualitative method of data collection. Also the fact that within a period of 4 hours the researcher had gathered a lot of information that would require many days to get made it easier for him to discover the importance of having focus group discussions. Being the discussion leader for the first time made the researcher to have more interest in the role of leadership which is also critical to his own academic study. The discussants were also empowered to realise that their area was also considered for academic studies since no other studies directly involving them had been done in the area. Lastly the use of focus group discussions is a short yet precise way of gathering information. Such data was gathered in a shorter time span than would have been the case with individual interviews.

3.6 STUDY POPULATION

Polit and Hungler (1999) defined a sample population as the totality of all subjects that conform to a specific set of specifications comprising the entire group of persons that is of

interest to the researcher and to whom the research results can be generalised. This research targeted three groups of people. The first group of the elderly comprised of people ranging from 60+ years, the widowed women ranged from 18-59 years and the unemployed group was made up of people between the age of 18-59 years. This group had both parents living and the fact that they were not formally employed made them to benefit from the cash aid scheme. These were the beneficiaries of the cash aid people since they were seen as more disadvantaged people

3.7 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

There are various sampling techniques that are used in data collection. The above section on study population gave a clear definition of what constitutes a sample. Only to reiterate, sampling is the art of systematically choosing a fraction of the total population basing on a certain criteria with the intention to obtain information relevant to your research. Due to the nature of the current study, the researcher chose the purposive sampling technique. According to Etikan et al (2015), purposive sampling is a research technique in which the researcher decides what needs to be known thus set out to find people who are both capable and willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge or experience. Creswell and Plano Clark (2011) are of the view that purposive sampling as a technique involves identification of individuals that are proficient and well-informed on a certain issue. The cash aid scheme targeted the most vulnerable group members of the society. In the first instance having consent from Action Aid was a priority which would help the researcher to have more room to express himself during the study. Even though, to get the participants the researcher had to contact the councillor of Ward 4. The councillor also made use of village heads that were able to inform people about my study. Of these were the unemployed, elderly and the widowed women who had a burden of looking after children. These people had more information to contribute to this study than the ordinary people who were not recipients of the

cash aid. In choosing those to take part in the interviews the researcher first grouped people into these three categories. From every group he would ask the members to choose one person whom they felt had the potential to answer questions. The use of purposive sampling in choosing participants helped to save time than and it also helped to provide expert people who had more information on the topic under investigation.

3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section deals with what constitutes research ethics and their importance in academic research. After this the ethical considerations will be discussed in relation to the the experiences that the researcher went through and his ability to uphold those principles as well as how they determined the success of his study. These ethics apply in both interviews and in focus group discussions. Cohen et al (2007) rightly pointed out that as interviews are considered an intrusion into the respondent's private lives with regard to time allotted and level of sensitivity of questions, a high standard of ethical considerations should be maintained. Rich (2013) defined ethics as a systematic approach to understanding, analysing and distinguishing matters of right and wrong, good and bad, admirable and deplorable as they relate to the well-being of and the relationship among sentient beings. This definition explains clearly that during the data collection process there is need to adequately inform all participants about what the research is about and assuring them that they will not be robbed or intimidated in the course. In focus discussion there is need to make sure people maintain highest forms of privacy and confidentiality since information given by one person will reach everyone in the group. I managed to talk to my respondents without victimising them during sessions and I assured them that I would use pseudo names and anonymise the information for fear of their victimisation by some people within the community.

As the researcher pointed out earlier he was able to assure his participants highest form of privacy. He did this by using pseudo names in presenting data so that they would not be victimised. The researcher promised high levels of confidentiality by informing the participants that their responses would never be used for any other purpose other than academic. This helped the participants to feel more comfortable at the same time safeguarding the researcher from suspicion. During study the researcher used a camera to record the responses of the people but before he used the camera he first asked the consent of the participants so that he would use it with force or grumbling from participants. They all consented and the study proceeded.

Participants were free to divulge what they wanted. The researcher did not coerce any member into giving information. This was critical in that every member felt the freedom to say what he/she thought was in his/her best interest. During the study, the researcher did not give any preferential treatment to any member. Every member had an equal opportunity to be nominated and contribute to the study. This was done to avoid suspicion among participants as well suspicion in connection to the mission of the researcher. Above all the researcher was able to have the informed consent of the police, the Action Aid authorities, the councillor and the village heads. Having the backing of such key informants assured the researcher maximum levels of security. It was really motivational to know that you are undertaking an academic study that has the backing of all responsible authorities in an area. This gave the researcher extra confidence and the zeal to carry the study with more enthusiasm than he expected in the first place.

3.9 SUMMARY

This chapter study was focused on research methodology. It was divided into 8 sections which are introduction, research design, study population, sample size, sampling technique,

data collection techniques, ethical consideration and this summary section. The researcher applied the qualitative research design to obtain primary information. During interviews the researcher managed to adopt a sample size of 3 people from the three categories of the unemployed households, widows and orphaned households. These groups underwent interviews (non-standardised). The focus group discussions had a total of 9 members and there were 6 groups which made up a total of 54 chosen participants who underwent the study. Advantages for the adoption of those methods were also outlined in the chapter. This research was enriched by allowing the researchers to have their voices heard in community development and high levels of ethics were maintained in the process including the principles of private and confidentiality. The researcher met various challenges which he managed to solve diplomatically including language problems. The following chapter is composed of the data that was collected from the field of study, the presentation of the findings and analysis. The use of visual aids will be critical to aid understanding of the findings.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, the researcher looked at the research methodology that is used to obtain data in the field. The researcher used the qualitative research design. This is because as qualitative research enables the researcher to simplify as well as manage data without destroying its complexity and context. It made use of research tools such as interviews and focus group discussions in obtaining information. In this chapter, the researcher analyses and presents data that was obtained from the research field. The data collected is analysed in relation to the specific objectives of the study. The researcher makes use of graphs, pie charts and other data presentation methods so as to illuminate the findings.

4.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Marshall and Rossman (1990:150) defined data analysis as the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. However, qualitative data analysis has been described by Cohen et al (2007:461) as the process of making sense from research participants' views and opinions of situations, corresponding patterns, themes, categories and regular similarities. It is worth mentioning that data analysis is important to both the researcher and the participant. For the researcher, it helps to put away bias and assumptions on a certain issue by having the original data that he obtains from the field of study. In this study, the researcher was able to then draw conclusions on how he perceived the issue of food security. The use of tables, graphs and pie charts also helps the reader to understand more on the problem under study and the outcomes of the research on the problem. The following section deals with the participants' response rates during the study.

4.3 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The researcher wanted to illuminate the demographic profile of the respondents before making an analysis and data presentation of the research objectives. It is worth to mention that despite the researcher conducting both interviews and focus group discussions, the same respondents were used in both research collecting strategies. Below is table showing the demographic profile of the respondents. Table 1.

DESCRIPTION		RESPONDENTS	AGE RANKING	PERCENTAGE
GENDER	MALE	27	18-75+	50%
	FEMALE	27	18-75+	50%
CLASS	UNEMPLOYED	18	18-59	33.33%
	SINGLE	18	18-59	33.33%
	ELDERLY	18	60-75+	33.33%
TOTALS		54	18-75+	100%

Source: Research Data, 2017

Figure.1 above shows the demographic profile of the respondents who were chosen to participate in the study in which the researcher carried out in Ruwangwe Ward 4 in Nyanga.

4.4 THE RATE OF RESPONSE FROM TARGET POPULATION

The rate of response corresponds to all the questions that were answered by the researcher during the study. Therefore it covers all the rate of response on all questions that were asked in order to achieve all the 5 desired objectives. The researcher used a sample size of 9 people to carry out interviews .As for focus group discussions, the researcher had to put the discussants into groups of 9 and there were a total of 6 groups, making a total number of 54 discussants. The results revealed a high response rate obtained from the target population. Every research participant was able to participate in the research which gave a 100% response rate. This is illustrated by Figure.2 below.

Class of respondents	Response rate	Number of groups	Number in a group	Total Number
Interviewees	100%	6	9	54
FGDs	100%	6	9	54

Source: Research Field Data, 2017

After having collected and presented data on the rate of response from the respondents the researcher looked at the first objective which is shown below.

4.5 To examine the level of food insecurity in the area before the intervention of Action Aid in Ruwangwe Ward 4 area.

This was the first objective that the researcher wanted to investigate. As shown above the researcher was able to conduct interviews and focus group discussions with a total of 54 participants but in different groups. The major aim of the researcher was to have a knowhow of the level of food security that existed before the intervention of Action Aid. The respondents brought about three different answers. Some of the respondents reported that

they had to spend some nights without eating any food, some had only one meal per day while a few had two meals per day. The researcher grouped the levels of meals into four distinct classes. The first class was made up of people who had no meal at all. The second class was made up of people who ate one meal, and the third was made up of people who took two meals while the last class was made up of people who took three meals a day. Below is the research responses presented in table 3 below.

Class of respondents	No meal a day	1 meal a day	2 meals a day	3 meals a day
Interviewees	23	26	5	0
FDGs	23	26	5	0

Source: Research Data: 2017

The researcher found out high levels of food insecurity in the area. The results showed that the people in the area had chronic food insecurity. The findings presented above show that for all the 54 participants, 23 (43%) of them took no meal while 26 (48%) respondents ate one meal per day, 5 (9%) took two meals a day and none was able to take all the 3 meals per day. Therefore there was need to adopt cash aid as a strategy to improve food security for the people. The following objective was to make a close examination on why cash was adopted. Malnutrition was now common among the small children in the area with a prevalence of diseases like kwashiorkor rising to astronomical levels.

4.6 To examine factors that led to the adoption if cash aid by Action Aid in Ward 4, Ruwangwe area.

The study was able to bring out some of the major reasons behind the adoption of cash aid as a strategy to promote food aid in the Ward. The researcher selected the two classes of respondents to give provide data on the major factors that led to the adoption of cash aid. A total of 54 participants participated in the interviews and focus group discussions. He grouped

into two classes the reason for adopting cash aid and the importance of cash to the beneficiaries. The researcher was able to get the findings that are presented in table 4 below.

Group of respondents	Total	Why adopting cash aid	Percentage agreement
Interviewees	54	To buy food	100%
FGDs	54	To buy food	100%

Source: Research Data: 2017

The research results obtained show that all the people preferred cash over food aid or any other form of aid. First of all during the interview the respondents stated money was essential in buying food for family consumption. The term food implied that the respondents planned to buy varieties of consumable goods. Instead of solely getting maize as food aid the people also bought some food like livestock. That would enhance a wide selection of food stuffs that ensures food availability at household level which is a sign of food security. With money people bought different types of food that increased their nutritional levels and food utilisation for better healthy.

4.7 To trace the Action Aid’s ways of administering cash aid in the Ward 4 area of Ruwangwe

Prior to presenting the data collected, the researcher obtained the following information on how the cash was distributed. The cash is deposited into the beneficiaries’ accounts by Action Aid. It is in the accounts of the household leaders that the money is deposited. First of all, the recipients must have an active Ecocash or Telecash account. The Action Aid staff members do not come to the ground to hand the money to the people. Rather they just deposit the money electronically into the accounts. Every member in a family gets an amount of US\$10. If a family has five children and two parents, then it receives US\$70 At the end of every

month, the recipients travel to Ruwangwe Growth Point to check if their money was deposited.

This was one of the major objectives for the researcher during the study. The researcher wanted to find out the effectiveness of the ways in which Action Aid administered the cash to the recipients. There were a total of two ways in which the cash aid is administered. First of all through village heads who could make follow ups on the recipients to see if they used the money to food for family consumption. Secondly the Action Aid staff workers could send text messages to confirm if the money was deposited and used for the intended purpose. Below are the findings of the study presented in table 5 below.

Method of administration	Number of response
Use of village heads	19
Texted messages	35

Research Data: 2017

The researcher was able to find out that of all the 54 chosen participants who took part in the exercise there were divided opinions on the ways in which the cash aid was managed. A total of 19 respondents stated that since Action Aid workers did not come to monitor the cash in person, they used village headmen as the responsible authorities. A total of 35 respondents stated that, two weeks after receiving the money in their accounts, the Action Aid workers could text messages to them. They asked questions on how they used the money and the amount of money that was left after buying food. However this method was liable to provision of false information by the recipients.

4.8 To examine the impact of the cash aid strategy adopted by Action Aid in efforts to promote food security in Ward 4 of Ruwangwe area, Nyanga.

The researcher had this objective in mind where he wanted to find out the impact of cash aid on the recipients' level of food security. Objective number 1 was to examine the factors that led to the adoption of cash aid in Ruwangwe area. It clearly showed that food insecurity was the principal cause for the adoption of cash aid. It further looked at how people went for days without taking any meal while some managed to take only one meal per day. This showed that people lacked the four dimensions of food security that are food availability, food accessibility, food stability and utilisation. However this objective looks at the changes that occurred since the day people started receiving cash aid to boost food security. Respondents were asked to give information on how cash aid had impacted upon their lives since they started receiving it. A total of 54 respondents took part in the research and the following data was given by the respondents. Table 6, below shows the findings obtained by the researcher.

Class of respondents	No meal a day	1 meal a day	2 meals a day	3 meals a day	Percentage
Interviewees	0	0	4	50	93%
FDGs	0	0	4	50	7%

Source: Research Data, 2017

The research findings show that the respondents were now enjoying far much better meals per day. None of the respondents admitted to taking no meal a day. The least that households could achieve was a total of two meals per day, however with reasons that shall be discussed in the next objective. A total of 4 respondents stated that they could get two meals a day. That was only 7% of the total respondents. A total of 50 respondents stated that since cash aid was introduced to them, they had improved considerably in meals intake and all the four

dimensions of food security. This was 93% of the total respondents interviewed during the study. The researcher looked at the four dimensions of food security and examined how they have been affected by the adoption of food aid.

Physical Food Availability

The physical availability of food addresses looks at food supply side, food stock levels and ability to trade and get food. The research findings show that people in the area had access to money. This was instrumental in improving the people's purchasing power. With money at their disposal people were able to travel and buy grain as well as paying their transport costs using the money. 93% of the households stated that they could now get enough food supply from the far away areas that had through purchasing. Some of the food that most respondents admitted to buying includes maize, sorghum, millet, rapoko and wheat. This was cemented by one respondent who stated that *“takukwanisawo kukwira mabhazi kuenda kunotenga chikafu kuNyamaropa nekwaMatema tchishandisa mari yatiri kupihwa nevarungu. Kumba ndine ma50 mashanu echibage chandakachengeta kuti kana mari ikapera tinenge tiine hupfu hwekubikisa sadza”*. The respondent was expressing the fact that she had plenty of 50kg bags of maize that was stocked in the house. This is something that everyone could not do before the adoption of cash aid. This showed the researcher that indeed cash aid had improved the lives of the recipients.

Physical Food Accessibility

Physical food accessibility entails two aspects. These are economic access and physical access to food. Economic access includes income to buy food. This was one of the achieved objectives of this study. It managed to show that through having enough income at their disposal most of the respondents had access to food. One male beneficiary remarked,

“Tiri kupfuya a mbudzi nehuku zvekuti kana mari ikaenda tinosara tiine zvekuchinjanisa kuti tipuwe chibage kuNyakomba nekwaMatema. Ndine huku dzechivanhu makumi matatu dzandinopa chibage kuti dzikure. Tava kukwanisawo kudya nyama yehuku kuburikidza nevarungu vanotipa mari”.

Despite the cash adding value through assets, people also consumed their livestock for healthy living hence food security was enhanced. Some respondents stated that Physical access is necessitated by the availability of infrastructure and other facilities that quicken people’s access to areas with food. Such include roads and transport. People in Ward 4 area are well linked by dust roads that can be used to transport food to their areas from the places where they purchased it.

Food Utilisation

This area looks at the ability to have safe and nutritious food which guarantees a balanced diet and a longer life to the consumers. As the table above states, most of the people were able to buy maize the staple food and other compensatory food stuffs like sorghum and millet, meat, milk, vegetables, beans, kapenta, fish and other body building varieties. This has indeed improved the food utilisation of the people in the area hence they are more likely to have longer lives.

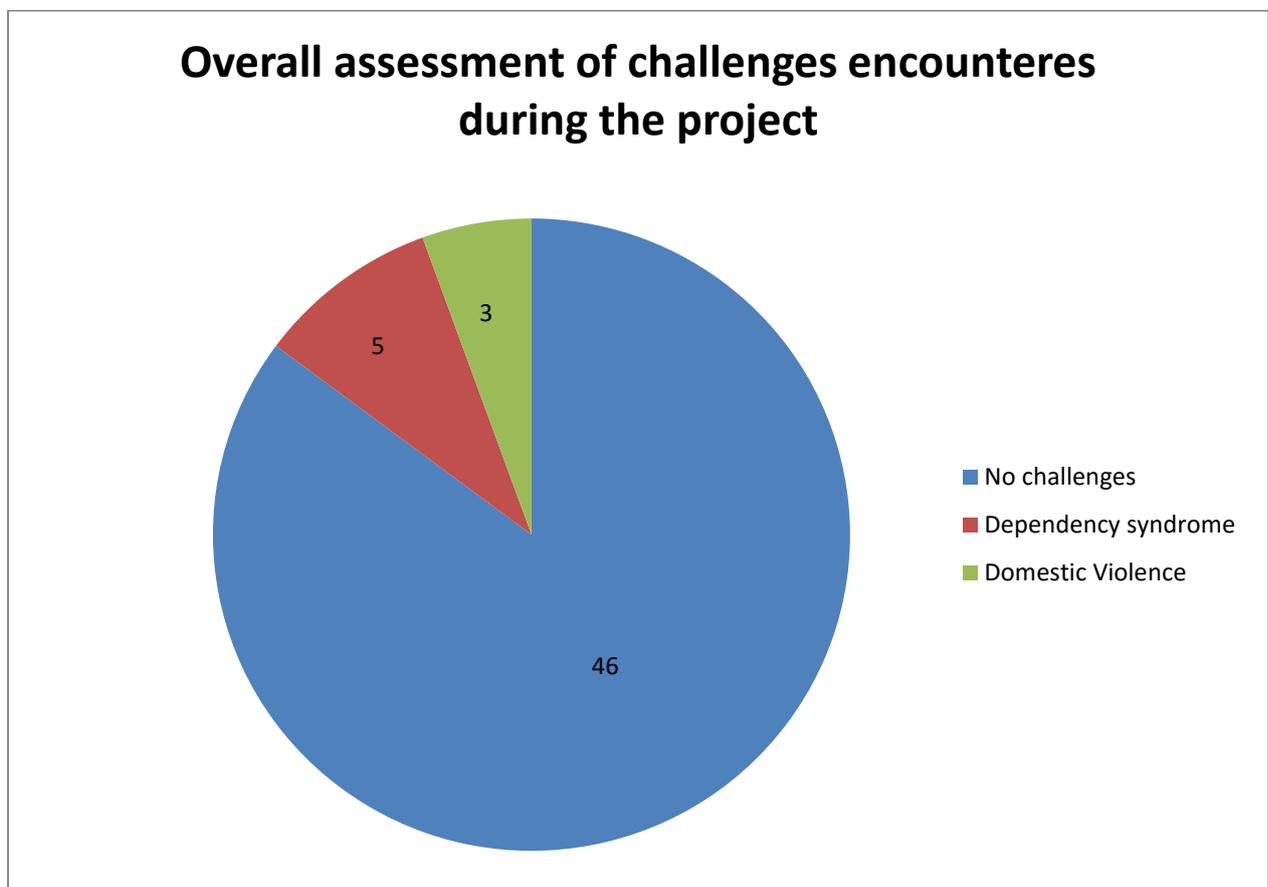
Food Stability

This dimension of food looks at the level of stability of the above three dimensions. The above three dimensions of accessibility, availability and utilisation should be present or available all times so that the people do not lack any of them. The researcher discovered that 93% of the households were able to achieve food stability while only 7% of them were struggling to meet the food dimensions stated. This also showed the researcher that cash aid

had greatly and positively impacted on the food security levels of the people from insecurity to food security. The respondents stated that from the time they had access to cash to them food accessibility became easy. Most of the respondents stated that they could go to shops and they could buy food like maize meal, sorghum, millet and other types of food to compliment the staple food.

4.9 To identify the challenges that Action Aid encountered in its quest to ensure food security in Ruwangwe area, Ward 4, Nyanga district through the use of cash

To identify some of the challenges that were militating against the full realisation of food security was one of the major objectives that the researcher wanted to achieve. A total of 54 members participated in focus group discussions. The researcher noted that the challenges were encountered from both the Action Aid as well as the recipients of the aid. Figure 7. is a pie chart that shows the findings obtained.



The researcher found out that there were two challenges that were affecting the work of Action Aid. A total of 46 (85%) respondents stated that they had faced no challenges during the course of the cash aid project by Action Aid. One male respondent stated that

“Kubva kuuya kwakaita mari hatina kana kusangana nematambudziko muno kusiya kwekuti dzimwe nguva mari haitoreki muEcocash asi tinongotenga iri imomo saka hatina dambudziko ratiinaro rinave rakakonzereswa nekushandisa mari mukutsvaga chikafu chinotiraramisa”. The response shows that there is no challenge that most of the beneficiaries are facing.

Three (6%) respondents faced the challenge of increased domestic violence. They stated that their husbands take the money they receive and buy village brewed liquor known as “kachasu”. When they returned home they beat up their wives. A total of 5 respondents (9%) stated that cash aid was promoting dependency among recipients Respondents cited that most of the men who should be actively employed in productive work have been shunning employment and staying at home. One respondent stated that *“baba vepano havachadi kuenda kunoshanda kumapurazi kwavaishanda uko vakuda kumirira mari yevarungu pano yavanotora vachinonwa havo kachasu kwaPfigu”*.

The place being referred to as Pfigu is a village where cheap local liquor is brewed and sold for as little as US\$0.50 per cup. Considering that the same men have many children who need various basic needs like food, school fees, health check-ups, and at last dependency can affect their families. The cash aid will be strained in a bid to cater for all these basic needs. If the situation remains the same it is likely that the area will be a fertile breeding ground for illiterate people with poor health and all forms of poverty. This can potentially reverse the gains of the cash aid programme that is being initiated by Action Aid the area.

4.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter was a presentation of the findings obtained from the study that was carried out in Ruwangwe Ward 4 in Nyanga District. There were a total of five objectives that the researcher looked at. Initially he started by looking at the level of food security in the area prior to the intervention of Action Aid. He agreed that surely the area was food insecure as witnessed by the low levels of food intake at household and individual levels. The second objective that indeed food insecurity had caused Action Aid to come for the rescue. Objective three looked at the changes that occurred after the intervention of Action Aid. The results found truly support that the adoption of cash aid helped to strengthen food security in its four dimensions which were discussed under that objective. The researcher also looked at how cash is administered and he agrees that despite it being useful in promoting food security there are some loopholes in as much as administration is concerned. Finally he looked at the challenges encountered by Action Aid in its project and a total of six problems were given. Overallly the project has been a success as evidenced by these well articulated objectives.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to make a conclusion on the study that the researcher carried out in Nyanga North, Ward 4 area. The study was aiming to bring to light the effectiveness of the use of cash aid as a strategy to improve food security. This comes against backdrop of high food insecurity levels that accrued to chronic food insecurity in the area. Previously food aid was seen as the most appropriate intervention. However reviewers of the food aid concept

agreed that insufficient quantities of food aid may have triggered a change of taste from food aid to cash aid. This chapter appreciates the research findings obtained from the field of study. It shall make conclusions as well as the most recommended solutions to the problems that seem to make counter attacks to the efforts of Action Aid in Nyanga North ward 4.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

This section deals with an overall conclusion of the whole study. Basically the study wanted to make an effective assessment of the impact that cash aid can make in promoting the food security in areas that are ridden by chronic food insecurity. The study acknowledges that the use of cash aid is not a new phenomenon in the history of humanity. Examples where the cash aid strategy was implemented before were given. It based on Nyanga district in a remote area called Ruwangwe, ward 4. The study started by looking at what is food security and how that can be achieved. It acknowledged that food security was a global virus whose imminent threats to human development. Food insecurity is caused by a plethora of factors. They include climate change, lack of proper government support in the form of subsidies and human expertise. The study incorporated various and crucial sections in its first chapter. These include delimitations, limitations, significance of study, statement of the problem, background, research ethics, conceptual framework, theoretical framework and the research study breakdown. Here these sections are not chronologically listed.

Overally the study attempted showed that cash aid is an effective strategy that can be used to promote food aid. It was able to bring out the fact that despite there being a few problems that are propping up from the use of cash most of the recipients have yielded positive results from it. Some of achievements that the research showed are that food security in the area has been improved by 93% as evidenced during data presentation. The study drew this conclusion by first looking at the four major indicators of food security which are accessibility, availability,

utilisation and stability. After looking at this the researcher made a one-on-one analysis of these indicators under the objective “impacts of food aid”. He showed that these indicators are evident in the lives of the people of Ruwangwe area. This was supported by having the normal and regular routine of three meals a day, ability to buy supplementary food stuffs and increased rates of nutrition. This is something which was totally lacking in the first place. This made the researcher to draw the conclusion that indeed food security in the area has been promoted.

Despite appreciating the astronomical improvements in food security in the area, the researcher also found out that there were a few challenges that were encountered in this project. The problems emanated from the recipients of the food aid. These problems include the rise of dependence in the area especially among most able bodied men. Also the problem of domestic violence which has been caused by the abusive use of money intended to cater for food. This habit is done by men who drink beer and get home drunk. They end up beating their wives thus giving rise to cases of gender based violence. These problems need to be rectified and the chapter below shall provide most appropriate recommendations that can be adopted by Action Aid. These may help to improve the vibrancy and creditworthiness of the organisation as well as the standards of life of the beneficiaries.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are the most suitable recommendations that the researcher found worth to give in a bid to improve the effectiveness of cash aid in the area.

- There is need to educate men on the problems associated with dependency. This can be done by the government in complimenting the efforts of Action Aid in the area. NGOs like the Research Advocacy Unit should go and educate all beneficiaries

through providing tangible examples in which dependency led to extreme poverty in Zimbabwe and beyond.

- Removing from the list of cash aid recipients, any beneficiaries who resort to the use and abuse of cash aid for personal gratification like beer drinking. Such should be blacklisted and their spouses should take charge of the cash aid. That may serve as a warning to the rest of the recipients.
- The law enforcement agencies should arrest any person who perpetrates violence after misusing cash aid. The Neighbourhood Watch Committee should play an active role in apprehending such people. This may lead to a fall in the number of domestic violence cases in the area. The Zimbabwe Republic Police should make regular interactions with the Neighbourhood watch members in the 18 villages so as to strengthen the link between them in curbing offenses that drunkards commit.

5.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter focused on the conclusion and recommendations. These two aspects cover the whole study whereby the researcher made an inclusive and comprehensive conclusion of the whole research study. The study showed that it is important to adopt cash aid as a way to promote food security. This was because a cost-benefit analysis was done by the researcher in ascertaining this conclusion. He discovered how cash aid has transformed ward 4 from chronic poverty to a food secure place. The researcher Recommendations are also given as ways of improving the use of cash aid by recipients. The recommendations were drawn from the weaknesses derived from the cash aid under chapter 4. The study was worth undertaking for academic use since it helped the researcher to understand more about how food security can promote development.

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APPENDIX

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

APPENDIX A

My name is Shorai Christopher Muzungu a student studying towards attaining an Honours degree in Development Studies with the Midlands State University. As partial fulfilment of the requirements of this Degree programme, I am conducting a study on **“Evaluating the role of cash aid as strategy for promoting food security in Zimbabwe. A case of Ruwangwe Ward 4 area, Nyanga District”**. I am, therefore, kindly requesting you to assist me in my studies by completing this questionnaire. All the information that you give is strictly kept private and confidential. It shall be used for purpose only. In this study individual names, employee codes, or job phone numbers are not required. Thank you.

Your assistance in answering the attached questionnaire will be greatly appreciated.

If you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0776 465 328.

1.What do you know about Action Aid NGO?

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2. What was the state of food insecurity in this area before the intervention of Action Aid?

3. How did you survive during the times of food insecurity in this area?

4. How many meals did you take during the time when you had food insecurity in this Ward?

5. What has Action Aid done to improve that situation of food insecurity in the area?

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6. How many meals are you now taking per day?

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7. What are the benefits of using cash as a way of promoting food security in this area?

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8. What are the challenges that you are facing in trying to use cash aid as a way of promoting food security and how can they be solved?

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Thank you for the time. God bless you.

-----*Thank you for your time!*-----

-----*Thank you for your time!*-----

