

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

THE SITUATION OF FARM WORKERS IN MARONDERA DISTRICT IN ZIMBABWE
AFTER THE FAST TRACK LAND REFORM PROGRAMME

(2000-2015)

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Acronyms

AMTO	Assisted Medical Treatment Order
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BEAM	Basic Education Assisted Module
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Programme
GAPWUZ	General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
HIV	Human Immune Virus
GOZ	Government of Zimbabwe
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund
ZANU (PF)	Zimbabwe African Nation Union Patriotic Front

Dedications

This study is mainly dedicated in the memory of my late father, for he was a man who valued education throughout his lifetime and to my mother Mrs. Mahachi and my two brothers Takudzwa and Tivirai and my sister Terresa.

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My gratitude would like to go to Midlands State University' Department of History for imparting commitment in raising professional researchers and for giving me confidants to pursue different areas of interest.

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I would also want to give God his glory for making this project a reality and those who supported me financially. Lastly I would also want to thank my friends and colleagues for their support and suggestions throughout the research, especially Marvellous Matsvai, Kudakwashe Mudimu and Brenda Chibhema.

Abstract

This study is aimed at exploring the plight of farm workers in Marondera district in Zimbabwe (2000-2013). The study will focus on the how the fast track land reform programme intensified problems which farm workers have been experiencing, which dates back to the colonial period. The study will focus on how the working conditions and living conditions of farm workers after the fast track land reform programme, looking at the poor wages their given, lack of job security, poor and overcrowded accommodations services, food shortages, poor basic social services. It will unearth some of the challenges brought by the structural adjustment programme (ESAP) to the farm workers. The study will go on to reach on the intervention strategies employed by the government and nongovernmental organisations in trying to alleviate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district. The study will highlight on the areas of interest by these different organisations in trying to alleviate the plight of farm workers. The study will go on to look at the coping strategies by the farm workers in order to insure their survival and uplift their living standards. The effectiveness of the intervention strategies designed by the government and NGOs would be looked at in the bid to end the plight of farm workers in the district. Also the effectiveness of the coping strategies by farm workers would be focused on. In the study primary sources such as interviews, questionnaires were used and also secondary sources as well, in order to give a sound research.

APROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have supervised the student ,Tichakunda Mahachi ‘s dissertation entitled :THE SITUATION OF FARM WORKERS IN MARONDERA DISTICT IN ZIMBABWE AFTER THE FAST TRACK LAND REFORM PROGRAMME (2000 -2015) ,submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Arts in HISTORY Honours degree at Midlands state university .

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Introduction

The study focuses on the plight of farm workers in Marondera district in Zimbabwe. Marondera district is the capital city of Masholand East, which is one of the provinces that is productive when it comes to farming in Zimbabwe; it is located about 72km east of Harare. Marondera became one of the first places to be settled by the earliest white settlers since the former colony of Southern Rhodesia and by then it was called Maradellas until 1982. It became one of the big centres of Zimbabwe's forestry and farming district and farming markets, it focused much on timber, tobacco, corn (maize), beef, and dairy products until the fast track land reform programme.¹

The study wishes to document and analyse problems being faced by farm workers after the fast track land reform programme in Marondera district. Farm labourers face different problems such as accommodation shortages especially in A1 farms than in A2 farms. Farm workers live on compounds which have been a left legacy of the colonialist during the Rhodesian period. The infamous compounds are associated with overcrowding, which have resulted to the breeding and spreading of diseases. The compounds had been designed and built to accommodate small numbers people not large families. The rest of the farmworkers live on resettled lands and others in Marondera urban town. During the land re-distribution period, most farmers were disadvantaged by the programme; most of them were not part of resettlement programme.² Others were removed from the farms they used to live and work on during the FTLRP. They were stranded and had no place to go with their families and had to seek residents at neighbouring farms especially on A2 farms which had big compounds, whilst others had to opt

for informal settlements. Foreigners coming from Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia were at big disadvantage since they had no rural areas to turn to in Zimbabwe.

The study will seek to unearth and review harsh working conditions which are facing farm workers in the district of Marondera. Farm workers have been receiving poor wages that cannot afford to give them a decent living. Most of the workers look after their own extended families and with the kind of wages they are given, it becomes challenging to take care of them. Sometimes the agreements which they enter with the farmers are not followed and they end up being given groceries and other goods instead of money.³ The low wages have forced the farm workers to specialise also in other income generating projects during their resting and off times. Whilst most of the workers ended up leaving the farms and their families, to look for greener pastures in other areas, areas like big cities and towns and foreign countries like South Africa and Botswana. Others have decided to live farms to go into gold panning and others opted for the informal sector in the trade of buying and selling.

The study will go ahead to unpack the dangers and abuses faced by commercial farm workers on farms since the FTLRP in 2000. Farm workers have been known to be exposed to various poisons, which have been caused by pesticides. Farmers tend to ignore the need for protective clothing for farm workers and this has led to many health problems for the farm workers. Usually the farmers blame the economy for such situations to occur, since the economy of Zimbabwe is in a bad state, they cannot guarantee their safety. Even if farm workers have been exposed to these chemicals, they are not given compensation and also medicals bills are not covered by the farmer. Abuses have been noticed on commercial farms, farmers have been known to use farm workers over time and without paying them wages for that over time, sometimes the abuse gets verbal and at worst physical.

The study will go on to review poor services used by farm workers and their families. During the colonial period, Africans education was of poor quality compared to the one given to the white settler's children .Only a few African children would excel to greater heights and positions such as being teachers, lawyers and doctors, the rest were headed to work in Farms, mines and industries. On the post-colonial period, the Mugabe regime embarked on a massive campaign of building schools all over Zimbabwe. Although the campaign was done, rural districts have remained with poor education services, especially schools designed for farm children.⁴ The services are considered poor since the schools do not have enough teachers, no adequate furniture for the students and also lacks other resources such as books. The schools in Marondera rural districts are very few and school children have to walk long distances to attend school. All these problems have caused high school drop outs and poor passing rates, N.G.Os sometimes chips in together with the GOZ, but the situation has remained the same.

Also the issue of bad services extend even to the health system, which has hardly been worsened by FTLRP. Soon after FTLRP, most farm clinics were closed when new farmers were allocated those farms. Public clinics are usually far from the surrounding farms and sometimes they do not have adequate medicine. Even some health schemes and projects were destroyed due to the land reform programme of 2000.

The study will go on to unveil the challenges brought by the land reform programme to the farm workers. Most farm workers lost their jobs during the land reform programme and they were relived from their jobs without any form of packages to help them with their livelihoods. Most of the workers were forced to turn to unrespectable practises of gambling, prostitution and other criminal activities as robbing. The practises have led to different problems, such as rapid expansion of HIV and also criminal activities in the district.

The interventions strategies by the government and non-governmental organisations, in trying to alleviate the plight of farm worker will be unearthed in this study. It will go ahead to look at how effective have been these strategies in trying to alleviate the plight of workers. When the liberation struggle ended in 1979, the black rule was enforced; everyone expected a drastic change from the old colonial system which was oppressive and looking forward for a new Zimbabwe which was promising freedom of all and development. In 1979 the transitional government was able to scrape off the master and servant act which allowed suppression of workers , and agricultural farmers were put at par.⁵ ZANU PF went on to create party cells on most of the farm that would represent farm workers and allowed also farm workers to be represented by trade unions which gave birth to GAPWUZ .But the gains short lived since and reversal took over back to the old system .Now ZANU PF members and those linked to them have begun to use their political power to suppress farmers.

Literature review

The plight of farm workers has attracted a lot of research interest. It needs to be pointed out that scholars have largely focused on farm workers in both colonial and post-colonial period. They looked at working and living conditions of farm workers in Zimbabwe, and their access to social services. But the plight of farm worker in Marondera district after the fast track land reform programme has escaped the attention of historians.

Lowenson in her book, *Modern plantation agriculture corporate wealth and labour squalor* (1992) focuses on the farm workers in Zimbabwe. She looks at their working and living conditions in a political, economic and social sense. She looks at the plight of farm workers in

both pre-colonial and post-colonial Zimbabwe up to the stage when economic structural adjustment Programme (ESAP) was being implemented in the early 1990s.⁶ Her work contributes to the dissertation in the sense that, it highlights on the symptoms and causes of unfair labour practises. In the present, her book provides a short fall since it does not focus on the fast track land reform programme of 2000, but her book helps to review such other aspects that of low wages and accommodation problems, which are still a major concern up to this period.

Rutherford in his book “working on the margins .Black workers, white farmers in post-colonial Zimbabwe”. (2001). It’s of value to the dissertations since it works as an upgraded version of Loewenson’ book, the books looks on the plight of farm workers in modern times.⁷ The book focuses on the Hurungwe district and not Marondera district and becomes a short fall of the study. Although almost many white farmers left Zimbabwe, his pattern of argument is still useful to explain and unearth the same conditions he helped to bring to light.

On the report by Sachikonye, which he produced for farm community trust of Zimbabwe in 2003 entitled “the situation of commercial farm workers after land reform in Zimbabwe” is of greater importance to the study , since the report looks at the fast track land reform programme from the start and during the programme and its aftermath.⁸ It and went on to highlight on the issues to do with poverty ,low wages and other issues to do with social services such as housing ,education. However the report does not look at Marondera district.

Magaramombe in his paper which he presented at the SARPN conference on Land Reform and Poverty Alleviation in Southern Africa Pretoria entitled rural poverty: Commercial farm workers and Land Reform in Zimbabwe. He looked at the origins of the plight of farm workers, looking at the colonial system and its legacy of problems in the post-independence era and focusing

greatly on the land reform in Zimbabwe.⁹ However his argument many focuses on the origin and the plight it's self but does not point out on various intervention strategies done to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

V .Mabvurira et al in their study entitled the” A Situational Analysis of Former Commercial Farm Workers in Zimbabwe, a Decade after the Jambanja”of 2012 , was of vital importance to the study since their study mainly focused on the former commercial farm workers of Zimbabwe who are still living in compounds , which was of good help since it had to review how these workers were surviving without being employed in farms anymore.¹⁰ However their study was short in helping in the dissertation since it was mainly focusing on Mazowe district.

Also in “Striking Back: The Labour Movement and Post-Colonial State in Zimbabwe 1980-2000”ed by Raftopoulos and Sachiknoye of 2001 was also of importance in reviling the labour issues in Zimbabwe especially in the agriculture sector after 20 years after gaining independence in Zimbabwe. The book focuses on trade unions, looking also how the agriculture and the trade unions operate in terms of law.¹¹ It focuses on trade unions and law and forget much to show the plight of farm workers.

E Mutema in an article in the journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 14, No.5, 2012) entitled “the fast track land reform programme: reflecting on the challenges and Opportunities for resettled former farm workers at fairfield farm In Gweru district, Zimbabwe”. He looks at the resettlement programee of farm workers and looking how they benefited in this scheme and the improvement in their livelihoods and looking at the problems the new resettled

farm workers were experiencing.¹² However his study does not focus much on the farm workers who were left in farms but those who were resettled.

Research goals and Research questions

The study seeks to provide a historical analysis on the following goals and achievements

Research questions

1. What are the problems faced by farm workers?
2. How are farm workers fighting unfair labour practices?
3. What are the intervention strategies put in place by the government to improve the plight of farm workers.

Objectives

- a. To give and critical analysis on the working conditions of African commercial farm workers in Marondera district.
- b. To give an assessment on the living conditions of African commercial farm workers in Marondera district.
- c. To assess the impact of government interventions strategies to improve the farm workers livelihoods.

Methodology

Various methods were used in this study. Both qualitative research and quantitative research skills were used in the helping of extracting, analysing and presenting data in. Both help to supplement the weakness of the other. Quantitative data guides in understanding the magnitude and scale of a humanitarian crisis by providing a numeric picture of its impact upon affected

communities. It addresses the questions: how many and how much. Qualitative data, on the other hand, focuses on determining the nature of the impact of a disaster upon affected populations.¹³ Qualitative data answers questions of how and why coping strategies have adapted, or failed to adapt, to the changed circumstance.

Collection, collation, analysis, and synthesis of qualitative and quantitative information, gathered and analysed using appropriate sources, tools, and methods is the cornerstone of rapid needs assessments that allows decision makers to plan a timely, appropriate, and coordinated emergency response. When undertaking a needs assessment, a combination of different types and sources of data is required to build a holistic picture of the affected population. Sources for information include both primary and secondary data.¹⁴ Types of information include qualitative and quantitative data.

Interviews were done to obtain primary data, the interviews were directed mainly to the farm workers who are the major participants in this study and also people and institutions both governmental and non-governmental around farmers. The interviews were done in both uncontrolled and controlled environments, meaning to say, some interviews had direct prepaid questions, whilst others questions aroused from the interviews. 17 interviews were carried out, though 30 had been set out. Others did not manage to respond to the request and others blamed on certain procedures that needed to be followed. The interviews were a success though since many questions were able to be answered and also knew further questions were asked.

Furthermore, questionnaires were used also in this research. Questionnaires are not too expensive, are quick and easy to analyse. It must be noted that questionnaires sometimes can be a problem, since they do not allow new things to emerge and they are too limited. 50 questionnaires

were distributed to mostly to farm workers and former farm workers. Out of the 100 distributed only 80 were completed very well and the left ones were either not filled or were spoiled due to illiteracy rate that affect that area. 5 farms were chosen in Marondera district, were these questionnaires would be distributed. One of the farm is owned by a white farmer who has inherited his grandfather's farm, whist the other farm is owned by a new black farmer who managed to occur it during fast track land reform programme, the other was chosen for the fact that it practises dairy farming, the other one because it practises mixed farming and the last practised animal farming. Each farm was given 20 questionnaires to answer.

In this study, secondary sources were used to help supplement the primary data sources, with the need to provide a rich study that has adequate information on the above topic. Scholarly books, journals, articles, reports and newspapers were used in the study. Secondary sources involve generalization, analysis, synthesis, interpretation, or evaluation of the original information and this allows the study to come up with a well-informed argument. The advantages of secondary sources in this study was that, they were easy to access, low cost to acquire them, allowed clarification of research questions and most of the sources were able to answer the research questions.¹⁵ Disadvantages of the secondary sources where that, some were of no use to the study, hence wasting time since they could not provide needed information. Some of the sources differed greatly with the study fuses time.

End notes

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CHAPTER ONE: The plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe (1980-2000)

1.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe, before the fast track land reform programme (FTLRP) in 2000. It will go on to look at working and living conditions that farm workers have been living and working in commercial farms. The focus will be directed on aspects to do with, salaries given to farm workers, the life of farm workers and their families on the compounds, and went on straight ahead to look at; forms of abuses farm workers have been facing, such as being exposed to dangerous poisonous chemicals and gases. Also social services given to farm workers will be also be looked at, highlighting at types of education and medical services provided to them and their families by the system. It must be noted that the treatment of farm workers differed and varied from farm to farm.

The chapter will further look at governmental and non- governmental intervention strategies put in place to improve and better the lives of farm workers, focusing on the positive improvement on working and living conditions of farm workers in Zimbabwe. And also goes on to look at the intervention strategies, which farmers employed to improve the lives of farm workers, even though a lot was done, farm workers remained in the plight. Also in this chapter, the effects of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) will be show cased, highlighting on the increase of rapid unemployment, which went on to increase poverty in the farm workers realm.

1.2 Colonial labour policies and farm workers in Rhodesia.

The plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe can be traced way back into the colonial period. When the colonial settlers created farms in Zimbabwe, it marked the beginning of mass labour exploitation, since the recruitment process and working conditions of farm workers rested on the colonial farmers and colonial government.¹white farmers wanted to use cheap labour at all cost to gain larger profit and designed strategies to exploit farm workers, such as forced labour (chibaro).

Rutherford went on to state that, this image of the oppressed farm worker is common and that it belongs in the colonial era.² Need to control and maintain labour force on farms lead to the use of physical abuse on farms. Other means were created to force Africans into seeking employment. During the colonial era most farm labour was either recruited in or might have migrated from neighboring countries such as Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

Africans usually resisted most of the times to work in white owned farms, harsh working conditions were common and preferred to work on their subsistence lands for food. However the colonial government later chose to use taxes as a means to force the natives into working in farms. Taxes had to be paid in the form of money instead of resources, pushing the natives to go and look for work in order to pay these taxes. Failure to pay resulted in arrest and the arrested would be send to work on farms and mines with hard labour.

Sachikonye went on to state that historically farm workers have been a marginalized group who have lived in appalling housing conditions, and had little access to health services and schools and lived under low wages.³ In the 1950s up to 1979, farms were administered through the Master and Servant act, which gave the farmer authority over the workers. This kind of authority

was viewed or called by Rutherford as ‘domestic government’ run on European farms, making the farm workers domestic servants. These facts of suffering represent the whole picture on the origins of the plight of farm workers in the colonial period.

1.3 The working conditions of farm workers in Zimbabwe (1980-2000)

At the aftermath of the liberation struggle, a lot of people expected working conditions of farm workers to improve and this did not happen. Soon after independence there was widespread dissatisfaction by country workers,⁴ who had been suppressed for a long time and expected the new government to make changes and improve working conditions by removing harsh managers and look on the increase of wages in all sectors, be it mining, industrial or farming sector. The ZANU (PF) government responded to these needs by creating a minimum wage mandatory base for all sectors through its ministry of labour. After ZANU (PF) went on to win the elections of 1985, the party diverted their attention from the pro-labour attention to be more concerned about the concerns of the commercial farmers instead of the workers.

Low wages became the order of the day; most of the farmers believed or expected that the low income they gave to farm workers would be assisted by subsistence farming, which the farm workers and their families practiced to earn their living. To migrant workers, it was difficult for them, since they did not have any rural places where they could practice subsistence farming. To the native workers, this subsistence farming did not improve much of their lives, since it only allowed the only to survive and they remained in absolute poverty. Loewenson was courted in Sachikonye saying that many women later choose to engage in beer brewing and prostitution in order for them to look after themselves.⁵ Therefore one can note that the working conditions in

the early days of independence were very harsh to the farm workers, since the wages they received could not provide equate living for their families, both the young and the old.

Furthermore, the way the farmers treated their workers lead to different health risk. Many farm workers were exposed to different poisonous chemicals when treating plants and animals. The farmers did give their workers adequate safety clothes to protect them from such events, sometimes these could cause permanent health problems , and it must be closely looked at ,that even the response of the farmers to seek treatment for their workers was poor since they greatly knew that they were easily replaceable.⁶ Compensation for such mishaps was rear and if it was done it was just of low amount and sometimes the worker could be blamed for being the one ignorant when caring his or her duties, as said before women began to engage in prostitution in farms, this kind of behavior caused many dangerous diseases such as sexual transmitted diseases (STDs) to occur. Most of the STDs if they were not treated well or given late treatment could cause permanent health problems such lack of child bearing and sometimes could lead to death.

More so, the farm workers had no job security, the farmers could sack the workers any time when they felt like wanting to even for no reasonable justification. These unfair labour practices increased already a hard burden on the farm workers who already had problems of looking after a larger number of extended family members'.⁷ sometimes the workers would live without packages and if given the packages, these would not last for so long in order for them to look for another job and take care for their families and this resulted in unscrupulous behaviors, such as criminal offences and socially digressing professions thus man become thieves, whilst women become prostitutes and most of the times both would join together form criminal syndicates.

1.4 Farm workers and accommodation crises in Zimbabwe (1980-2000)

Most of farm workers lived on farm compounds from the times of colonial era and still today a number of them still reside there. Farm compounds were created during the colonial period as a means to access cheap labour and almost every farm had its own compound.⁸ The infamous compounds have been known for many different reasons and all of them have been blamed or directed to the farmers who operate them and the government of Zimbabwe who must do something to improve accommodation issues for farm workers. In the colonial era farm compounds were created not for families but for African man who worked on the white owned farms, whilst women and the children lived in the rural areas known as reserves such as Gwai and Shangani.⁹ later the compounds became a community whereby women and children began to live together with their husbands and fathers. The increase in numbers meant that it was also an increase in problems; many problems became to appear in the farm compounds.

It must also be known, that the type or the quality of accommodation usually depended on the owner of the farm since the accommodation standards differed from farm to farm, for example, another farm would choose use bricks to build the compound houses, whilst another farmer used pole and dagga to build the compound houses on his farm. Most of the houses were built very poorly and most of them were a colonial legacy, hence they had deteriorated, some of them had poor ventilations, poor security features to stop easy breakouts.¹⁰ The conditions in which the farmers were living were inhuman comparing to the farmers themselves and other top managerial persons who lived on beautiful houses well-built and designed, whilst farm workers lived like packed rats.

The compounds were so overcrowded; when the compounds were designed they were meant to hold just a small number of people and man only who had been recruited to work in farms and

they had to live their families in their rural homes. When the country attained its had won independence some of the laws were removed, which led to a rapid migration of people to different places depending with the area of interest.¹¹ Most farm workers began to live with their families in the compounds since they needed to close with their families. Many families began to live with their families in one room.

Due to overcrowding diseases began to manifest, many people contracted diseases because of unhygienic conditions. Farmer workers shared the same bath rooms and same toilets, about 10 families shared these. Because many people used them together, usually they were dirty. The whole system actually had no privacy at all, since the homes were packed together and shared things together.

Due to a large number of people who resided in the compounds, many criminal activities have taken place. Farmers themselves sometimes would lose valuable things, together with the farm workers themselves they would lose also valuable things due to theft. Since low wages were given to the farm workers, most women resorted to prostitution in order to look for themselves and their families.

Most compounds became places and sources where prostitution had been rooted. With prostitution on the rise cases of AIDS and marriage breakouts became the order of the day.¹² Many child headed families were created, which led to the farm workers children to seek employment and raise their little siblings since the diseases had taken their parents away and some parents could no longer work anymore. Many families were destroyed also because of misbehaviors due to prostitution in the compounds, many divorces arisen.

1.6 The Effects of Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) on farm workers.

The economic structural adjustment programme in Zimbabwe was a nightmare for the farm workers, since it only brought poverty and frustrations to them, together with their families. ESAP brought wide spread poverty since it paved way for unemployment and also went to increase contracts and seasonal workers. Also it was noted by that during the period of ESAP real wages earnings collapsed but productivity was on its rise, to the extent that it actually doubled compared with the pre to the post-independence period.¹³ In the year of 1997 there was growing desertification by farmers due to starvation and unemployment and this resulted in an direct action for their grievances to get noticed by the responsible people thus the government and the farmers.

A). Employment and unemployment issues

Most farm workers lost their jobs because of ESAP, not only farm workers lost their jobs but mining, industrial and even the public service workers lost their jobs. Tarugarira went on to state that ESAP was simply an anti-labor programme¹⁴ and its effects included deindustrialization, inflation, company closures reduction of real wages and the standard of living of farm workers. Most of the farmers began to employ women and full time employees had to be reduced and the introduction of contracts was used to reduce the number of permanent workers and the farmers would hire farm workers depending on the season and the type of crops to be planted, hence creating season workers.¹⁵ Most of the workers were removed by entrenchment for no apparent reasons and some of them were simply labeled what they were not and foremen would create false accusations in order to suck them out of their jobs.

Furthermore the issue of wages was also another case since the farmers began to give their workers low wages ,knowing very well that the farm workers will not deny them quickly because others were even losing their jobs. The farm workers received poor salaries and this resulted in poverty. Farmers earnings could not allow them afford food stuff

b) The revolt of farm workers over the effects of ESAP

ESAP lead to revolt or a strike by workers of different sectors in a move of trying to change the situation which they had found themselves in. the strike of June 1997 by workers was a move to bring their situation to the attention of the responsible people. They had to resort to direct action targeting the farmers themselves, actions such as; destroying tobacco barns, looting of shops most of the shops being, farm shops, burning of cars owned by commercial white farmers, and to the extent of blocking roads and destroying fields.

Mtisi went on to state that, the assumption that the strike was a brain child of GAPWUZ it's not valid and the allegations are all false.¹⁶ He went on to state that, no outside influence was needed for the farmers to realize that they were starving. It was only the matter of responding to the decline of their life standards and the frustrations they were experiencing. The farm workers were the ones who organized themselves into small groups from many surrounding farms and united to fight continued suppression and exploitation against them. Hence one can say that the farm workers took the matters into the hands.

1.7 Farm workers access to basic social services (1980-2000)

Since the attainment of independence in Zimbabwe, there has been little or no progress at all to help with the poor education and poor health conditions that farm workers in Zimbabwe are

facing. Dating back to the period soon after independence in the 1980s, the government embarked on a programme to increase the number of schools that were in the country, so as to obtain high literacy rate¹⁷. In the post-colonial period after the country had attained its freedom, people expected their living conditions to change. Hence they didn't know that it was just old wine in new bottles, meaning to say that after independence when power shifted from the whites to the new government which was being led by the Mugabe, nothing new or different have been seen up to date, since they have failed to fulfill their promises they had made to the people. A promise for a better Zimbabwe, but the situation has remained the same and even worse than before.

Today Zimbabwe is ranked as one the top countries in Africa, in terms of high literacy rates, due to Mugabe's regime massive built of schools in the 1980s. although the massive programme was a success to the nation, it did not cater for most of the farm workers. Between the periods of 1980 to 2000, most farmers were illiterate, due to the type and quality of education they were given. Most of the farm workers before they were employed to work, they had attended long distance schools to seek education, sometimes they walked three kilometers to schools and this caused high school drops, since they would then choose to work in farms rather than going to school. Many schools had not enough resources to use, resources as furniture for children to use during their school days and also books to use, they had to share almost five students per book. More so, the schools did not have many teachers to teach the children. sometimes the school could have only 2 to 3 qualified teachers, and the rest would be relief teachers and even they were relief teachers they were not enough. All the factors have led to the plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe.

Furthermore, the issue of low wages or salaries even caused many of the children to turn into farms since their parents could no longer pay school fees for them. Some of the children had to end in primary schools and some in secondary schools. Others became farm workers at a tender age hence way they is a lot of illiteracy rates in farm areas. In some areas if the children were lucky, originations would come to assist them¹⁸, whilst some farms had schools which they ran on their own but with the assistance government of the government and could allow the farm workers children to pay latter in the owner was in control of that school or he would subtract from the workers' pay .

Also health services were a problem to the farm workers. Most farms provided health services to their workers, since they had clinic which operated on the farms. Some say that this was a mechanism of choosing who was still fit to work in their farms and if one was found not fit he or she had to be removed from his duties and also used as a means to stop unscrupulous behavior by farm workers of trying to be absent from work.¹⁹ And to those who had no farm clinics, some of them had to walk long distance to find one; this was hard since one could be sick. As if that is not enough, the clinics usually did not have enough medications and they had to buy it in expensively in pharmacies and their wages are also low hence it becomes a disastrous life .Since the type of work which farm workers do, needs a lot of power they tend to quickly deteriorate their health and in virtually die a miserable death, in poverty and pain of failure.

It must be noted that not everything on the farm was to reduce the farm worker, but some service managed to help the farm workers though not a larger extend. Some farmers offered shops on their farms and sometimes this acted as blessing to the farm workers, if the farm workers did not have money to buy food stuff, they could go to the farmers shop and get the goods which they wanted on credit.²⁰ This helped to reduce the starvation on farm workers but the money would be

deducted on their salaries. But this system however had its faults, the goods will be sold on high prices and this system made sure that the worker was forced not to attempt to live the farm since, the worker basically knew that he would get what he want when wanted, whilst others would go to look for greener pastures. Thus the farmers would remain with workers who were skilled on the matters of their farms rather having plenty of new workers every time. Furthermore loans were also given to the most trusted workers especially when they had encountered a noticeable problem seen fit by the farm manager to be awarded a loan. All these services depended on the farm and the farm owner.

1.8 Trade Union Intervention Strategies to improve the Working Conditions

The ZANU PF government soon after gaining independence it went on, to allow the formation of trade unions. It went ahead to form the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade unions (ZCTU) in a move to control the labour movement, since the liberation war had been protracted through peasants it went on to create farm workers committees in farms .

In the early stages the unions and workers committee's suffered a lot, since the ZANU PF government acted as the big brother and unions had to act more in a partisan way. Rarftopolus commented that the first formed workers and village committees were loyal to the party²¹. An labour relations act of 1985 was passed, which advocated for "one industry one union", and went on to make it simple in the terms of joining the union but restricted greatly on the idea of strikes and the power was given most to the ministry of labour, And under this act workers committee could not be part of the trade union and this meant that the workers committee could be not supported by the union during their negotiation with the management. Further the amendment of 1992 even made it difficult for the representation of workers since it stated that no managerial

employee would be allowed to enter in workers committees. workers committees would be entered by farm workers only and this made it difficult for farm workers to strategies , advance and advocate their grievances since they was high illiteracy rate amongst the farm workers.

As a result of new elections held in 1988, new leaders were put in place; Morgan Tsvangirai became the new secretary general of the union. In 1990 the trade union shifted from a party affiliated union into a critical force which went on to bring critics and blame to the government on the matters of the economy as an issue of poor governance. In 1997 the union managed to bring and influence a strike the best known strike in Zimbabwe which both and workers and employee blamed the government on the harsh conditions facing the common people.²² The farm workers participated in this strike because they also were facing problems also, such as poor working conditions and also poor living conditions and they had to act also to improve their standard of living. The farm workers wanted increase in their wages and wanted to better houses to live and wanted the services to improve in their areas.

1.9 Conclusion

This chapter was focusing on the plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe, before fast track land reform programme. It has highlighted on the issues affecting the farm workers in the period of 1980 to 2000 thus both living and working conditions. It went on to look at low wages given to farm workers and went further to on how they managed to live in the infamous compounds with their own families. Social services given to the farm workers were also looked at, looking in the areas of education and health services and other monetary services such as the issues of loans and credits. It was also brought to light that sometimes the treatment of farm workers greatly

differed from farm to farm. one has to take note on the issue of a positive change that occurred during the early years of independence which did not escalate further.

The chapter went on to explore further, how the government and non- governmental intervention strategies put in place to improve and better the working and living conditions of farm workers in Zimbabwe took place. The ways in which other farmers did to improve the lives of their workers were as noted. Workers committees also helped to support the farm workers through representation and their actions were so positive but this did not help much in reducing or alleviate the livelihoods of farm workers. The effects of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) on farm workers were also highlighted. All in all, the plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe, in the period of 1980s up to the new millennium had been rocked with poverty and suppression and nothing touchable can be noticed during these years.

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CHAPTER TWO: Farm workers and the fast track land reform programme (FTLRP)

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses much on the relationship between farm workers and the fast track land reform programme (FTLRP) of 2000 in Marondera district. The chapter will seek to highlight the fact that FTLRP did not bring the plight of farm workers, but it just intensified the plight of farm workers. It increased a burden where there was already a burden, problems existed already and some dating back to the colonial period. The focus will be on the working conditions and the living conditions of farm workers and examining closely how the fast track land reform programme worsened these situations. It will look at the unemployment it caused and lack of job security it brought, the accommodation issues and the evictions that took place, that left many farm workers stranded with their families. Issues to do with low wages and unfair labour practices treatment of farm workers will be highlighted.

Furthermore, the chapter will look at the social services that are being used by farm workers and further looks at, how land reform programme has affected these social services in Marondera district. The reasons behind the escalation of the plight of farm workers will be looked at and health services and also educational services would be looked at and looking how the farm workers have been coping with these changes happening in the farms. More so, the chapter will look on how farm workers are being abused in the farms by farmers both the new and the old farmers. Farmers have been known to treat their farm workers in an inhuman manner.

2.2 New farmers and the working conditions of their workers in Marondera.

The fast track land reform programme has brought a lot of debate amongst many scholars, arguing on the reasons for it to take place and the problems it brought with, in Zimbabwe. Farm workers in Marondera district have also greatly been affected by the FTLRP. Their working conditions are characterised by lack of job security and low wages, which has caused farm workers to resort to various means for them to survive. When power shifted from one hand to another, a lot of things changed, the new farmers brought with themselves new rules which had to be followed by the old farm workers in the farms.

Most new farmers reduced the wages of the farm workers, claiming that they could not afford to pay them the wages which they were once given. The issue of low wages have been witnessed from the colonial era up to the present period. It must be noted that fast track land reform programme worsened the status of farm workers¹; before FTLRP Farm workers used to get low wages and still today get those low wages. Mrs Murembwe a farm worker stated that in other cases, the farmer might decide to give them food stuff instead of money and at the worst case scenario, might spend three months without giving them their salaries.²

Furthermore, the FTLRP did not only bring low wages to the farm workers, it went on ahead to create unemployment to the farm workers. Sachikonye stated that the fast track land reform programme caused high employment rate in Zimbabwe.³ In most farms in Marondera district, new farmers sucked their workers soon after they had obtained their new farms. They have been a lot of debate amongst many scholars on the number of workers who lost jobs due the programme.

Due to unemployment and Low wages given to the farm workers, they have turned to seek for better opportunities in the labour market, but since they do have low standards of education and they is high competition for jobs in Marondera district, they find it difficult for them to get employed. The farm workers end up in the informal sector, in which they will be in the trade of buying and selling. Usually they sell second hand clothes which they bought in Mozambique and vegetables produces bought in farms and sell them in Marondera urban or in Marondera rural district. The life will be difficult for them since the economy of Zimbabwe is facing huge challenges. Mr Chari an ex- farm worker went on to state that, when he lost his job after he was sucked by the new farmer, he had to find another means to survive since he looked after a family of five. He embarked on a selling Matemba and his wife, which he buys from Mozambique around farms in Marondera.⁴

Furthermore, due to the effects of the FTLRP, which have reduced farm salaries and created job insecurity, it has caused migration of farm workers from Marondera district to other districts, towns, cities and even foreign countries. The migration has caused families to be worlds apart especially to those who go to look for work in South Africa and Botswana. Young children are left to look after themselves and in most cases it is the husband who goes to look for work in foreign countries and the case of women usually are either single or they go together with their husbands. Mrs Muchetwa, she stated in interview, that husbands might spend some months or even years without coming to visit their families and some do send money whilst others do not send frequently .she went to bring the fact that, some of the women are still young and they end cheating their husbands since they want to look after the children and carter for their sexual needs and might end put themselves in the risk of contracting HIV.⁵ Some farm workers have

chosen to go to mining places such Makaha in Mutoko to do gold panning, whilst other have gone to Harare where they are in the buying and selling trade.⁶

Since the FTLRP increased unemployment and introduced low wages, it has caused many young farm workers and even farmers families to engage in criminal and indecent social professions. Most of the farm workers have turned in to a stealing habit and prostitution. Some of the farm workers children and wives have resorted to prostitution since their husbands and fathers cannot afford to look for the family, whilst young man have resorted to stealing for the upbringing of their family. These actions have one thing to another; it has brought diseases such as, HIV and other sexually related diseases and with these diseases in place, many child headed families have been created.⁷ Some families have even stopped to exist, after the families have passed away due to the virus. Most of the sick farm workers become targets of the foreman's who want to suck them.

More so, one has to note and look closely, at the FTLRP and how it worsened the situations of farm workers, due to low income received by farm workers in Marondera district. Farm workers have been known to improvise, in order for them to take care for their families. Some have started to steal the farm products, such as inputs and outputs of the farms and sometimes it even goes to the extent of stealing farm equipment's.⁸ Without naming the interviewed for protection reasons, he went to state that, most of the times after milking the dairy farm cows, they take some of the milk which they will sell already to their available customers who lives nearby their farms and others who come from Marondera urban.⁹ Hence one can see that the FTLRP worsened the plight of farm workers in Marondera district since, it has brought job insecurities and unemployment to the farm workers and also have led to the reduction of farm salaries in most of the farms. One has to note that these problems had already existed prior to FTLRP, but the programme went on to increase the burden.

2.3 The living conditions of farm workers in Marondera district under the fast track land reform programme.

Fast track land reform programme, brought with it many challenges for the farm workers in Marondera district. The issue of accommodation has been a problem since the rule of the minority whites and many farm workers lived on the compounds. Most farm workers in Marondera district live on farm compounds whilst others live in the urban. The living conditions of farm workers can be said that they have worsened due to the fast track land reform programme. Ian et al stated that the fast track land reform programme of 2000 had consequences ranging from the economic, political and social stands.¹⁰

Soon after the occupation of farms by the new farmers during the fast track land reform programme, most of the new farmers evicted the farm workers claiming authority over everything.¹¹ The new farmers most of them who were strong ZANU PF top officials and members, claimed that the farm workers were so loyal to the former owners hence lived in the fear that the farm workers could not be trusted, since they could mobilize to sabotage the farm and at worst kill them and their families. Most of the farms in Marondera district, which went under new authority evicted farm workers and left them with no place to go. A lot of farm workers were stranded with their families, other farm workers had rural places to go but for the foreign migrant workers they faced hard times since the government did not take a quick action to reduce their plight.¹² Farm workers' women and children were so disadvantaged by these evictions. Some had to sleep outside and other was forcibly evicted. The farm worker was so dehumanized by these actions, for the conditions and situation they were put in was unbearable, since they were no work no more, they had no money to rent and due to their level of literacy and hard

times facing the economy no jobs could be easily found. Mrs. Chekera an evicted farm worker stated that, the evictions were so dehumanizing since the evictors never considered where the farm workers would go, and for her it was double tragedy for her husband had just two months ago and left her with three children and she had to go and live with her sister in marondera suburb of Cherima where her sister lives in two rooms with her husband and their two children.¹³

Furthermore during the FTLRP, the government went on to resettle the marginalized groups. Only a small number of farm workers managed to be resettled and the rest were left on the farms and others evicted on the farms. Magaramombe stated that although farm workers constitute a larger number of Zimbabwe's proletariat, they have no easy access to land and have no housing rights¹⁴. During the first redistribution period in some of the farm workers were resettled but most of the farmers did not get that opportunity to be resettled. In the first phase the farm workers got land which was being taken through the willing buyer willing seller practice, but the second phase was land taken from the fast track land reform programme. Farm workers were not noticed in the division of land during the colonial period but were seen as the property of the farmers and especially foreign migrant workers. In the post-independence era the situation was the same they were not recognized as a special group to be resettled but they were also living in poverty and had no land, just like the other settled people or groups.

The farm workers who were not resettled or evicted, most of them live under harsh conditions in the farm compounds. The compounds houses have not been renovated for so long, the way they were built in the colonial times, is the same way they are today. The new farmers seem not to care about the compounds improvements and they have been deteriorating each and every day.¹⁵ The improvement of these farms compounds is the sole responsibility of the new farmer, since authority was granted to him or her by the state after taking over. Usually the new farmers are

note bothered by the accommodation quality since, they themselves live in beautiful houses which were once owned by the evicted farmers. Mr. Afiki a migrant farm worker grandchild went on to state that themselves they were used to the conditions in which they live, since they were born such conditions and from what they had from their condition still the same.¹⁶

Since the colonial period it has been well known around academics and the society that the compounds which farm workers live are so overcrowded; if improvement was being done the compounds should have been expanded to cater for the growing numbers of the people living in the compounds. The reason why the compounds are always full is that since most of farm workers do not have rural homes and do not own houses, when they retire they continue to live on the farms now with their grown up children, who would have taken the profession of their parents. Usually the children start to build also their own families.¹⁷ The way these compounds were designed they were meant to just to allow a small group of workers to live closely to work, but only living alone without families. Also after FRLRP most farm workers were forced to go to other compounds which did not have too much pressure than the one they left.

Diseases have been reported in the many farms in Marondera district due to overcrowding of people in the compounds. The lack of sanitation in the compounds causes the compounds to have outbreaks of different diseases, most of the compounds systems and designs had the idea of sharing of toilets and bath rooms. At another farm in Marondera, almost 10 families share the same toilets and bathrooms. Some of the families fail to keep these toilets and bathrooms clean and due to the hard economy and low wages they are given, sometimes they spend days without being cleaned using toilet detergents¹⁸.

Since the FRLTP caused unemployment, most farm workers resorted to other means for them to look after themselves.¹⁹ At Igava in marondera, former farm worker began to engage in prostitution and criminal activities. It is said that the place had become lawless and the government quickly choose this area to create a national youth services base, that is Igava national youth training center as also one of the reason to establish it their base their and since the base was introduced low prostitution and criminal activities were witnessed.²⁰ Prostitution and criminal activities had been taking place before the FTLRP and it must be noted that the programme only intensified what was already there. With prostitution, comes with the increase in cases of AIDS and most compound were caught by this epidemic. They was a huge increase in Marondera district of many child headed families which were created due to the diseases had taken killed their parents and living them with a burden to look after their young siblings. Due to these unrespectable behaviors in the society marriages were destroyed and families left in fragments state.

2.4The fast track land reform programme and farm workers access to social services.

The fast track land reform programme has come with a lot of perceptions and debates around it that many scholars still try to come in terms with. The FTLRP when it took place it increased the bad state in which farm workers were; since it went on to worsen the availability of many services such as health and educational services.²¹ Sachikonye went on to state that one of the major consequences of land reform is farm workers' diminishing access to certain resources and services.²²

Most health services were affected during the changing of ownership of farms, other farmers operated their own clinics on their farms, though they were not of high standard one has to note that they assisted in other cases. When new farmer went on to take over the farms, they stopped to offer such health services and went on to operate their farm without them stating that the farm workers if they were sick they had attend government clinic. Usually government clinics are found at a long distance and usually do not have enough medications and require money ahead making it difficult for the low paid sick farm worker to be attended. If the clinic was on the farm the sick farm worker could be attended and the money would be deducted on his or her salary, but his therefore one can clearly see that the land reform had to escalate a problems that had been so long affecting the poor and frustrated farm worker.

More so, the farm workers who were evicted from farm compounds and went to live in areas termed by Sachikonye as informal settlements, have been having problems in trying to access health facilities ,since the areas were not planned for settlement hence missing clinics. The area they went to settle Most of the children in these areas show great signs of suffering from malnutrition. Prior the FTLRP, they were organizations who offered schemes like the farm health worker scheme, which was responsible in dispersing drugs for minor illnesses and also engaged the community by informing them on issues to do with health and hygiene. When power in farms shifted due to the redistribution of land in 2000 the projects seemed not to exist.

Furthermore, health services were not the only service affected by FTLRP, the programme went on to affect the education system too. Farms that were well organized used to run schools for the farm workers children and this helped to cover the distance these children would walk to schools and also allowed the students to learn without paying schools, since the fees would be deducted from their parents when the pay days arrived. When the FTLRP occurred, the new farmers failed

to run the farm schools which had been left by their predecessors. The failure to run these schools was huge blow to the farm workers and their children, since the parents to look for money pay schools even though they had not yet been paid²³. The children now had to walk long distances in order for them to attended school, some of them even walk up to 14km. some of the children in Marondera district end up living in shacks near the schools.

The education system had been facing problems It has been reported that have been high school drop outs rates due to the FTRLP of 2000. Most children have dropped out because they could not afford to walk long distances no more and the issue of low wages given to their parents they could not afford to pay their school fees no more²⁴. The youngsters end up looking for work in the farms just like their own parents and the cycle continue to rotate all over and over again.

2.5 Conclusion

The chapter focused greatly on the situation of farm workers after the fast track land reform programme in the district of Marondera. It went on to look at the conditions in which farm workers have been living under and working under. Focusing greatly on the working and living conditions of the farm workers The chapter went on to give and support the fact that the fast track land reform programme did not bring the plight of the farm workers but it actually worsened the situation at greater degree for it brought suffrage to the farm workers of Marondera district . since the programme went on to increase unemployment rate of farm workers, increased more seasonal workers than full time workers and it brought job insecurity ,worsened the accommodation problems farm workers had before and the evictions that took

place forcing farm workers to form illegal settlements and left many farm workers stranded with their families. Low wages was also another issue looked at by the chapter.

Furthermore, the chapter did look at the social services which farm workers uses and brought out how the fast track land reform of 2000 destroyed these social services in Marondera district. Health services and also educational services were focused on, highlighting on the impact of the land reform on the plight of farm workers in Marondera district. Also various coping strategies by the districts farm workers were explored at. Hence it can be said that the plight of farm workers in Marondera further increased by the FTLRP.

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Chapter three: the intervention strategies to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the intervention strategies implemented by the government and non-governmental institutions in trying to alleviate the plight of farm workers. The plight of farm workers has been witnessed through different generations and different periods of time and has allowed different institutions to be formed to help solve this bad situation. The chapter will be mainly focusing on intervention strategies employed after the fast track land reform programme by GOZ and NGOs to help eradicate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district.

The chapter will focus on the how the government and non-governmental institution have been doing in trying to improve the living conditions and working conditions of farm workers. The FTLRP displaced a lot of farm workers and most of them live under illegal settlements and compounds systems which are still over crowded and have been deteriorating day by day and pose as a health risk for farm workers. The chapter will go ahead to unearth various means employed by the government of Zimbabwe and NGOs in trying to improve the conditions which the farm workers are living under. FTLRP increased unemployment rate in the farm workers community. It introduced short time contracts and seasonal jobs, and it has been difficult for the workers to find these jobs since most of the farm workers are not permanently employed.

Furthermore, the chapter will highlight on issue to do with the strategies put in place to alleviate the plight of farm workers in the district to improve basic social services in the farm workers

community, such as in the education and health sectors and show how they have been employed to suit the situation of farm workers. FTLRP worsened the access to those services and played a huge part to deteriorate them. The chapter will also look at coping strategies employed by farm workers themselves in the need to improve their quality and standard of living through different creative ideas.

3.2 Intervention strategies aimed at improving education services in farms.

FTLRP worsen the situation of farm workers in the sense that, farm workers could not afford to send their children to school due to financial constraints. Sachikonye stated that most farm workers had relied on farm schools that were offered by the previous farm owners, which were later closed during the FTLRP.¹ Also with the poor wages which they receive and due to poor employment opportunities the farm workers have found it difficult to pay for their children school fees.

The government has intervened with a programme labeled the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM). BEAM was introduced by the government in 2001 with the need to assist children who come from disadvantaged families, whose parents or guardians are facing challenges in paying their school fees. The program assists by paying levies, together with school fees and examination fees. The program went on to replace the social dimensions fund (SDF) which also did the same as BEAM does. The programme reaches also to farm workers children in rural districts. In Marondera district according to the number of the questionnaires distributed to farm workers it seemed as if almost one third of the farm workers children school fees is being paid for by BEAM. In an interview with Mrs. Makanda a wife to a farm worker, she stated that

she had to fight hard to put her two children on the BEAM list fearing that, if she had failed to, this meant her children had to stay at home rather than going to school.²

More so, there are also other non – governmental institutions that have programmes that assist farm workers in the issues to do with the education for all children. General and Agricultural Plantation Workers of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ), also that helps to assist farm workers in the issues to do with education for their children , the union links the farm workers with donor funding organizations within country and outside the country such as UNICEF.³

There are also other church based institutions that have intervened to alleviate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is an international humanitarian and development arm of the United Methodist Church which focuses on Emergency response, Livelihoods, Social and community development, and Health. UMCOR has assisted and uplifted the livelihoods of more than 380,000 people in Zimbabwe through its different programs that seek to address human suffering.⁴ UMCOR has helped in the aftermath of the FTLRP of 2000 and operates without not on racial, political or religion perspectives and they assist whether it's a natural or human caused disaster. In Marondera district UMCOR in terms of education has looked for ways to help alleviate human suffering through assisting in paying schools fees for farm workers children and also providing them with other school necessities such as books, pens and uniforms. UMCOR in the district has worked with different groups and people from the local communities in a bid to unearth problems and solutions needed.

It has to be noted that the government has created a lot of programmes as strategies to alleviate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district and Zimbabwe as a whole, it has also

collaborated with international and local stakeholders to improve and better the lives of farm workers, and also engaged with community trust groups, trade unions , and faith-based organizations, in the need to respond to the needs of farm workers such as in health security , accommodation , education and salaries and employment issues. The partnership of government with other stakeholders such as UNICEF has also helped to alleviate the plight of farm workers, since UNICEF has managed to continuously give the government funds that have been used to help in the education sector.

3.3 Intervention strategies implemented to improve the health services for farm workers.

The Health service is also another field in which the government and non- governmental organizations have worked hard to improve the live hoods of farm workers in Marondera district, the land reform of 2000 lead to rapid decline of the health sector. The government created certain intervention strategies to alleviate the plight of farm workers under the arm of the Ministry of Public Services, Labor and Social Welfare lead under the social service department. The department has a mandate to assist and uplift the standards of the disadvantaged groups in the country. The social service department also runs Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMTO), a programme that seeks to help the under privileged people in terms of health assistance.⁵

Lowenson went on to state that farm clinics and rural clinics have many operate with many problems such as lack of enough trained medical personals, inadequate medications and also the

consultation fee is high for ordinary farm workers.⁶ The government through its partnership and diplomatic ties managed to receive help from the Chinese government in the need to improve the health service delivery in Zimbabwe through many different health programs. This move has managed to help alleviate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district since there are provided with free health services. The Chinese government brought its doctors to Zimbabwe to assist in the health sector by offering free treatment services to the disadvantaged people such as the farm workers and also give free medications if it's necessary. The first Chinese medical team was deployed in Zimbabwe in 1984 and since then, many medical teams have come into the country and Marondera district has also benefited from this. In an interview with Mrs. Marikopo a farm worker she stated that her father was greatly assisted by the Chinese medical teams since they managed to perform an operation to her father who was blind.⁷ The Chinese medical teams have specialist physicians, orthopedic surgeons, and urologist etc. that help in the country.

Furthermore, farm workers face problems when it comes to accessing medical facilities and also they have to walk long distance to receive treatment. The government managed to intervene on the situation by sometimes creating mobile clinics that moves around in the district offering services. Government together with the Chinese government had to build a rural hospital at Mahusekwa growth point in Marondera district under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Mrs. Marikopo stated that the mobile clinics help to assist greatly in terms of distance since many times they have to walk 40km to find health facilities.⁸ And the Chinese have embarked a campaign that seeks to teach local medical personals such as those who work under the home based care treatment.

More so there are also other non –governmental organizations which have made it their task to help alleviate the problems being faced by farm workers in Marondera districts when it comes to health issues. UMCOR have also a health programme which have reached some parts of the country including Marondera district. Since government clinics do not have much medications and also funds to help create programmes to prevent certain outbreaks, UMCOR embarked on a malaria prevention campaign in the district and coordination with National Malaria control Program (NMCP) and also other district partners, it went on to provide almost 5 000 long lasting insect treated bed nets to about 890 households and trained about 150 stakeholders in malaria prevention and monitoring and evaluation.⁹ Stakeholders present were i village health workers; community care givers; local, traditional, and religious leaders; environmental health technicians; government health staff; school health masters; and ward councilors.

Other organization such as Farm community Trust of Zimbabwe (FCTZ) have come with also other intervention strategies to try eradicate the plight of farm workers, the trust has programs such as Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health and HIV and AIDS’s Home Based care and support programs allows accessibility to social health services and welfare services and this have improved many farm workers in Marondera district quality of lives in both farming areas and rural communities. In an interview with Mr. Macheke a health officer in Marondera stated that FCTZ has helped to reduce infant morbidity and mortality in farming areas through their Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and community based growth monitoring.¹⁰

Furthermore, the government also partners with other non- governmental organizations to help in the alleviation of the plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe. In Marondera district the government has partnered with World Health Organization in the drilling of boreholes for safe water sources in the rural district. Since the government does not have enough money to create many programs, the collaboration with other non-governmental organization brings funds that have seen the health facilities improve a bit.¹¹ the government sometimes offers mobile clinics to assist farm workers and their families especially when it comes to immunization of the farm workers children.

3.4 Intervention strategies employed to improve living and working conditions of farm workers.

Various intervention strategies have been employed to improve the working conditions and living conditions of farm workers in Marondera district farms. The plight of farm workers has been associated with many problems and various institutions have shown concern over their bad situation. An institution such as GAPWUZ has shown a lot of effort and has resorted in negotiation tactics with the government to improve on low wages and poor living conditions of farm workers. GAPWUZ was formed in 1985 as trade union of farm workers, its information officer Kamoto was courted in the news day saying that their also look at the issues to do with the safety of farm workers and health problems. GAPWUZ engages in the collective bargaining in order to improve the lives of farm workers, the last bargaining stated that the lowest paid worker was to be paid \$75 per month from \$70 last time, whilst the highest has to be paid \$154 from \$139.¹²

More so, UN agencies have come up with a joint programming initiatives with the government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) that seeks to bring effective interventions and create a very sound impact in all of the sectors to be focused on to bring sustainable development. Zimbabwe has been facing socio-economic problems for the past decade and these problems have resulted to the collapse of basic social services such as health delivery services, education services, water and sanitation and also development among human settlements. United Nations Zimbabwe has partnered with GOZ in order to assist it in achieving its national development goals and together has come up with projects that focuses on health delivery services, education, water and sanity, and more over development among the community of Zimbabwe.¹³ and these policies in some way have helped the plight of farm workers in Marondera district.

Farm compounds have been also having electricity problems, most farm compounds since in the colonial times did not have electricity in the farms and farm workers had to use fire wood as a source of energy, the government through its programme the Zimbabwe rural electrification programme has managed to bring and install electricity in some parts of Marondera district compounds. Shortages of water and sources of clean water have been a major problem in the farming areas and have made the living of farm workers unbearable.¹⁴ NGOs such as PLAN International have intervened to help on the plight of farm workers by drilling and installing bores around Zimbabwe in areas which are found it difficult to found clean water. The organisation has managed to drill and install 15 boreholes in Marondera district, 4 of the boreholes are located in farms whilst most of them in rural resident areas and two in the urban area Also other organisations have managed to work with the government to drill, repair and install some boreholes.

3.5 Intervention strategies to promote food security.

Food shortages have been a major problem among the farm workers community and a lot of farm workers have been starving with their families, Sachikonye stated that the land inversions and droughts in the period of 2000-2002 marked the beginning of extreme food shortages in Zimbabwe since farming production became low.¹⁵ Also due to low wages and also the issue of seasonal work it has also caused starvation amongst the workers and they have been cases of malnutrition in the farms.

The vulnerability of farm workers to starvation was intervened by the government and NGOs both domestic and international ones. The government embarked on a move to import maize from countries like Zambia and Malawi in order to reduce starvation cases. In Marondera district the government managed to assist the communities through its programme Food for all, which was distributed through councillors.

Also NGOs such as United States Agency for international development (US AID) have chipped in to help alleviate the plight of farm workers in Marondera district through its programmes. They have managed to assist farm workers and their families through food distribution, the disadvantaged people receive groceries such as cooking oil, mealie meal, beans and other food stuff that helps to eradicate poverty and starvation among the workers. In an interview with Mr Masukume a farm worker he stated that, he has been receiving food assistance from the US AID for some time now, and this has helped reduce the burden on him since he is a father of six children who need to go to school and also need clothes and shelter.¹⁶

Other organisations have come up with different strategies from the rest of others. Instead for them to give farm workers food aid they have resorted to give farm workers knowledge in starting income generating projects, equipment and capital to start these projects. Some projects created have managed to uplift the standard of living of some farm workers compared to the one they lived before, the projects being bee keeping , mushroom harvesting , poultry etc.farm workers have their own piece of land to plough have also being assisted with fertilizers and seeds for farming.

Other organisation such as the FCTZ have intervened focusing on the children of farm workers, mostly bringing supplementary feeding programmes for the children under the age of five and sometimes assist the children who are at school by giving them porridge every morning and sometimes peas and beans .However the organisation does not leave out the adults but depending with the availability of funds they might assist the adults through giving them groceries.

3.6 Coping strategies by farm workers.

Farm workers have been known to rely on well-wishers when it comes to end their plight, but due to the economic hardships and the cold relationship between the government and the western sponsored NGOs the farm workers have resorted to different strategies to alleviate poverty and improve their live hoods. Farm workers in Marondera district have shifted away from the dependency syndrome and have come up with different plans and strategies and have not waited for the government or the non–governmental organization to come and improve or intervene in their lives and if they come they would meant them half way.

Farm workers in the district went into negotiations with their farmers in order for them to allow them to use other parts of the farms for them to feed their families. They have been great food shortages in the country and especially in farming areas. Farm workers have used these lands to grow food in order to supplement for the low wages their receiving. In an interview with Mrs. Chanakira a farm worker, she stated that these small pieces of land are very vital for if they do not have these lands to cultivate they might live in starve. She went on to say that these means have helped and also they have resorted to other means such as gathering wild fruits and plants such as the black jack for meals , whilst men and young boys would go for fishing and hunting, hunting small games such as hares , birds , mice for the family meals only.¹⁷

Furthermore, other farm workers have resorted to look for piece jobs as a means to help them take care for their families, since the wages they receive do not allow them to make a decent living. Some farm workers have looked for work during their off days, whilst those on seasonal contracts would look for pieces jobs if their contracts have had expired. Usually the piece jobs are paid on daily bases or weekly bases depending on the farmer in line. Farm workers who have other skills such as building or wielding skills they usually look for work in order in order for them to take care for the young ones. Other farm workers have gone into the informal sector , buying and selling goods , such as second hands clothes which they and sneak form Mozambique and sell them in Marondera urban.

Other farm workers have come up with different projects that have helped them to create some income. These projects have helped to find money which they would use to pay for children schools and pay medical bills if necessary. They come up with poultry projects, bee keeping projects, mushrooms projects etc. In terms of education, some women have opened ECDES in farms which have now been helped by the NGO by given resources and training. And this has

helped by providing income for them and have reduced the distance their children walk to access the ECDEs education services.

Different coping strategies have been employed in order for them to improve their lives. They have even engaged in different indecent activities so as to help themselves, most farm workers who answered the questionnaires at one point they had to steal from the farmer, they steal inputs ,outputs or equipment such as fertilizers, seeds, milk, meat, pesticides and sometimes things such as ordinary holes. If the farm worker is caught, depending with the farm he might be punished by not receiving his salary at the end of the month or contract, or sucked away from his job and at worst got arrested depending with the amount of thing stolen.

Due to the hardships they have some have even restored to high criminal activities such as robbing and stealing valuable wealth such as herds of cattle. Others form syndicates that move around stealing from different farms. If it's for women, some have chosen to engage in night and day prostitution in the farming areas as ways to help cope with the bad situation there are in. these activities have led to very disturbing a situation in the farming community since many cases of HIV have been witnessed and children in the farm workers community have begun to raise in an immoral set up.

3.7 Conclusion

To give a conclusion, one can notice that they have been different forms of intervention strategies by the government and NGOs, all aiming at the alleviation of the plight of farm

workers in Marondera district. The intervention strategies have been focusing on the living and working conditions of farm workers. Focusing on how interested stakeholders have implemented programmes towards improving and solving problems farm workers are having. FTLRP made the situation of farm workers complicated since the farm workers were now receiving even lower wages, some of them had to work not as permanent workers no more and have to work as contract workers. More so and the challenges they were facing in terms of poor accommodation.

The chapter unearthed how the government and NGOs have been working in order to improve food security among farm workers community. The chapter went on to highlight on the strategies engaged to alleviate the plight of farm workers and closely focused on the health sector and also the education sector, looking at the government policies through its Ministries and departments like social service department under the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare which seeks to improve the lives of disadvantaged Zimbabweans. The chapter had to go further to look at the coping strategies employed by farm workers as a way to uplift their standards of living together with their families.

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Chapter four: the effectiveness of the intervention strategies

4.1 Introduction

Many intervention strategies have been crafted by the GOZ and NGOs in the bid to eradicate poverty among the farm workers community and also to improve their living standard. This chapter focuses on the effectiveness of these governmental and NGOs interventions strategies aimed at the alleviation of the plight of farm workers in the case of Marondera district. It must be noted that, although many strategies have been proposed and implemented, farm workers in Marondera district have remained in their plight which have survived through different ages of time, since the colonial period to the present days.

The chapter will highlight on the different approaches used by the different organizations both governmental and non-governmental. It will go further to show case on the reasons behind the success of some programmes and the failure of other programmes. The chapter will unearth the relationship between the government of Zimbabwe and non-governmental organizations, and will focus if the relationship has brought positive or negative results. It will focus on the reasons behind the clash of the government and some NGOs and look at how this clash has affected or protected the farm workers in Marondera district.

In addition, the chapter will focus on how useful have been the coping strategies by the farm workers in the bid to improve their lives and end the miserable life which they live. It will go on further to highlight on the positive and negative impact brought by these coping strategies in asocial, economic and environment perspectives.

4.2 An assessment on the Intervention strategies by GOZ in the need to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

The plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe have called for the government to intervene through different strategies designed. The government has managed to intervene in different areas such as the health delivery system, the education system, and issue to do with farm workers' wages. Also has been able to call for both domestic and international donors to help to supplement their falls. Although a lot has been done it has not managed to end the plight of the farm workers in Marondera districts.

The issue of funds have been a major cause for the extermination of most of the GOZ intervention strategies before they have matured enough or bring the desired out comes. For example BEAM is one of the projects one should look at, that is funded by government; BEAM is an essential program that needs to be continued since it has managed to help so many children to attend school by paying school fees and examination fees for secondary and primary children. According to UNICEF evaluation report it states that, BEAM remains a key strategy for achieving national policy goals for GOZ in terms of education. The report went on to state that without BEAM funding, schools and communities would not be able to keep beneficiaries in schools and it went on also to say that BEAM objectives are only attainable only if it remains being funded.¹ Before the end of 2008 GOZ was the wholly funder of the project, but due to the hyperinflation it began to fail. It found its feet between 2009 to 2011, since then the programme is now going on, but this time with the assistance of NGOs through the children protection fund. Due to the fact that donor funding is not always certain, the government has managed reserve

some funds for the programme on its national budget but thought it went on to cut money spend to special schools in the BEAM programme.

Furthermore some government projects and intervention strategies have not been productive in ending the plight of farm workers in Marondera district, corruption has managed to divert the intended benefits to help big officials rather than the intended people and this has destroyed many government programmes. For example the GOZ had to respond to the food crises in Zimbabwe by creating certain policy measures and calling for donors in the international community to help through food aid assistance and establishing certain controls on basic food items. Other senior officials in government offices, uses their power for their own advantage. for example when the food shortage crises in Zimbabwe was at its height and the government had to subsidise grain through its own program of importation and distribution, which was being managed by the grain marketing board (GMB)and the government food committee.² Senior GMB officials had to use their power to take much of the grain and sell it at the black market for their own profit and at the black market the grain was now two times higher than the actual price at GMB.

In addition some of the government intervention strategies are so useful but they have been damaged by the way there are implement and distribution, politicization during the distribution of food has been noted, favouring those who support the ruling government and the ZANU PF party programmes. Politicization extends to even relief programmes which the government distribute to the disadvantaged people through the local leaders such as councillors at different level such as ward level.³ Councillors have been known to usually give food assistance to the people who helped to get to power and those who are loyal to their parties.

4.3 An assessment on the Intervention strategies by NGO in the need to alleviate the plight of farm workers.

Many of NGOs have managed to come up with different projects and programmes that seek to help eradicate poverty in the farm workers community and also help to enhance their living standards. Most of the projects and programmes have managed to bring positive change, such as the programme by PLAN International which has managed to bring clean sources of water in the farms. Other church orientated organisations have managed to create a very hygienic environment through their church projects such as building toilets in the farming areas and also giving of toilets detergents that have been created by the churches women's leagues. Mrs. Gotora a farm worker went on to state that water have been a serious problem in the farming areas however the boreholes have managed to bring clean sources of water that have been helpful to raise a healthy family.⁴ But it must be noted that, these programmes have not been able to end the plight of farm workers in Marondera district. Farm workers have remained in the pool of poverty and suffering that has remained since the colonial period.

It has to be noted that most of the intervention programmes by the NGOs are mostly relief programmes, hence they do not live any development in the place but simply help at that moment, living the farm workers still carrying their burden. Usually NGOs have been known to increase when there is disaster and diseases outbreak, just like the food crises that happened in Zimbabwe and the cholera outbreak. Organisations tend to supply food and medications in order to end the epidemics⁵. The programmes do not bring long lasting improvement and touchable

development is rarely seen. However it must be noted that, assistance given during relief times is of greater importance, since it has managed to reduce starvation amongst farm worker in Marondera district.

In addition intervention strategies by NGOs has to be given credited, but it must be noted that some of the programmes although there helping, they have created what is termed dependence syndrome in the farm workers community. In some parts of the district there are a number of farm workers who rely everything to come from the NGOs. In an interview Mr masukume it was clear that most of the things he relied on the assistance of GOZ or NGOs programmes than to assist himself.⁶ Some farm workers find other means to help themselves by engaging in small subsistence farming on their employee's land, whilst some have engaged themselves to look for extra work to feed their families. Usually aid given to farm workers my cause farm workers to relax and this is not a good thing since the NGOs will not remain in the country for ever.

More so, NGOs sometimes they turn to become politically oriented since they seem to get involved in the Zimbabwean politics .NGOs seem to support the agenda of the western countries that seek regime change in Zimbabwe, since most of the funds the NGOs use are donated by the western countries. On a speech by the president of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe he went on to say that, some government official are saying that most of the NGOs are becoming to concentrated in human rights and fail to focus on other humanitarian issues affecting the people.⁷ Federation of non- governmental organisations president was caught in the herald stating that some local NGOs operate in the disguise of being NGOs to assist the people whilst in reality there aiming for regime change.

4.5 A review of the coping strategies by farm workers.

Farm workers on their own have come up with different strategies, and these strategies have brought both positive and negative impacts on the farm workers community. Farm workers strategies have managed to help cope with the hard times they are living in. Workers idea for subsistence farming, on farmers land have brought positive change since farm workers are able to supplement the low salaries they are given by the farmers and also sometimes supplement the donor donations they receive. Mrs chekera a farm worker said in an interview that she usually grows maize, beans and vegetable, and this has prevented her and her family from getting starved.⁸ It must be noted that although the farm workers are managing to feed themselves the land there is not their own and they pose a risk of getting evicted and might find them in a stranded with their families with nothing to eat.

Furthermore, it has to be noted that farm workers strategy to look for piece work is a good move, since it has brought food on the table for the family. The land reform forced farm workers to be evicted and now they're looking for piece jobs from one farm to farm to earn a living. Those who were permanent workers look for piece jobs during their off days and resting hours or their wives usually are the ones who might go to work in other farms. Some farm workers who have skills such as building skills, have managed to look for piece jobs, they might be called to build different projects for farmers and the surrounding people. Mr Murembwe a farm worker stated in an interview that, he helps to take care of his family through his building skills and this have managed to give him some money to help supplement his poor pay.⁹ But it must be noted that the sometimes these piece jobs are not easily found and they usually depend with the season.

This kind of a coping strategy cannot allow for farm workers to development but can only seek to keep them alive to see their own misery.

Furthermore some of the coping strategies by farm workers have managed to create a visible thing. some farm workers have decided to look for informal employment in the big cities and towns of the country whilst other have even gone out of the country to look for work in countries such as South Africa and Botswana. In an interview with Mrs Muchetwa, she went on to state due to the hard times people are facing , usually the last resort for farm workers , especially the young one is to go and look in other areas of interest , that provide good opportunities¹⁰. It is difficult for farm workers to find other formal jobs due to their level of education. Usually the only trade left for them is to buy and sell. Most of them sale vegetables, second hand clothes and other different home made goods. Mrs Marikopo went on to state that she sells vegetables which she grows from the piece of land she was given by their employee.¹¹ This has helped to raise funds that could assist their families back at the farms and send children to schools.

Furthermore some of the coping strategies by the farm workers have actually destroyed their own community and left it in dismay. Some farm workers have responded to the hard times by engaging into compound prostitution which has led to high rates of HIV/AIDS¹². Most farm compounds have become notorious of harbouring thieves and prostitutions especially on A2 farms which have large compounds usually not all are occupied. Death rates by HIV have left most children's orphans and left to be taken care of by their grandparents. Mrs.sengunzwa is a grandmother of 12 and has no children left to look after her; she lost two of her sons to the virus and has been left to care of her grandchildren since their mothers died also from the virus.¹³ Things have been hard for her but she has been managing through GOZ and NGOS assistance.

4.6 Conclusion

To summarise, it can be said that no solution have been found yet to end the plight of farm workers in Marondera district, this is evidenced by the continuation suffering of farm workers who have problems that seems to have soldiered on from the colonial times into the present days. No positive change has been clearly witnessed through the intervention strategies that have been proposed by the governmental and non-governmental organisations. Most of the programmes are short term and they usually cater for the present times and some of the government programmes lack adequate funds to continue.

One has to note that some of the intervention strategies by non-governmental and governmental institution need to be appreciated since they have been helpful by assisting in immediate disasters such as droughts and diseases outbreaks. Also some of the coping strategies that have been designed by the farm workers have been helpful in the need to cope with their difficult times.

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Conclusion

The plight of farm workers in Zimbabwe has taken the attention of many historians and has been greatly discussed amongst scholars. The plight of farm has been traced way back from the colonial period up to the existing times. The farm workers have been having problems such as accommodation, low wages, poor health facilities, sometimes food shortages and lack job security.

The government and other NGOs have intervened with different strategies that seek to solve all this problems, such as food relief programmes, also sometimes the government have come up with different social programmes that to seek to solve these problems. However through all this, the plight of farm workers in Marondera district have remained in place and the farm workers are suffering greatly.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Questionnaire for the farm workers in Marondera district

I am Tichakunda Mahachi a student at Midlands State University, undertaking a research on the plight of farm workers in Marondera district after the land reform programme (2000-2015). I would be grateful for your objective responses to the questions listed below. I would like to assure you that the information collected will be strictly for academic purposes and will be treated with outmost confidentiality. I appreciate your coordination and support.

Questionnaire Details

1. How can you explain your living and working conditions on your farm before FTLRP?

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2. What has changed since the FTLRP?

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3. What problems do you face as farm workers after the FTLRP?

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4. How can you explain your access to basic social services?

a) Health services

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.....

b) Education services

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6. Is your salary able to sustain you and your family?

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7. Has the government intervened in your problems? And how has it responded?

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8. Are you receiving any assistance or aid from NGO? What kind of assistance do you receive?

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9. How effective has been the intervention strategies in improving your working and living standards?

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10. How have you responded to the challenges you are facing as farm workers?

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11. Has your responses being able to alleviate your plight?

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