

MUNICIPALITY OF CHINHOYI

INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY IN KATANDA WATER RECTICULATION SYSTEM UPGRADE



Main challenge

- Katanda is a suburb in Chinhoyi with about 600 households
- The area had not been receiving reticulated portable water for a long time
- General sentiment amongst community members that they were being sidelined in council projects that directly affected them.

Affected Parties

- About 600 households living in Katanda high density residential.

Frame Conditions for the practice

- 1. Municipality is a public entity therefore transparency is key
- 2. Youth and women empowerment is a government policy
- 3. Council promotes gender equality and equity

Stakeholders Involved

- Council Employees
- Councilors
- Members of the community

Approach

- Series of strategic meetings with members of the community throughout the duration of the project.
- Presentation of a detailed project proposal to the community.
- Involvement of community members in the manual labor for the project.
- Women were equally considered alongside men for manual labor
- Council introduced an open door policy (the community can directly interact with the council).

Outputs

- Economic relief for the unemployed.
- Fostered unity between the council and community members.
- The community developed a sense of entitlement towards water infrastructure.
- Demystified council operations to the people.

Lessons Learnt

- Members of the public have misinformed views towards the council.
- Communication is key.
- People actually care about their communities and can contribute meaningfully to their development.
- Women are equally capable and motivated

Method Transfer Preconditions and Steps

- Firstly be aware of all key stakeholders and how they will be affected.
- Full understanding of the problem at hand.
- The community should be fully aware of the challenges at hand.
- Encourage women, youth and children participation.
- Involve the handicapped.
- Understand the power dynamics in the community.
- Respect the traditions and values of the society.