



**SAFIRE**

*Southern Alliance For  
Indigenous Resources*

# *October Newsletter*

*Rural Communities with Resilient Livelihood In a  
Sustainably Managed Natural Environment*

# FROM STRUGGLE TO SUCCESS WITH SOLAR IRRIGATION: THE STORY OF SARAFINA MAPENGO



55-year-old smallholder farmer Sarafina Mapengo from Chiredzi South has transformed her farm—and her life—thanks to the Manjinji Irrigation Scheme’s rehabilitation under the Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement in and around Manjinji and Shashe Irrigation Schemes (RESLEMS) project.

Before the project, unreliable water and costly diesel-powered pumps made farming a constant struggle.



But with funding from the Liechtenstein Development Services, the Manjinji Irrigation scheme was upgraded to solar-powered boreholes, significantly improving water access and reducing operating costs.

For Sarafina, this meant the ability to expand her crops from 0.1 hectares to 0.4 hectares, boosting her income. The project also provided training on record-keeping and data-driven farming practices, helping Sarafina and other farmers make smarter decisions and increase productivity.

“The project has not only improved water availability,” says Sarafina, “but it has empowered us to take control of our livelihoods and build a brighter future for our families.”



Through the RESLEMS Project, Sarafina and her fellow farmers were trained in sustainable agricultural practices, such as efficient water use, soil conservation, and crop rotation. They also learned the importance of reforestation and preserving natural resources, helping to ensure the long-term health of their land.

Today, Sarafina’s farm is thriving, and she’s helping to inspire her community with her story of resilience and hope.

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN BUHERA : A CRITICAL STEP TOWARD RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT



This food distribution serves as a beacon of hope to many families who have lost their livelihoods due to the ongoing drought. It also underscores the importance of building resilience in communities to ensure that they are better prepared for future challenges and can recover quickly in the face of disaster. Through this initiative, we are not only addressing immediate food security needs but also fostering a sense of solidarity and community accountability.

By targeting those most in need, the BRIC-ZIM program is helping to mitigate the devastating effects of drought while promoting long-term community resilience and sustainability.

In a bid to alleviate hunger, a food distribution exercise was conducted in Buhera District, Ward 15, where 2,869 vulnerable community members were provided with essential food aid. This initiative is part of the broader efforts under the Humanitarian Action of the Building Resilience Inclusive and Accountable Communities in Zimbabwe (BRIC-ZIM) program, aimed at strengthening community resilience.

The event, which is a direct response to the ongoing drought exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, is made possible with funding from Irish Aid, in partnership with Oxfam Ireland, and is supported on the ground by Oxfam in Zimbabwe and Musasa. Together, these organizations are working tirelessly to support vulnerable communities affected by food insecurity, a challenge that has become even more urgent with the devastating impacts of climate change.



The success of this food distribution is a testament to the communities that continue to inspire hope even in the face of adversity.

Together, we are working towards a more resilient and food-secure future for Zimbabwe's vulnerable communities.



## Agroforestry and Climate Resilience Take Center Stage at Regional Sustainability Event

Our Director, Mrs Estella Toperesu, attended the Regional Sustainability Network's Annual Gathering and Conference in Namibia, where she shared our expertise on agroforestry and its vital role in promoting climate resilience.

At the conference, Estella showcased how agroforestry—integrating trees into agricultural systems—helps improve soil health, conserve water, and boost farmers'

productivity. Through our programs, we have seen firsthand how this practice enhances sustainable natural resource management and empowers communities to adapt to climate change.

Estella's participation highlighted our ongoing commitment to building a more sustainable future through innovation and shared knowledge. The event also served as an excellent platform for fostering collaboration and exchanging ideas.



## Celebrating World Food Day: Empowering Farmers with Climate-Smart Agriculture

In commemoration of the World Food Day celebrated annually on the 16th of October, we are honoring the inspiring efforts of Memory Muora and Patience Gariwaur, who are pioneering climate-smart agriculture in their community. Thanks to the revitalized Mutunha Irrigation Scheme, part of the Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods project, Memory and her neighbors now benefit from solar-powered irrigation, ensuring food security



and sustainable livelihoods.

This eco-friendly solution helps reduce reliance on expensive, unsustainable energy sources while boosting drought resilience. With support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Oxfam in Zimbabwe, and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, farmers like Memory are building a sustainable and food-secure future.

On World Food Day, we honor these farmers who are not only securing their own futures but also contributing to a healthier planet.

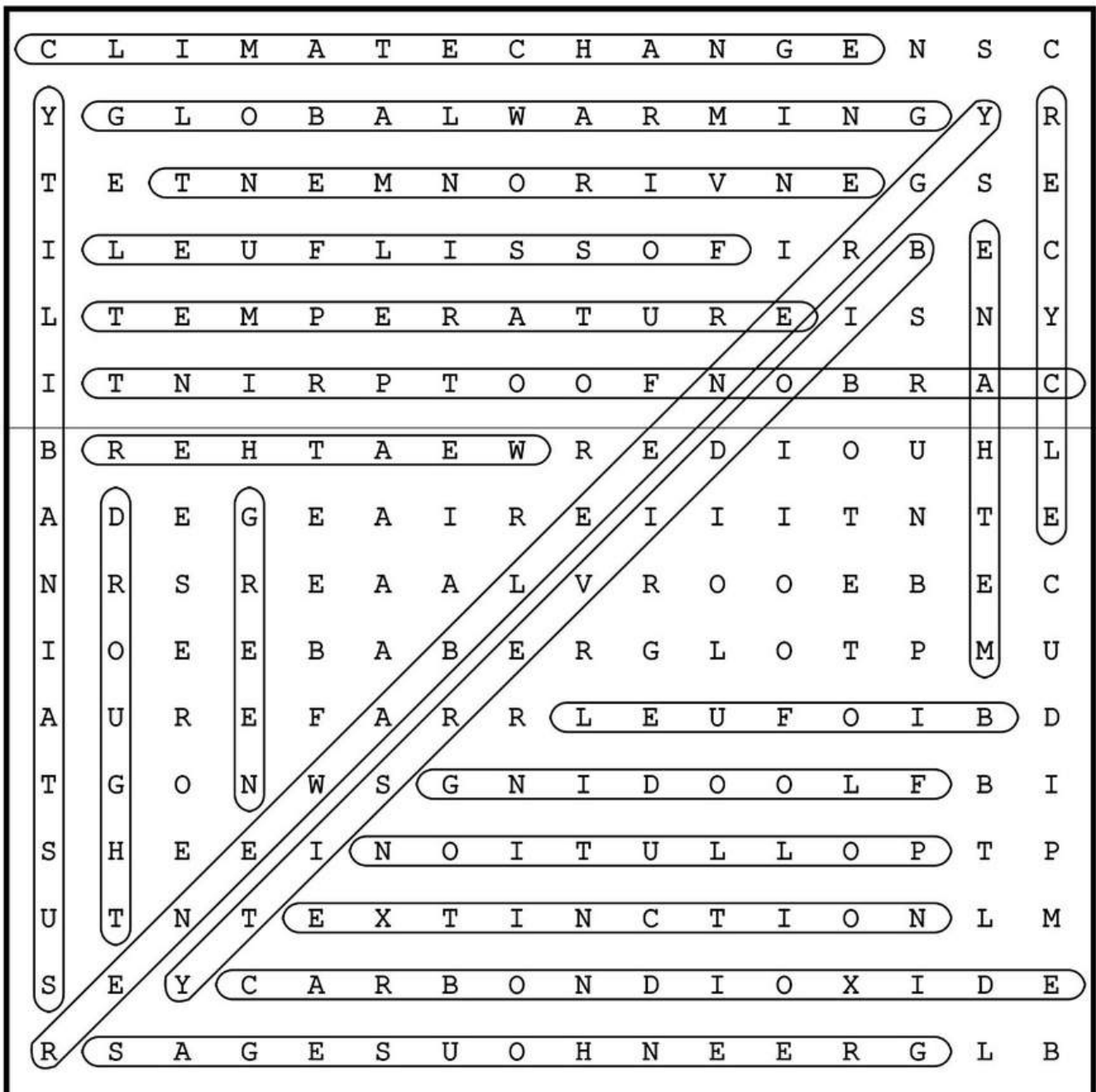
# CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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TEMPERATURE  
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DROUGHT

CARBONFOOTPRINT  
POLLUTION  
GLOBALWARMING  
GREEN  
GREENHOUSEGAS

FOSSILFUEL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
WEATHER  
BIOFUEL  
ENVIRONMENT

EXTINCTION  
RENEWABLEENERGY  
METHANE  
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# Our partners

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## About us

SAFIRE is a regional NGO whose focus is to improve rural livelihoods and resilience through sustainable utilization of their natural resources in Zimbabwe.



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