

Food-for-Peace Success Story

An Amalima Celebration in Mangwe District



Gloria Mavunela, Embabwe Dip Tank member showcasing the dip tank.

“Before this dip tank by Amalima, we used to walk for miles, 25km to Linda dip tank in ward 5 just to dip our cattle. It was very tiresome for our livestock especially the calves and even for us old women. Now we can dip our cattle close by and our children no longer miss school.” – Gloria Mavunela



Volunteers show off their certificates

“We were empowered to lead the change we want in our communities. We are now the brand ambassadors of Amalima and we will continue to sustain the gains of the program.” - Roswita Ngqenya, Care Group Volunteer

The 19 July event in Mangwe District, organised by the Embakwe community, aimed to celebrate the Amalima concept of communities working together to improve their lives in areas of food security and nutrition. Amalima Day is a celebration of the energy, hard work and determination of the communities, women, men, volunteers and partners of Amalima, who will sustain the gains of the seven year old project scheduled to end in June 2020. These celebrations are essential to the program’s sustainability plan as they strengthen already forged relationships between communities, government, and private sector. Amalima days also continue ensuring co-learning between communities on best Amalima practices and behaviours necessary to support communities’ productivity and ensure lasting food security.

Unique to this year’s celebrations, though the basis of the work done by Amalima, was the communities’ ownership of them—planning the celebrations and setting their own themes and priorities. This year, the Embakwe community recognised the difference that was brought by the Amalima program to their community and to celebrate the role played by volunteers in leading this change.

District Administrator, Ms Makurane spoke about Amalima’s legacy and contribution evident through the construction and rehabilitation of 10 dams in Mangwe and the construction of 4 dip tanks including the Embakwe dip tank where stakeholders were gathered for the event. She also acknowledged the small irrigation schemes and scaling up of capacity building trainings in agriculture, nutrition, and natural resource management by Amalima. *“For this, we conclude that not only did the program promote the concept of “ilima” (Ndebele word meaning working together as communities), but it highly practised it.”*

Perhaps the best representation of Amalima’s achievements was provided through beneficiary testimonials. According to Care group volunteer Sibongile Dube, *“Amalima has enabled us to come together to save money through village lending schemes to teach each other health and hygiene issues, helping each other to produce and prepare healthy and nutritious foods that reduce stunting in our children.”*

The event concluded by honouring the work of volunteers who played a pivotal role in making the program a success and will continue doing so even after the program has ended. David Brigham, Chief of Party for the Amalima Program thanked the community for embracing Amalima and urged the community to sustain the efforts launched by the program.

Some highlights of the celebrations included exhibitions, quiz sessions, an award ceremony, speeches, and entertainment. The event was attended by traditional leaders, beneficiaries, input suppliers, Government actors including key ministries: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women Affairs Community, small and medium enterprises, Department of Veterinary services, Agritex, forestry services, and local government including the District Administration’s office.