

“From Skills to Livelihoods” Five Years of BPC Technical Leadership & Impact in Takunda Project (2021-2025)



Some of the 2025 TVET students, waiting for certification.

Between 2021 and 2025, the USA Government funded Takunda Project (formerly USAID), led by Care Zimbabwe, implemented a five year, multi sectoral consortium initiative across Chivi and Zaka districts in Masvingo Province, and Buhera and Mutare in Manicaland Province. The consortium comprised six partners, each contributing specialized expertise in thematic areas critical to rural resilience. Within this framework, BPC assumed the role of technical lead partner in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and entrepreneurship development, designing and operationalizing a community anchored, multi modal training ecosystem tailored to the socio economic realities of rural youth. This ecosystem integrated center based training, community apprenticeships delivered through master craftsmen, and short courses facilitated by local resource persons. Collectively, these models reached 15460 young people - 2,460 through formal TVET centers, more than 2,000 via community apprenticeships, 4,000 through short courses and 7000 in entrepreneurship development, providing market relevant skills, structured mentorship, business start-up support and pathways to economic participation. The impact was profound. Thousands of young people created their own jobs, while hundreds secured formal employment, stepping boldly into roles as builders, tailors, carpenters, mechanics, electricians, hairdressers, welders, bakers, and business owners. What began as vocational training became a platform of empowerment—unlocking the locked potential, confidence, resilience, and entrepreneurship opportunities in communities once defined by vulnerability. The 15460-youth empowered through Takunda are living proof that when opportunity

meets determination, change is inevitable. As the project concludes, BPC stands out as a dynamic, results driven organization that transforms challenges into opportunities. For donors and local partners seeking to invest in youth empowerment, BPC offers not just experience but evidence of impact—an organization ready to scale transformation and deliver lasting change. Looking ahead, BPC is actively seeking partners to replicate this proven impact in Southern Zimbabwe, ensuring that the seeds of empowerment planted continue to grow across new communities.

15,460 trained, thousands self-employed and hundreds formally employed

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the newly rebranded BPC Newsletter, Project Pulse. For many years, this publication has served as a vital communication channel, keeping our stakeholders informed and engaged. As we move forward, our refreshed newsletter will continue to build on that legacy while introducing a modern look, sharper focus, and more dynamic content that reflects our evolving mission. At BPC, we remain committed to empowering communities through practical skills development and self-employment initiatives. Zimbabwe's unemployment challenges demand innovative and sustainable solutions and we believe that skills are powerful tools for transformation. Our hands-on training responds directly to this need by equipping community members with practical, income-generating skills that promote economic resilience and self reliance. This rebranded newsletter will not only share updates on our programmes but also highlight success stories, showcase opportunities, and celebrate the resilience and creativity of our participants. Together we can drive change as we continue to transform potential into progress ensuring that every edition inspires action and strengthens our collective vision.

Building High - Impact Private Sector Partnerships for Inclusive Economic Growth.

The Bulawayo Projects Centre (BPC) has launched a structured private sector engagement strategy to strengthen the sustainability, relevance, and scalability of its Business Development, Business Incubation and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes. The initiative started with a strategic visit to one of the leading hotels in Bulawayo and will expand to key players in the hospitality industry, financial institutions, manufacturing and other growth sectors. The goal is to form mutually beneficial partnerships that unlock resources, technical expertise, and market access for marginalised youth and women. BPC understands that inclusive economic empowerment needs more than just training; it requires a connection to market demand, access to professional networks, and clear paths to employment and business growth. Through private-sector collaboration, BPC aims to mobilise additional resources to improve programme quality and infrastructure, align curricula with industry standards to ensure graduates are ready for jobs, and create structured work-based learning opportunities, including internships, apprenticeships, mentorship, and job placements. These partnerships also boost local entrepreneurship by connecting new businesses to financial services, supply chains, and business networks. This approach significantly increases value for funding partners by attracting private capital and expertise alongside grant funding, thereby multiplying return on investment and improving long-term sustainability beyond donor cycles. Expected results include increased co-investment in training facilities and innovation, higher job placement and business survival rates, stronger connections between training providers and employers, and greater visibility for youth-led businesses. By integrating employer partnerships into programme delivery, BPC deploys market driven curriculum relevant to industrial needs and this reduces skills mismatch and improves labour market absorption, directly tackling one of the most pressing challenges in youth employment. Ultimately, BPC's private sector engagement strategy represents a mixed development model that combines community empowerment with market-driven sustainability. By equipping marginalised communities with practical skills, entrepreneurial abilities, and direct industry connections, BPC helps reduce unemployment, strengthen local economies, and promote inclusive economic growth. For current and prospective funding partners this is a strategic chance to support a scalable, impactful model that links skills development, employment, and business development while encouraging private sector involvement to drive lasting change.

*Participants over 5 years:
6140 trained
3491 self employed
1535 formally employed*

2025 ANNUAL GRADUATION A: CELEBATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

On 27 November 2025, Bulawayo Projects Centre successfully hosted its Annual Graduation Ceremony. This was to celebrate the completion of vocational training programmes by students enrolled through our centres which are located in high density areas of Bulawayo namely Thorngroove, Cowdray Park, Nketa, Njube and Donnington. This milestone was a powerful testimony to hard work, skills development and community empowerment. A total of 219 students graduated across various disciplines, demonstrating our continued commitment to equipping young people and adults with practical, employable skills. To promote excellence and dedication, the best performing student in each discipline was formally recognized and awarded a gift. We sincerely acknowledge the generous support of chicken inn for sponsoring the awards presented to top-performing students. We also extended a special invitation to our stakeholders, the likes of pastors from churches that we work with in our centres as well as company representatives who take our students for attachment.



Part of the 2025 graduates, celebrating after certification.

Growing Food, Growing Futures: How BPC is Turning Backyards into Engines of Nutrition and Youth Opportunity.

At the core of the Bulawayo Projects Centre (BPC) is a straightforward but powerful idea: small spaces can bring about big changes. Our Urban Agriculture Project intends to transform regular backyards in Bulawayo into lively, productive gardens. These gardens nourish families, strengthen resilience, and create opportunities for young people. In many crowded suburbs, families have limited land but limitless potential. The Urban Agriculture Project helps households make the most of their small backyards. They learn to grow herbs, fruits, and rare but nutritious vegetables not usually found in local markets. Through hands-on training at our demonstration gardens, families learn practical and affordable techniques suitable for urban settings. They cover everything from selecting seeds and making organic compost to conserving water and producing year-round. The outcome is more than just fresh produce. It leads to better household nutrition, lower food costs, and a renewed dignity as families gain control over their food security. Our demonstration gardens act as living classrooms. Community members come to see what can be done in limited spaces, interact with experienced trainers, and build the confidence to try it at home. By showcasing valuable crops, vertical gardening techniques, and innovative planting methods, the project shows that meaningful agriculture is possible even on small plots of land. This hands-on experience allows the initiative

to grow significantly. Each trained household becomes a small centre of knowledge in its neighbourhood, naturally sharing skills within the community. Urban food insecurity is on the rise, making families more vulnerable to economic shocks and climate changes. At the same time, youth unemployment is still a major issue. The Urban Agriculture Project tackles both challenges at once. For young people, the project offers more than just gardening skills; it opens up paths to entrepreneurship. Youth participants receive practical agricultural training, learn about value addition opportunities, and find mentorship to turn surplus produce into income-generating businesses. With the right support, today's backyard gardener can become tomorrow's agripreneur. The Urban Agriculture Project offers a strong chance for local businesses and funding partners looking for impactful, community-focused investments. Supporting this initiative means improving community nutrition and health, building household resilience in at-risk suburbs, quipping youth with practical, income-generating skills, and showing real, measurable improvement in the city. Corporate partners can connect their brand with sustainable urban development, climate resilience, and youth empowerment while making a concrete difference in the communities where their customers and employees live. Support could include funding for garden supplies, irrigation systems, training materials,

youth stipends, expanding demo sites, or co-branded community outreach programmes. The gardens serve as a powerful platform for brand visibility and community engagement. Partners are not just donors; they become co-creators of healthier, more resilient communities. For young people in Bulawayo seeking purpose, skills, and opportunity, the Urban Agriculture Project is here for you. Whether you're passionate about climate action, entrepreneurship, or community service, this initiative provides a place to learn, experiment, and grow. For funding partners and corporates, this is a chance to invest in a practical, scalable model that provides measurable social benefits.



Tour of Thorngroove urban agric demo garden.



Urban agriculture project participates on a learning visit, at a local nursery.



One of the demo-gardens under urban agriculture projects at Thorngroove Hub.

BPC IN ACTION



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY UNITED: THE BPC JOURNEY

Bulawayo Projects Centre proudly traces its roots to the Church. Founded by churches with a shared burden to respond to poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion affecting underprivileged communities, BPC was born out of a Christian calling to serve, empower, and uplift lives through practical skills development and entrepreneurship. From its inception, the Church has not only been a founding pillar but continues to be a strategic partner in advancing the Centre's mission of transforming lives through vocational training and enterprise development. This strong collaboration with churches across communities has enabled BPC to extend its reach to the most vulnerable groups particularly unemployed youth and women through awareness campaigns, community mobilization, and hosting of career programs within church premises. Churches have also played a critical role in identifying deserving beneficiaries, offering mentorship, and nurturing values that support ethical business practices and responsible citizenship among trainees. As part of nurturing the spiritual growth of both trainees and staff, BPC regularly engages pastors from partner churches to lead devotions held at its training centres. These devotion sessions provide an opportunity for pas-

tors to share the Word of God, offer spiritual guidance, and instill Christian principles that encourage perseverance, integrity, and faith-driven purpose in both personal and entrepreneurial journeys. This ongoing spiritual support reinforces the Centre's holistic approach to development recognising that true empowerment encompasses both skills acquisition and character formation. Guided by its vision "to be a Christian faith-based entrepreneurial centre for capacity development of the underprivileged members in our society," BPC integrates Christian values such as stewardship, integrity, compassion, diligence, and service into its training and incubation programs. These values shape not only the character of our graduates but also the enterprises they establish ensuring that businesses emerging from BPC are grounded in honesty, accountability, and a commitment to community transformation. As BPC continues to walk hand in hand with the Church, this partnership remains central to fostering hope, restoring dignity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods anchored in faith and purpose. Through this faith-driven approach, the Centre remains committed to empowering individuals not just economically, but holistically spiritually, socially, and professionally.



Pastors breakfast meeting

VOICES OF RECOVERY: CONFRONTING DRUGS AND GBV IN COMMUNITIES

Bulawayo Projects Centre continues to respond to the social challenges affecting young people and vulnerable groups by conducting community roadshows aimed at raising awareness on drug and substance abuse as well as Gender Based Violence (GBV). These roadshows form part of BPC's holistic approach to youth empowerment, which recognises that sustainable livelihoods can only be achieved when individuals are socially and emotionally well-equipped to make informed life choices. The recent roadshow was done across the communities that BPC operates in namely Thorngrove, Nketa, the Central Business District (CBD), Njube, and Cowdray Park. These engagements created interactive platforms for open dialogue around the dangers of drug and substance abuse, particularly among young people who are increasingly exposed to harmful substances within their communities. A key highlight of the roadshow was the

participation of a recovered former drug addict who served as one of the main speakers during the sessions. Through sharing their lived experience and journey to recovery, the speaker provided a powerful and relatable testimony on the devastating effects of substance abuse, as well as the possibility of rehabilitation and positive transformation. This personal account deeply resonated with many community members, especially young people, reinforcing the message that it is possible to overcome addiction and rebuild one's life through the right support systems and determination. In addition, the roadshow addressed Gender-Based Violence, with facilitators highlighting its various forms, root causes, and longterm impact on individuals, families, and communities. Community members were sensitised on the importance of promoting gender equality, mutual respect, and peaceful conflict resolution. Information on available support systems and reporting

mechanisms for GBV survivors was also shared, encouraging communities to speak out against abuse and actively participate in prevention efforts.



Participants of the Access Project taking part in a road show to raise awareness of drug abuse and GBV in Bulawayo communities

Strengthening Partnership for Community Transformation: BPC Signs Two Strategic MOUs in early 2026

As we embrace the vision of our rebranded BPC Newsletter — to inspire action and celebrate resilience — we are proud to announce two new partnerships that embody transformation in motion. At the beginning of 2026, BPC signed Memoranda of Understanding with ICRISAT and the Bulawayo City Council Ward 5. These agreements are more than formal commitments; they are stories of possibility. With ICRISAT, we are bringing world class agricultural expertise to micro farmers, helping them turn challenges into opportunities and ensuring food security in semi-arid regions. Imagine a small holder farmer in a semi-arid region, facing the daily challenge of unpredictable rainfall and limited resources. Through our partnership with ICRISAT, that farmer now has access to world-class research, resilient crop varieties, and practical training that can turn uncertainty into opportunity. This collaboration is about planting seeds of hope — ensuring that micro farmers are not just surviving, but thriving, with tools that unlock their potential. At home, our partnership with Bulawayo City Council Ward 5 is a testament to the power of local collaboration. With Bulawayo City Council, we are strengthening communities by empower

ing youth and women, fostering innovation, and sharing resources to build resilient neighborhoods. Together, these partnerships reflect our mission: transforming potential into progress. They remind us that when we collaborate, we do more than share expertise — we ignite hope, amplify voices, and create futures where communities thrive. As we celebrate these milestones, we invite you to see them not just as agreements, but as stories of possibility. Stories of farmers who will harvest more confidently, of young people who will rise as emerging innovative entrepreneurs to create jobs, and of women who will shape the future of their communities. Together with our partners, BPC is proving that when we collaborate, we do more than sign papers — we ignite change. And in every edition of this newsletter, we will continue to share these stories, ensuring that our collective vision inspires action and strengthens the bonds that make transformation possible



A TVET graduate receiving an award sponsored by SIMBISA BRANDS during the 2026 graduation ceremony



Representatives of Multimodus Foundation on a partner visit to BPC Thorngrove Hub.

PICTURE GALLERY



Receive a more friendly vision for the newsletter: a faith-driven entrepreneurial hub that empowers underprivileged members of society through capacity development and opportunity.

BPC seeks to be a Christian Faith based entrepreneurial Centre for capacity development of the underprivileged members in our society.

At Bulawayo Projects Centre, we walk alongside the underprivileged - offering assistance, support and encouragement.

Through entrepreneurial capacity development rooted in biblical values and a holistic approach, we aim to open doors to employment, restore dignity and help break the cycle of poverty



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