

### Bumper butternuts bring essential income

Zimbabwe has seen lockdown restrictions and a reduction in already struggling social services due to the global pandemic. The impact has been most severe on poor communities already struggling with the deteriorating economy and the effects of drought and climate change.

The Christian Aid Zimbabwe programme have been responding by strengthening their water and sanitation work. They have sunk and repaired boreholes to provide essential clean water and supported over 6000 families in growing nutritious vegetables to help with income and food security.

In Chingamuka Village in Mudzi District, 18 households have benefitted from a community garden project. Christian Aid partner Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) have provided training for smallholder farmers.

The training includes business skills, accessing good quality seed, improved crop varieties, profitable vegetable production, soil and water management, pest management and good storage of harvested produce.

The village also had help to add solar power to their borehole meaning they no longer have to carry buckets of water over a long distance but use solar panels to pump the water up to the garden.



Farmers at Chingamuka garden displaying their giant butternut squash

This year's harvest has provided a better income due to new crops and better watering. The butternut crop has been especially successful as it is very nutritious for families but also fetches a good price at the market.

**'This year's crops have provided better income'**

One member of the garden group, Mrs. Muronda, sold 50kg of butternut squash and earned \$200 which helped a lot with their family needs.

**Thank you for your support through Commitment for Life, which has helped families to have food and income security through lockdown.**

### Building back with justice campaign toolkit

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. As we contemplate a 'new normal' how might the love of God guide us in our choices and our actions?

Churches have adapted and continued to love and serve their communities. Although church buildings have been closed, the role of the church has never been more important.

We cannot waste this opportunity to reimagine a future that is built upon the intrinsic God-given worth of everyone as a foundation.

Christian Aid has an online campaign toolkit to help churches to lead discussions on what it will mean to build back with justice after Covid-19.

[caid.org.uk/buildingback](https://caid.org.uk/buildingback)