

Salt & Light

Mobilizing Churches as WASH Champions in Zimbabwe

S. Victor Madziakapita, PhD and Jonathan A. Wiles // Living Water International

Contact: VMadziakapita@water.cc

Presented at Accord Summit on Excellence in WASH
Colorado Springs, Colorado // 6 November 2014

Church Mobilization for WASH Programs

The “Salt & Light” Church Mobilization approach unifies churches in a focused geographic area to be champions and community organizers for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. The initial pilot of this approach was developed collaboratively by Living Water International and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), and launched in early 2013 in the Epworth Zone—an under-served area near the capital city of Harare.

In the startup phase, EFZ and Living Water brought together the 45 evangelical and pentecostal churches in Epworth, conducted envisioning meetings, and facilitated the organization of the churches to lead a WASH program (see diagram of roles below).

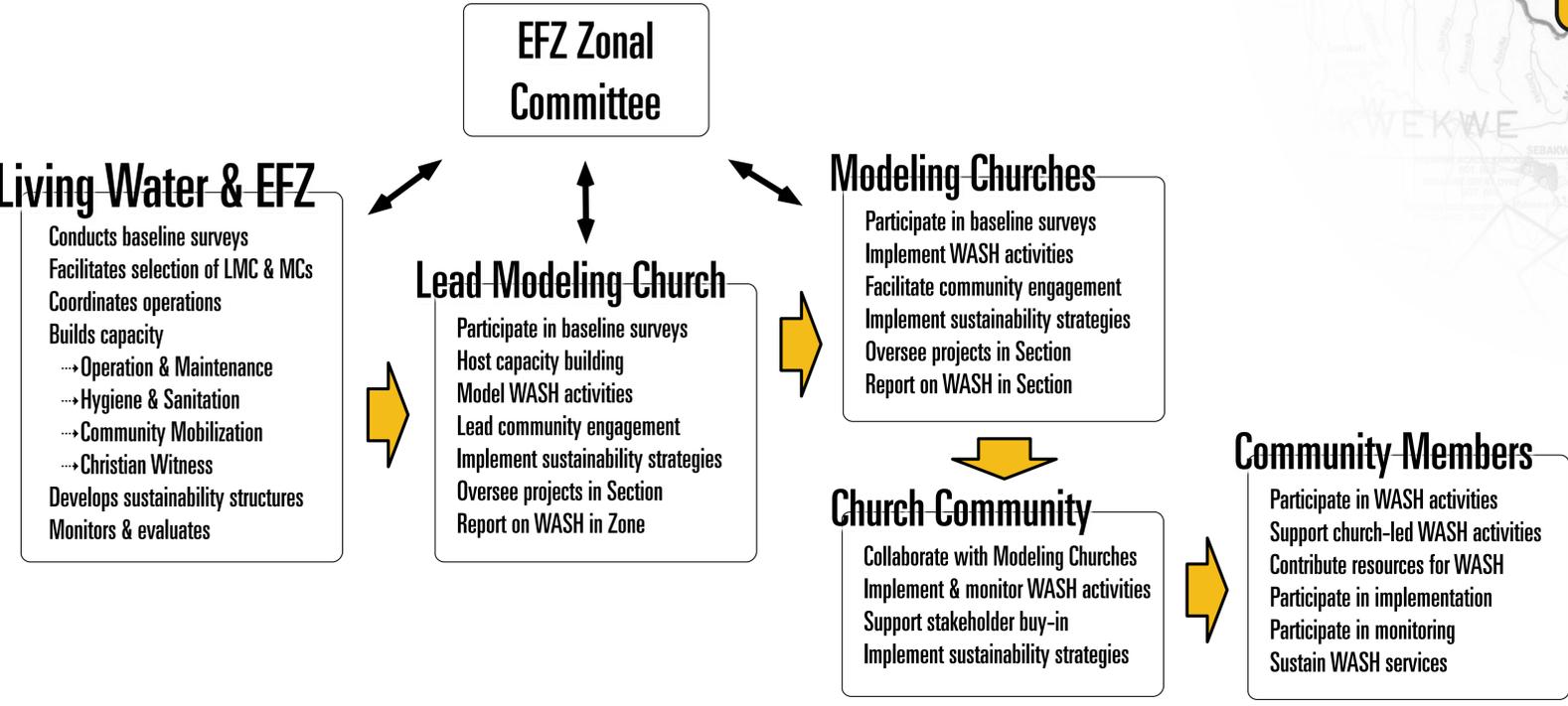
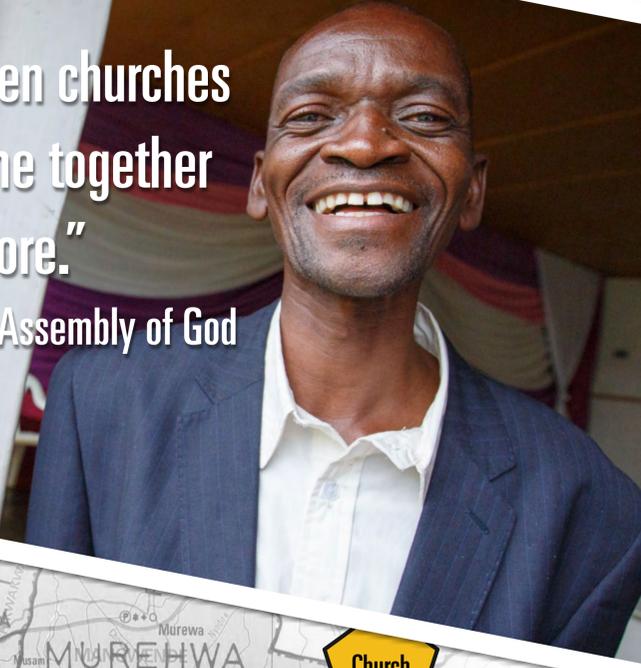
“Modeling Churches”

At the inception of the program, the 45 EFZ churches in the Epworth Zone organized themselves and selected a “Lead Modeling Church” (LMC) from amongst themselves—the Chirimba Assembly of God. This church was the first congregation to champion WASH activities in its immediate vicinity, and serves as a host and mentor for capacity building among other “Modeling Churches” (MCs), which were elected in each Section. The LMC, in collaboration with EFZ’s Zonal Committee, coordinated WASH activities through the MCs during the first year of the program. In its second year, the activities are radiating out from the MCs and expanding to other churches in each Section. Since the launch of the program, an additional 40+ independent churches have been drawn into participation.

This church-led WASH program depends on the multiplying effect of positive examples. After an MC has been trained by EFZ (in Hygiene & Sanitation, for example), their Church Facilitators will train the church members, working with them to become champions and models of good H&S behavior. As communities around particular churches demonstrate evidence of consistent hygiene and sanitation and have organized themselves to propose plans for water and sanitation development, the Zonal Committee coordinates with EFZ and Living Water to install appropriate safe water systems.

“We have never seen churches and Christians come together like this before.”

~Pastor Phiri, Chirimba Assembly of God

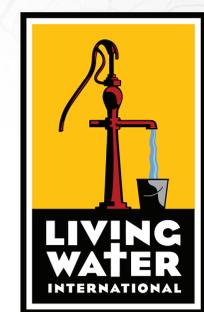


Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe



EFZ (www.efzimbabwe.org) is a fellowship of 462 evangelical and pentecostal denominations, organizations, and institutions representing a membership base of four million Christians across Zimbabwe. EFZ was founded in 1962. It exists to facilitate the work of its member bodies and to provide humanitarian, relief, advocacy, peace building, and other services among the marginalized.

Living Water International



Living Water (www.water.cc) is a Christ-centered organization that implements water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in 23 countries. Founded in 1990, Living Water focuses primarily in rural areas, most often in collaboration with local churches. The organization’s Church Mobilization Strategy can be found at <http://livingwater.box.com/cms>.