



# Community Rainwater Harvesting Project in Blaize

A brief from the Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS) Programme



## Challenge

Blaize is a village in the parish of St. Andrew situated at an elevation between 1200 feet (365 meters) and 1500 feet (457 meters) above sea level, with a population of 120 persons. The water demand in this community is estimated at 20 gallons (76 litres) per person per day, which gives a total daily demand of 2400 gallons (9100 litres). There are no surface streams at that elevation therefore the villagers depend exclusively on rain water harvesting and supply by trucks from the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA).

During the dry season (January to May) there is very little rainfall in that area. The monthly average rainfall during those months is approximately five inches (5") or 12.7cm which does not produce sufficient water to meet daily domestic needs resulting in significant water deficit in the village.

## Objective

The Blaize Community Rainwater Harvesting Pilot Project aims to increase resilience of the community in Blaize through a replicable model to improve water supply in communities lacking piped supply systems.

## Partners

This project is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI). It commenced in September and progress through to October 2016.

## Approach

The project will establish a rainwater harvesting system through the construction of a 15,000 square feet rainwater catchment, along with that of a 50,000 gallons concrete storage tank. From the tank, a distribution network will be assembled to supply water to the individual homes. Comprehensive baseline studies as well as ongoing documentation of the innovative approach with NAWASA's operation of a rain-fed supply system, will contribute to the replicability of the approach on a national scale of communities facing similar challenges like Blaize.

## Impacts - What has been achieved so far?

- Technical and financial concept finalised
- Baseline study conducted,
- Two highly successful community meetings held, including awareness on climate change, rain water harvesting and financing the operation of a piped network system,
- Contract with the hired construction company has been signed,
- Tank has been constructed,
- A pipe system has been installed,
- Connections have been made to the households in the community,
- Launched on 27th July 2016.

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## Next steps

- Post-project assessment and comparison with baseline study results
- Documentation of overall project approach, lessons learned and preparation for replication roll-out.



*Blaize community members at awareness meetings*



*Construction of the tank (as of November 2015)*

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