

The Regional Town and Country Planning Act: Chapter 29:12

Rushinga Rural District Master Plan

—

Draft Report of Study

2024

**Regional, Town and Country Planning Act Chapter 29:12
Revised Edition 1996**

**RUSHINGA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL MASTER
PLAN**

This Master Plan has been prepared in terms of Part IV of the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, Chapter 29:12, Revised Edition, 1996 and the Regional, Town and Country Planning (Master and Local Plans) Regulations, Government Notice No. 248 of 1977

Certified that this is a true copy of the Master Plan Adopted by the Rushinga Rural District Council at its meeting held on the:

.....

.....

.....Council Chairperson

.....Chief Executive Officer

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGRITEX	Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services
COTTCO	Cotton Company
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EMPs	Environmental Management Plans
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
FSL	Full Supply Level
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
RRDC	Rushinga Rural District Council
RTCP Act	Regional, Town and Country Planning Act
TOR	Terms of Reference
ZETDC	Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company
Zimstats	Zimbabwe Statistical Agency
SME	Small to Medium Enterprises
NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZINGSA	Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency
MOTID	Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development

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Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

Rushinga Rural District Council is situated in the North Eastern corner of Zimbabwe in Mashonaland Central Province. Its development can be backdated into the colonial era. RRDC is the childbirth of a colonial government of 1927. The council was founded in 1952 under the Native Councils Act later consolidated in the African Council Act in 1957 positing the Makusengwa African Council which had two chiefs namely Chief Makuni and Chief Nyakusengwa and the Rusambo African Council. Makusengwa and Rusambo African Council were among the 241 African Council in Zimbabwe by 1980 which were then amalgamated into District Councils. The approximated total area of the whole district is 3,500km². However, Rushinga Rural District Council has been operating without a master which absolves his Excellence's call to action for the preparation of the Master plan to guide the development in the district.

The master plan is regarded as a priority planning tool to guide and promote District Development in line with vision 2030 and NDS1. This implies that all projects should be informed by the District Master Plan. The Master Plan will be instrumental for the identification, monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of initiatives, programs, and projects by Rushinga Rural District Council.

The preparation and implementation ensure that the RDC footprint finds its spatial expression as a sector within the rural space. The Master plan must be integrated with existing National and Provincial processes, and priorities, in terms of both the content of the various plans and the various structures involved in the management and alignment of planning processes. The district is renowned for its breath-taking natural beauty, diverse ecosystems, and rich cultural heritage. The master plan will guide decision making and processes related to infrastructure development, land use management and resource allocation.

1.2 Scope and Methodology for the master plan

The preparation of the Rushinga Rural District Master Plan is being carried out in terms of the provisions of Part IV of the Regional, Town and Country Planning Act, Chapter

29:12, Revised Edition, 1996 as read with the relevant RGN Regulation 248 (Master and Local Plans) 1977 Regulations.

In terms of both the Act and the Terms of Reference (TOR) provided by Rushinga Rural District Council, the report of study section of the master plan has to cover the following critical issues and aspects:

- Population Issues,
- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Socio economic studies,
- Land Use studies
- Housing and settlements
- Infrastructure Issues
- Traffic and Transportation
- Environmental conservation and natural resource management

The above would then assist Rushinga Rural District Council to deal with vital areas like land banking, charting the general direction of growth and expansion, land use zoning, and identification of development corridors. Throughout the process, the methodologies emphasized stakeholder participation, data driven decision making, and the integration of sustainability and resilience principles to ensure the master plan's effectiveness and relevance to the needs of the Rushinga district. Being a complex process, the master plan preparation did not have a single methodology. The various methodologies adopted hinged on the following fundamental principles:

- The need to engender a participatory approach so that the final proposals are owned by every stakeholder,
- The need to ensure that the plan preparation process promotes **sustainable development** through capacity building and derivation of shared vision
- The need to adhere to generally agreed upon scientific norms in research and policy formulation.

The following methodologies were employed in data collection:

- Questionnaire and Structured Interviews covering socio-economic and environmental data,

- Land use/utilization surveys
- Traffic and transport surveys
- Focus Group discussions (FDGs) to elicit expert opinion on various socio-economic, planning and environmental data
- Secondary data collection and review (making use of already published/official data),
- Workshops (as feedback mechanism on initial drafts).

1.3 Location of Rushinga in regional context.

Rushinga district is geographically positioned in the North Eastern corner of Mashonaland Central Province in Zimbabwe, bordering with Mozambique. The district is characterised by a mountainous terrain, with existing low lying areas coupled with cascading valleys, and abundant natural beauty consisting of bushes and grasslands. In terms of regional context, Rushinga Rural District is situated in the northeastern part of Zimbabwe. The District is made of 25 administrative wards, of which one ward is urban. The district is wholly communal. Most of the district area is rolling and subject to severe erosion of both arable and grazing land. This phenomenon leads to reduced arable land size as well as grazing and reduced land productivity.

It borders Mozambique to the northeast specifically Tete Province and Changara District, Pfura District to the west. The district covers an area of approximately 3,500km² and is characterized by a mix of flat plains and rugged terrain. The Mazowe River separates Rushinga from Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (U.M.P.) and Mudzi Districts (**See Map 1**). The immediate area either side of the Mazowe River is locally known as Nyatana.

This is part of a wildlife corridor that stretches into Mozambique. It is characterized by a mixture of land uses, of which agriculture and mining are dominant. The district holds potential as a viable tourist destination and has numerous growth opportunities in the industrial sector. Villages share a common boundary with Mozambique; there is a need to understand the social, cultural and economic contexts in which the two communities interact. Being at the periphery of the district, and country Rushinga

District has been neglected both in the colonial and post-colonial eras in terms of, among other things services.

1.3.1 The Study Area Boundary

The District is made of 25 administrative wards, of which one ward is urban (**See Map 2**). The district is wholly communal. It is a mining district with vast mineral deposits.

1.4 Focus of the report of study

Rushinga Rural District Council had no operative master plan, the prepared master plan for the district will provide a comprehensive analysis and plan for the development and management of the Rushinga District. The master plan will serve as a strategic framework to guide the district growth, infrastructure development, land use, climate change and natural disaster resilience, and environmental sustainability. Pursuant to the above this Report will investigate the areas listed below:

a) Socio-Economic analysis

- Overview of the RRDC and its Jurisdiction
- Demographic profile of the district including population trends and projections.
- Analysis of the local economy, including sectors, employment and income levels
- Assessment of social services, such as education, health care and public amenities

b) Land use and zoning

- Evaluation of the existing land use patterns and zoning regulations
- Identification of land suitability for various purposes (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural).
- Recommendation for land use policies and zoning guidelines to optimize development.

c) Environmental Analysis

- Evaluation of the district's natural resources, biodiversity and ecological sensitivity

- Identification of environmental risks, such as flooding, erosion and climate change impacts
- Recommendations for environmentally sustainable practices and conservation measures.

d) Spatial planning and development.

- Formulation of spatial development framework, including growth centers, urban expansion areas, and rural development zones.
- Design guidelines for urban design, public space, and landscaping planning.
- Proposals for affordable housing, community facilities, and public infrastructure.

e) Implementation and monitoring.

- Action plan for implementing the master plan's recommendations.
- Identification of response stakeholders and coordination mechanisms.
- Strategies for monitoring and evaluation the plans progress and making necessary adjustments.

1.5 Policy Provisions in the Master Plan Preparation

These policies provide a framework for rural development and inform the planning and implementation of the RRDC Master Plan. Some of the key policies that will guide the preparation of the Rushinga Rural District Council Master Plan process include:

1.5.1 Vision 2030

The policy was adopted in September 2018 under the theme "Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle-Income Society by 2030." Vision 2030 guided the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (2018–2020) and will guide the successive Five-Year Medium-Term Development Strategies (2021–2025) and (2026–2030). These development strategies will outline policies, projects, and programmes upon which long-term objectives and targets will be realised. The Rushinga District Master Plan falls under these development strategies used by the government to fulfil Vision 2030. The master plan must be a spatial and environmental plan that is based on the resource endowment of a given region. Vision 2030 also stipulates a comprehensive supportive utilities plan, which includes power, fuel depots, road and rail networks,

water sources, telecommunications, and all social and recreational amenities. A local empowerment and participation plan to ensure that locals are incorporated. Therefore, the preparation of the Rushinga District Master Plan is in line with achieving Vision 2030.

1.5.2 National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) (2021 –2025)

The NDS 1 policy aims to improve access to basic services that facilitate household access to potable water, sanitation facilities, energy, trafficable roads, and information and communication technology (ICT), which are a minimum requirement for every settlement. However, these services are not accessible due to the absence of the necessary infrastructure. The Rushinga rural district master plan study maps and locates where these services are located and where there is a need. In some instances, available infrastructure can no longer cope with the increased population due to capacity issues or a lack of maintenance. In order to support improved access to social amenities, the government will continue with the construction and rehabilitation of schools and health facilities. The master plan for Rushinga rural district helps to map areas in need of these facilities as well as make proposals.

1.5.3 Zimbabwe National Human Settlement Policy 2018, 2021.

The provisions of the policy govern all settlements in Zimbabwe. Settlements are areas where people live, work, and play, connected and served by road, transport, water, sanitation, information and communication technology (ICT), and natural and energy infrastructure. The Zimbabwe Human Settlement Policy of 2021 provides guidelines for housing provision in Zimbabwe. Rural local authorities will regulate the spatial location of settlements, design of homesteads, provide for common services (e.g., gravesites), choices of building technology, construction materials, and methods that are economic, sustainable, resilient, and enhance land use efficiency. The master plan will be prepared in line with the Human Settlement Policy, and construction choices will be made in liaison with communities, traditional, religious, and other community institutions in conformity with local culture, norms, and values.

1.5.4 Devolution and Decentralisation Policy 2013

The policy of devolution and decentralization is one of the major anchors of our unity, which encompasses inclusive development. A major objective of the policy is to promote in Zimbabwe "sustainable," representative, accountable, participatory, inclusive governance, and socio-economic development. The decentralisation policy will help in the master plan preparation as it's a development plan that is participatory based in the sense it is using the bottom up planning approach.

Devolution and decentralization through local authorities in the form of urban councils and rural district councils established to provide services to a heterogeneous citizenry in geographically defined and demarcated areas of jurisdiction. The devolution and decentralization policies enable Rushinga local authorities to prepare and implement a master plan. The primary acts that govern local authorities are the Urban Councils Act, the Rural District Councils Act, the Public Finance Management Act, and the Regional, Town, and Country Planning Act. These four pieces of legislation form the principal basis for the implementation of local government policy in Zimbabwe and establish the relationship between local authorities and the central government. Local authorities are not allowed to perform functions not specifically mentioned in their enabling legislation. This policy framework will inform the district master plan to localise development in its grassroots level and help in outlining efforts of development.

1.5.5 Zimbabwe Early Learning Policy 2024

The Zimbabwe early learning policy is a broad framework of reference in the Rushinga rural district master plan preparation, which provides a coherent program that will establish a strong foundation for the Zimbabwe education system. The policy ensures that every child in Zimbabwe has access to equitable, quality, inclusive, affordable, and relevant foundation education.

1.5.6 Disaster Risk Management Policy

The Disaster Risk Management Policy provides guidelines for assessing, mitigating, and responding to various types of disasters, including floods, landslides, and droughts. In light of Rushinga's history of land mine disasters and severe droughts,

the RRDC Master Plan integrates disaster risk reduction measures, early warning systems, and disaster response mechanisms to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability. Disaster losses are increasing partly due to climate change but also because development is often not planned taking into consideration risk and disaster management (Clarke and Dercon, 2016:99). Also the master plan will be informed of the area in which the disaster has been mitigated through demining and avoidance of veld fires. The integration of disaster risk management into the master plan preparation process helps to mitigate the impact of disasters and ensure the resilience of the local communities.

1.5.7 Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Currently, the fiscal and monetary policies that are championed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) have far-reaching consequences on the performance of local economies in the country.

The master plan should set its focus on the government spending on the infrastructure development, education, healthcare and other services can directly benefit Rushinga District by improving local amenities and promoting economic growth. High inflation has eroded the value of money negatively impacting the cost of living and business operations.

1.5.8 Rural Development

This is a policy aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms including food and water poverty through agricultural development – rural industrialisation – rural development. It is anchored on the fact that development originating from agriculture sector is twice more powerful at lifting people out of poverty than development emanating from other sectors. Also no country has transitioned from a low income economy to middle or upper income economy without increasing agricultural productivity. This policy framework has a direct implication on the planning area as its prospectus speaks upon things that directly affect Rushinga District. This master plan will take note of the provisions of this policy consolidating its claims for a better development spectrum.

1.6 Statutory Provisions in the Master Plan Preparation

Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013)

- The local authorities are established by this document, which also grants them management responsibility over their respective jurisdictions.
- Subject to this Constitution and any Act of Parliament, a local authority has the right to govern, on its own initiative, the local affairs of the people within the area for which it has been established, and has all the powers necessary for it to do so. An Act of Parliament may confer functions on local authorities, including—(a) a power to make by-laws, regulations or rules for the effective administration of the areas for which they have been established; (b) a power to levy rates and taxes and generally to raise sufficient revenue for them to carry out their objects and responsibilities.

Regional Town and Country Planning Act [Chapter 29:12 Revised Edition, 1996]

- Provides a legal guideline for the preparation of a master plan.
- An ACT to establish guidelines for the planning of districts, local areas, and regions with the goal of preserving and enhancing the physical environment, with a focus on health, safety, order, convenience, and general welfare.
- It also authorises the creation of regional, master, and local plans, whether they are urban or rural; protects urban and rural amenities, preserves buildings and trees, and generally regulates the appearance of the townscape and landscape; provides for the acquisition of land; controls development, including the use of land and buildings. Also sets regulations regarding the subdivision and consolidation of land and to provide for matters incidental to or connected with the foregoing.

Rural District Councils Act [Chapter 29:14]

- Provides for the planning, development, regulatory and administrative functions of rural district councils in their areas of jurisdiction.
- An ACT to create rural district councils and declare districts; to grant and impose duties upon rural district councils and manage their territories; and to address problems related or incidental to the aforementioned actions.

Communal Land Act [Chapter 20:04]

- Provides for classification of land as Communal Land and for regulation of the occupation and use of the Communal Land.
- As well as the classification and modification of such land; it also addresses subjects related to or incidental to the aforementioned.

Traditional Leaders Act [Chapter 29:17]

- An ACT to establish a Council of Chiefs, amend the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (Chapter 9:07), amend the Communal Land Act (Chapter 20:04), amend the Rural District Councils Act (Chapter 29:13), and provide for matters incidental to or connected with the aforementioned.
- To provide for the appointment of village heads, headmen, and chiefs; to define the functions of village, ward, and provincial assemblies; to issue village registration certificates and settlement permits.
- Provides for Traditional leaders participation in local authority activities.

Environment Management Act [Chapter 20:27] (EMA)

- The promulgation of the Environmental Management Act, Chapter 20:27 in 2003 made it mandatory for local authorities to prepare environmental management plans (EMPs).
- These plans address issues pertinent to the conservation of both the built and natural landscape of towns, cities, and settlements in general.
- Any future planning proposals should be well integrated with environmental measures that reduce air and water pollution. In essence, the development of the district must strike a balance with nature to maintain existing ecosystems and in some cases create new ones.
- This Master Plan is a higher-order plan that defines the major environmental issues to be addressed. Issues identified will be dealt with in detail in local environmental action plans.

1.7 Structure of the Report of Study

This Report is structured into eleven (11) broad chapters each dealing with critical thematic issues. In some instances, such issues overlap in terms of impacts on the activities in Rushinga District for example the broad economic fundamentals affecting Zimbabwe's economy also affect issues like housing, employment, infrastructure provision, tourism, climate change, disaster risk management, and education. The report is structure in a manner that it does not repeat issue in other chapters.

Chapter One: Serves as an introduction to Rushinga, its setting location, and methodologies employed in the plan preparation.

Chapter Two: Examines the global, regional, and rural development and issues that have an impact or can serve as useful lessons for Rushinga District in its development endeavours.

Chapter Three: looks at the physical characteristics of Rushinga: climate, geology and soils, vegetation, and pertinent environmental issues affecting Rushinga because of anthropogenic interventions.

Chapter Four: deals with population matters: population growth, composition and distribution, incomes, and general employment issues in Rushinga.

Chapter Five: deals with main land uses, ownership, development status, nodes of development, and identifies potentially developable land in Rushinga District. It also examines housing issues in Rushinga: looking at the broad fundamentals affecting housing demand and supply, housing stock delivery trends and spatial distribution.

Chapter Six: devoted to industry and commerce in the district.

Chapter Seven: deals with public utilities and sanitation infrastructure.

Chapter Eight: deals with transport and transportation infrastructure.

Chapter Nine: devoted to agriculture.

Chapter Ten: deals with the organisational and administrative framework of Rushinga District Council.

Chapter Eleven: present the summary of the report of study findings.

Chapter 2: Rural Planning and Development

2.1 Introduction

The goal of rural development is to enhance the standard of living and financial security of those who reside in rural areas, which are frequently isolated and have low population densities (Malcolm 2003). Because they have less access to economic opportunities and have not made as many investments in vital infrastructure like education, rural areas frequently endure poverty that is worse than that of urban or suburban areas. Rural development has traditionally centred on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. However, changes in global production networks and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas.

Increasingly rural tourism, niche manufacturers, and recreation have replaced resource extraction and agriculture as dominant economic drivers (Brown, 2009). The need for rural communities to approach development from a wider perspective has created more focus on a broad range of development goals rather than merely creating incentives for agricultural or resource-based businesses.

Education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing rural regions (Rowley, 1996). Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies (Malcolm, 2003). In contrast to urban regions, which have many similarities, rural areas are highly distinctive from one another. For this reason there are a large variety of rural development approaches used globally assessing the characteristic of development and growth

2.2 Rural Development

Concerning the history of master planning, it owes to the early utopian visions of ideal cities and human settlements. Master planning became the way the early utopias expressed these visions and have been used in guiding development through design, planning architecture, and other strategies shaping the built environment. The overall aim was of betterment of human life and increasing health and safety since the

industrial revolution (Firley and Groen, 2014). There are good reasons why the government focus on accelerated master plans for rural development, is right on point and this will eventually contribute to the uplifting of the majority in the outlying areas. These huge steps in rural revitalization by master plan preparation are an important aspect of the achievement of Vision 2030; this Vision 2030 entails attaining an upper-middle-income economy by 2030.

By focusing on the rural areas, President Mnangagwa has made it clear that the aim is to take everyone out of poverty, leaving no one and no place behind. Thus, the scope of master planning goes beyond spatial planning matters although spatial development and development regulation are the main traditional orientation of local development planning (Gallent et al., 2008)

Disaster losses are increasing partly due to climate change but also because development is often not planned taking into consideration risk and disaster management (Clarke and Dercon, 2016:99). Master plans can be defined as policies that contain the development vision of a community over a defined period usually over a long-term period, for example, can last between 10 to 15 years. Master Plan should address six main thematic issues namely, social cohesion, equity, and liveability; urban frameworks; spatial development; economy; ecology, environment, housing, and basic services.

2.3 Global trends

A review of the historic evolution of rural planning provides insight as to why there is an emerging re-emphasis on the rural areas in current planning concerns. The rural challenge to planning has always been, and continues to be, to create and maintain a rural economy that provides primary agricultural and natural resource products and, more recently, natural amenities for the well-being of cities while also creating jobs, wealth, and attractive lifestyle opportunities in rural areas. the past decades, there have been significant changes in rural development both in terms of the economy and approaches which have often changed varying from food security to increased competitiveness and territorial development (Florin & Latu, 2020). Rural areas largely determine the level of development of the country. According to some researchers, a

developed world economy must have a developed rural area (Szyliowicz, 1987). The needs of the time and global challenges had an impact on changing trends. On the one hand, they contributed to strengthening rural problems, on the other hand, measures to combat them were reflected in rural policy. As a result, the issue of rural development is becoming increasingly popular as an object of research, because it directly concerns the national security of states (EPRS, 2017).

2.3.1 Rural Infrastructure Development:

The need for development has been the main contemporary discourse dominating the history of Zimbabwe. A radical introspection into the process of growth points and rural development is urgently required to allow Zimbabwe to define its future in terms of urbanization and development. Growth points were adopted in Zimbabwe slightly before independence by the colonial government to provide accommodation and decentralized government services for people living in communal areas. However, after independence, the post-1980 government adopted the integrated rural development plan as part of the Growth with Equity policy to spur economic growth and development in the previously disadvantaged communal areas. This witnessed the designation of some communal areas as growth points in the hope that, in the long run, they would attract domestic and foreign investment and propel the development of rural areas.

Governments and international organizations are increasingly recognizing the importance of investing in rural infrastructure. This includes improving transportation networks, access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and reliable energy sources. Upgrading infrastructure in rural areas can enhance market access, promote economic growth, and improve living conditions. A prospering rural area would mean harnessing of rural to urban migration and, in the process, addressing issues such as unemployment, housing shortages, sanitation, health challenges, and food inadequacy that characterize some urban areas. There are good reasons why the government of Zimbabwe focused on master plan preparation for all local authorities. Among them, is the issue to accelerate rural development as master plans will eventually contribute to the uplifting of the majority in the outlying areas (which are

often rural areas). In fact, this is a huge steps on rural revitalization which is also an important aspect for achieving Vision 2030.

2.3.2 Rural Development Trends

The colonial Period 1890-1977

To continue traditional farming practices in the face of the rapid population growth that resulted from colonial administration required increasing quantities of land. In fact, discriminatory legislation progressively confined African land ownership to less than half the country. The key Acts were the Land Apportionment Act of 1930 and its successor, the Land Tenure Act of 1969, which was repealed in 1979 (Southern Rhodesia, 1931; Rhodesia, 1969). As indicated, these Acts, variously modified, effectively divided the national farmland roughly equally between a few thousand White farming families and four million Communal Area dwellers. During the colonial period, rural development in Zimbabwe was largely focused on meeting the needs of the colonial powers rather than the local population. The British South Africa Company, which administered the territory until 1923, pursued policies that favoured large-scale commercial agriculture and mining, often at the expense of the rural communities which left areas like Rushinga District lagging behind in terms of development.

The transition to independence, 1977-1980.

In Africa imminent independence has commonly been accompanied by a belated acceleration in development planning. Zimbabwe was no exception (Davies 1990). In 1977, with official recognition that majority rule would come within three years, government departments began to work hastily on new development proposals which they hoped would provide a pre-emptive basis for action with a return to normality under an internationally accepted new government. These proposals (Zimbabwe Rhodesia, 1979), with their two annexures on rural and urban development respectively, laid the foundations for development planning principles and procedures that are still largely followed today. For the rural sector, the relevant annexure is the integrated plan for rural development (Zimbabwe Rhodesia, 1979).

The Rural Development Since 1980

Although the present Marxist-socialist government's perceptions of desirable paths to, and forms of, rural development differ markedly from those of its predecessors (Zimbabwe, 1981), its ability greatly to alter the strategies it inherited has hitherto been limited, for a number of reasons. Firstly, the political and economic imperatives for immediately beginning reconstruction and development work led it to adopt the 1979 programme (which had been deliberately and hurriedly produced to that end), and it has performed been guided by it since, if to a decreasing extent. In more general terms, the government has conceded that the inherited, established capitalist structures cannot be superseded overnight by socialist structures (a fact that itself influences planning strategies) and has hitherto opted for a policy of economic gradualism (Gregory, 1987; Zinyama, 1988). Thus, despite some radical overtones in current rural development planning, in reality it still follows more an evolutionary than a revolutionary path.

Several factors are attributed to the development of rural areas in Zimbabwe. Internal and global trends have a huge impact on influencing and shaping the development of rural areas. A closer look at these trends in the context of Zimbabwe presents opportunities for development and diversification of the rural economy. Rural development is defined as the "general restructuring of the economy" which leads to substantial changes in the patterns of interaction between agriculture and society or a new developmental model for agriculture (Van der Ploeg et al., 2000:392). Rural development can be seen as the search for a new agricultural development model. For agriculture, rural development entails the development of new products, services, and markets involving new commodity linkages, new technologies, and a positive impact on the social reproduction of the agrarian community (Van der Ploeg et al., 2000). Rural development can be monitored by assessing poverty reduction and asset accumulation among more than 60% of the population residing in rural areas.

There has been a number of intervention to spur rural development aimed at improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices. Efforts have been made to enhance agricultural productivity and food security through initiatives like the Pfumvudza/Intwasa program, which targets smallholder farmers. Investments in rural infrastructure, including road networks, rural electrification, water supply, and

sanitation facilities, have aimed to improve living conditions and stimulate economic activities in the countryside. Community-based natural resource management approaches are being used to empower rural communities to sustainably manage their resources and benefit from eco-tourism. Efforts to promote value addition and agribusiness have been observed in a number of sectors with the main aim of increasing income opportunities for rural communities.

Digital innovation and connectivity is being promoted to bridge the digital divide and provide access to information and services to the rural communities. Several women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming initiatives have been implemented that focus on addressing gender disparities and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes. Climate change adaptation and resilience strategies aim to mitigate risks and build resilience in agriculture-dependent rural areas. These trends collectively contribute to the holistic development of rural communities in Zimbabwe.

2.3.3 Climate change

Rural communities face particular geographic and demographic obstacles in responding to and preparing for climate change risks. In particular, physical isolation, limited economic diversity, and higher poverty rates, combined with an aging population, increase the vulnerability of rural communities. Systems of fundamental importance to rural populations are already stressed by remoteness and limited access. Many rural areas worldwide are already suffering from the consequences of climate change today. The impacts of the changing climate further exacerbate other developments: e.g. soil degradation, biodiversity loss, declining agricultural productivity, and reduction of ecosystem services. This also applies to conflicts over land and competing interests over the use of natural resources. Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns due to natural and human activities. Human activities, population growth, and economic growth have a severe impact on the state of the environment.

2.3.4 Social and Gender Inequalities

Some 70 per cent of the world's poor are concentrated in rural communities. These are communities that rely on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock to make a

living. Within these communities, the poorest of the poor are often women and young girls who lack regular and decent employment, and who may face hunger and/or malnutrition, and poor access to health, education and productive assets. Although gender inequality varies considerably across regions and sectors, there is evidence that, globally, women benefit less from rural employment, whether in self- or wage-employment, than men do. Sub-Saharan Africa is ranked the lowest of the regions on the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals gender index with high rates of maternal mortality and unequal access to water and electricity. Limited access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities is highly experienced among women, girls and the poor.

Gender inequalities in rural areas are pervasive. There have the limited access to agriculture assets, education, and markets as men. Also rural markets are dysfunctional and gender biased. The presence of many early child marriages has evidenced a gap in gender. There is strong discrimination of women and girls in the District.

In many rural areas surrounding the district women were found to have limited access to and control over land and property. Cultural norms, discriminatory inheritance values and lack of legal protection contribute to women being excluded from land ownership and control.

The women also face challenge in accessing quality healthcare services including reproductive healthcare. Limited healthcare infrastructure, long distance to healthcare facilities and cultural barriers prevent women from obtaining essential reproductive health services, family planning resources and adequate maternal care. Traditional gender norms and cultural practices prevalence in Rushinga Rural District reinforces gender inequalities. These norms limit women and girl child mobility, restricting their participation in public life and reinforces gender based violence. Majority of women face social pressure to conform to traditional roles as wives, mothers and caregivers which hinder their ability to pursue education, economic opportunities and personal aspirations.

Although equality in land ownership has been identified as one of the main drivers of income equality and therefore poverty reduction in many poor countries, high income inequality and poverty in Zimbabwe remain a major concern despite the visible land redistribution policies. Reducing inequalities in both the economic and social spheres through inclusive growth is recognized as central to the improvement of the well-being of societies and therefore an obligation for the 2030 Agenda. Studies on gender and macroeconomics argue that improving equality in the economic sphere, such as equality in the means of production like land, will not only promote gender equality but will also significantly promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty (Tekwa and Adesina, 2018).

2.4 Sustainable Agriculture

There is a growing emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices worldwide. In Zimbabwe and other African countries, efforts are being made to promote climate-smart farming techniques, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and organic farming. These practices aim to enhance productivity, conserve natural resources, and improve the livelihoods of rural communities. A healthy and dynamic agricultural sector is an important foundation of rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors. Rural livelihoods are enhanced through the effective participation of rural people and rural communities in the management of their own social, economic, and environmental objectives by empowering people in rural areas, particularly women and youth, including through organizations such as local cooperatives and by applying the bottom-up approach.

2.5 An Overview of Rural Development Trends in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, there has been a number of intervention to spur rural development aimed at improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices. Efforts have been made to enhance agricultural productivity and food security through initiatives like the Pfumvudza/Intwasa program, which targets smallholder farmers. Investments in rural infrastructure, including road networks, rural electrification, water supply, and sanitation facilities, have aimed to improve living conditions and stimulate economic activities in the countryside. Community-based natural resource management approaches are being used to empower rural communities to sustainably manage their

resources and benefit from eco-tourism. Efforts to promote value addition and agribusiness have been observed in a number of sectors with the main aim of increasing income opportunities for rural communities. Digital innovation and connectivity is being promoted to bridge the digital divide and provide access to information and services to the rural communities. Several women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming initiatives have been implemented that focus on addressing gender disparities and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes. Climate change adaptation and resilience strategies aim to mitigate risks and build resilience in agriculture-dependent rural areas.

2.6 Summary of Issues

There is no overall national rural development policy in Zimbabwe at present. Consequently, each sectoral agency involved in rural development adopts its own policy. Furthermore, since much of the funding for rural development activities (especially for the provision of infrastructure and services and for innovative research and development programmes) comes from external agencies, policy is heavily influenced by the priorities of these agencies, which often reflect international "development fashions" more than the reality of the Zimbabwean rural environment. As already indicated, the institutional framework for rural planning has a major and often negative impact on both the formulation and implementation of rural development plans. There are five main problem areas: centralisation, lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of capacity, conflicts between political and technical priorities, and inappropriate external support.

Chapter 3: Physical Features and Land Use

3.1 Physical Features, Land Use, and the Environment

This section presents the physical environment of Rushinga District and its predominant land uses. The study used the aid of satellite imagery and secondary data from Agritex and other government department to present, in abstract, the physical features present in Rushinga District.

3.1.1 Topography

The district's topography is mainly hilly and undulating, with some areas consisting of low-lying plains. The region is part of the Zambezi Escarpment, which gives rise to various hills and slopes (**See Map 3**). The landscape is generally characterized by rocky outcrops, small mountains, and scattered granite hills.

3.1.2 Slope

The District has some portion of land that has steep slopes and undulating terrain also contribute to the steepness in some areas. Some areas in the district have gentle platforms denoting the spatial variation of slopes in the district. The slope of an area plays a significant role in rural planning and development for example land use and development suitability. Steep slopes are typically not suitable for residential, commercial, or industrial development as compared to low lying areas due to stability issues, potential erosion, more construction cost and vice versa. Steepness of the slope also helps in drainage and storm water management as steep slope lead to rapid runoff, erosion and flooding. Slope is also a significant consideration when designing transport infrastructure such as roads, highways and railways. The variations in slope density in Rushinga District as presented on **Map 4**.

3.1.3 Rivers and Water Bodies

Rushinga Rural District is home to several rivers and water bodies that contribute to the region's water resources. The district falls under the Mazowe catchment zone with major rivers include the Ruya River which borders the district with Pfura Rural District, which flows from west to east, and the Mazowe River, which forms part of the district's

southern border (**See Map 5**). Other rivers include Mwera, Murowa and Baka which are seasonal rivers as they only flood in rainy seasons. These rivers are heavily affected by pollution from alluvial gold mining. These rivers provide water which support rural livelihoods and promote agricultural activities. The district also boost of the Chimhanda Dam in ward 15 which is used for irrigation purposes and water provision.

3.1.4 Vegetation Cover

Rushinga Rural District is predominantly covered by savannah woodlands, comprising both open grasslands and scattered trees. The vegetation is adapted to the region's climate and includes species such as miombo woodland and mopane trees. Also there is the presence of thick thorn bushes in some areas. The district falls within the Miombo woodlands biome, characterized by the dominant miombo tree species. These woodlands are known for their unique mix of trees, including *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia*, and *Isoberlinia* species (**See Map 6**). Nestled in the northeastern part of Zimbabwe, Rushinga District is blessed with captivating forests and abundant natural beauty. The district is renowned for its diverse ecosystems, teeming with unique flora and fauna. This district master plan need to explore the significance of forests and nature in Rushinga District, highlighting their ecological importance, the benefits they provide to local communities, and the need for their preservation and sustainable management.

The district is characterized by extensive woodlands and savannas, which consist of a mix of trees, shrubs, and grasses. These ecosystems are adapted to the semi-arid conditions of the region and support a variety of wildlife, including antelopes, baboons, and a range of bird species. The woodlands also provide valuable resources such as timber, firewood, and non-timber forest products.

Forests are scattered throughout Rushinga District, providing important habitats for wildlife and contributing to the conservation of biodiversity. There is a sacred and cultural forest in ward 14 under Chief Rusambo. These forests are home to various tree species and are valuable for their ecological services, including carbon sequestration, soil conservation.

The diverse landscapes and terrain in Rushinga District contribute to its natural beauty, ecological integrity, and the livelihoods of local communities. It is important to promote sustainable land management practices, preserve biodiversity, and protect these landscapes to ensure their long-term conservation and the well-being of both nature and people in the district.

Comprehensive reforestation and afforestation programs must be designed to improve the vegetation state of Rushinga especially around built up environment. As part of urban forestry, it is proposed to plant trees generously along major roads in the master plan area as an urban greening ecological measure. A proposal should be considered to incorporate urban greening strategies in all future layout designs.

3.1.5 Wildlife

The district has diverse wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. Common mammal species found in the area include elephants, antelope species, monkeys and baboons. Birdwatchers can spot a variety of bird species, and colorful songbirds. The Mazowe River and other water bodies provide habitats for aquatic life, including fish and amphibians. Rushinga District's natural environment plays a vital role in supporting and preserving this rich biodiversity.

3.2 Climate

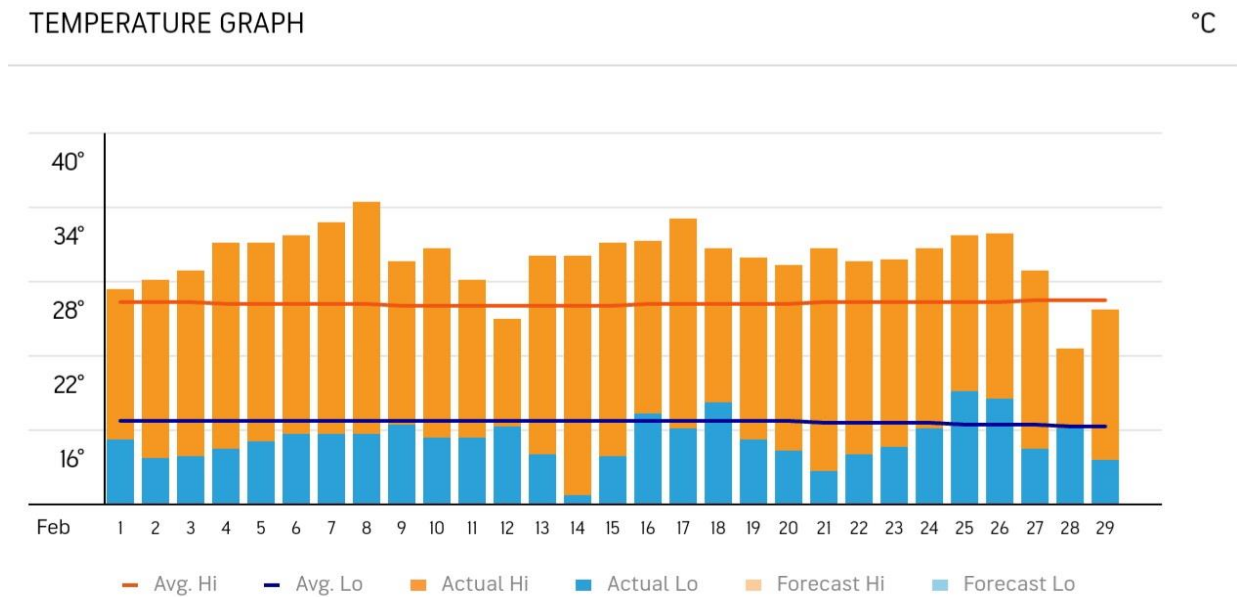
The district experiences a subtropical climate, with distinct wet and dry seasons. The rainy season typically occurs between November and March, with the highest rainfall recorded in December and January. The dry season, from April to October, is characterized by low precipitation and higher temperatures. The average annual rainfall ranges from 700 to 1,000 millimeters. Rushinga experiences a temperate climate with distinct seasonal variations.

3.2.1 Temperature

The temperature in Rushinga is generally hot and dry throughout the year. The average annual temperature ranges from around 20°C (59°F) to 25°C (77°F). The region experiences cooler temperatures during the winter months (May to August) with average lows of 15°C (46°F) and warmer temperatures during the summer (November

to February) with average highs of 28°C (82°F). Rushinga characterised with high veld area which receive low temperatures throughout the year and the low veld which characterised by high temperatures. Figure 1 showing temperatures experienced by Rushinga District.

Figure 1 Temperatures experienced by Rushinga District.



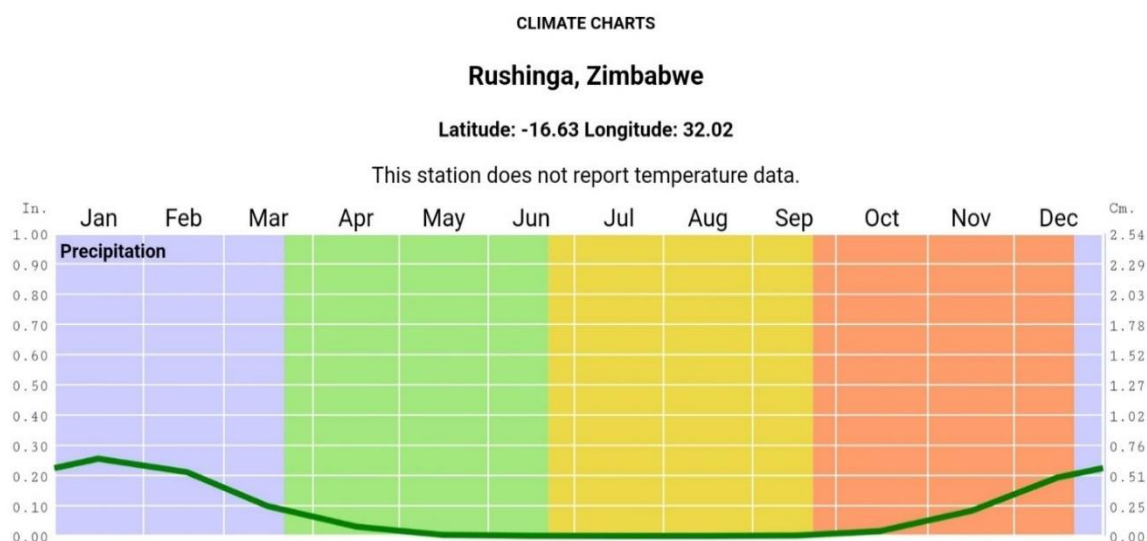
Accuweather, 2024

3.2.2 Rainfall

Rushinga receives a significant amount of rainfall, particularly during the summer months. The rainy season typically occurs from November to April, with December and January being the wettest months. The region receives an average annual rainfall of around 450 to 650 millimetres. The sufficient rainfall contributes to the lush vegetation and scenic landscapes in Rushinga (**See Map 7**). The high veld received high rainfall during the year and low rainfall is received in the low veld.

3.2.2.1 Predicted Rainfall Chart in the Elnino

Figure 2 Elnino predicted rainfall in Rushinga District.



Accuweather, 2024

The district is currently under threat of severe drought as it is experiencing Elnino weather conditions. This has also resulted in little to no rain fall in the district. This chart clearly show a steep decline in the amount of rainfall in January to March which puts the crops at high risk of wilting and excessive scorching by the abundance sun. The amount of rainfall under these Elnino conditions has resulted in drought in many areas across the district. The amount of precipitation in the air rises in October stretching to March where there is a steep decline into little to no precipitation.

3.2.3 Cloud Cover

The average percentage of the sky covered by clouds experiences extreme seasonal variation over the course of the year. The clearer part of the year in Rushinga begins around March 22 and lasts for 7.6 months, ending around November 10. The clearest month of the year in Rushinga is August, during which on average the sky is clear, mostly clear, or partly cloudy 94% of the time. The cloudier part of the year begins around November 10 and lasts for 4.4 months, ending around March 22. The cloudiest month of the year in Rushinga January, during which on average the sky is overcast or mostly cloudy 61% of the time.

Figure 3 Cloud Cover experienced by Rushinga District.



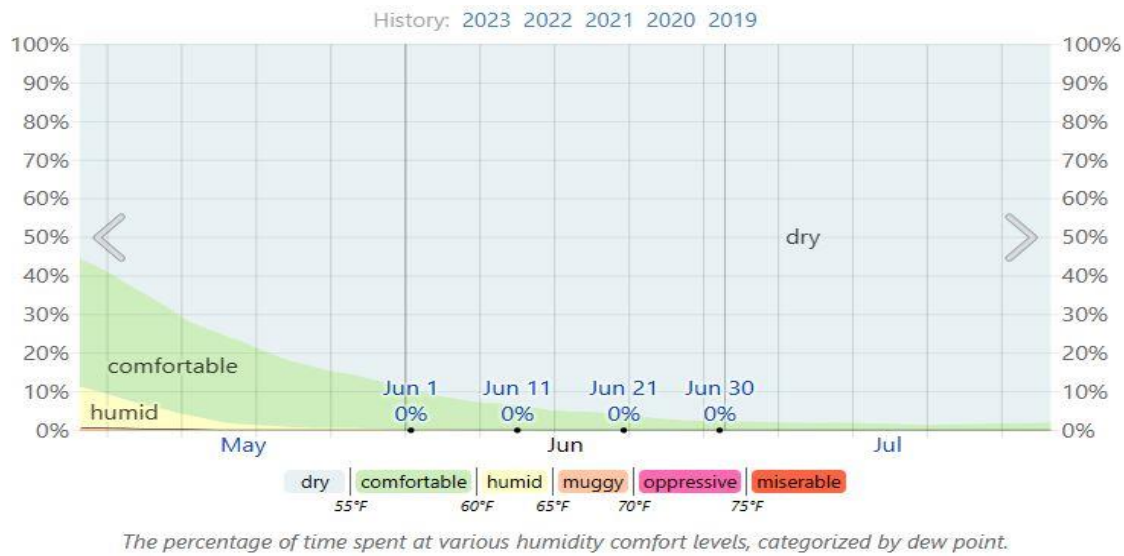
The percentage of time spent in each cloud cover band, categorized by the percentage of the sky covered by clouds.

Accuweather, 2024

3.2.4 Humidity

Rushinga experiences relatively high humidity levels throughout the year due to its proximity to the Indian Ocean. Humidity levels can reach around 70% to 80% during the rainy season, contributing to the region's lush vegetation and forested areas. The chance that a given day will be muggy in Rushinga is essentially constant during June, remaining around 0% throughout.

Figure 4 Humidity experienced by Rushinga District.



Accuweather, 2024

3.2.5 Winds

The region is influenced by prevailing winds, with the southeast trade winds bringing moisture from the Indian Ocean. These winds contribute to the formation of clouds and rainfall in Rushinga. The average hourly wind speed in Rushinga is essentially constant during June, remaining within 0.2 miles per hour of 6.5 miles per hour throughout. The maximum wind speed is 17.43 km/hr (10.83mph). Normally the August winds highest is usually 24.61km/hr which usually lead to occurrence of whirl winds.

3.2.6 Air Quality

The air quality in Rushinga District is relatively good. This can be attributed to the absence of processing industries in the district. In ward 24 there is reports of dust generation from G&W Mining Company which mines dolomite in that area. Another effect to the district air quality can be derived from the communal burning of firewood for heating and cooking purposes which also results in deforestation and air pollution.

3.3 Soils

The area is dominated by loamy to sandy soils, though they vary in nature and character being influenced by the amount of water in the soil. It would appear the soils are generally stable and well-suited for development in most parts of the District and

the planning area. The stability of soils was assessed based on the type of foundations being used for development of existing and new buildings coming up in the area. There are however few areas of clayey loams particularly in wet areas along streams and close to rivers.

In such areas development should be limited or carefully managed. Guidance should also be sought from relevant authorities such as the Environmental Management Authority for ecologically-sensitive areas, and the Zimbabwe National Water Authority for developments near water bodies. The predominantly soil types are sandy soils, loamy soils and clay soils. The soils of the areas are mostly fersiallitic (Thompson & Purves, 1978). These soils are moderately leached soils in which the dominant clay mineral is kaolinite. Lithosol are widely distributed in rugged hilly ground. They are very shallow soils formed over weathering of rock.

3.3.1 Sandy Soils

Sandy soils characterised by their coarse texture and low water holding capacity are found in several wards of the District. These soils have good drainage capabilities allowing excess water to percolate. However they tend to have lower fertility due to low organic content and limited nutrient holding capacity. These promote groundnuts production in the district. In Zimbabwe, sandy soils are commonly found in arid and semi-arid areas of northern and north-eastern Zimbabwe, the coastal regions and some river valleys. These soils support scanty vegetation and have very little humus. The district is regarded arid hence it has some wards which has the strong acidic soils (pH 4.5-4.9). Also worth noting is the presence of red agricultural soils in some wards and areas like Mary Mount.

3.3.2 Sandy loam soils

It is a particular type of soil with its own characteristics making it ideal for farming. It is made up of sand, silt and clay though the sand consist the largest amount followed by silt with a smaller part of clay. These promote cotton and tobacco farming in Rushinga District and favouring flower plants like sunflowers. In general the Rushinga master plan needs to posit ways the significantly impact agricultural productivity in the region. These soils contain phosphorus (**See Map 8**). The master plan needs to envisage the

soil analysis as a priority for the district agriculture productivity and developmental concerns

3.4 Environmental Issues and Problems

There are several environmental problems in Rushinga district. Some of the issues that need to be highlighted in the Master Plan are as follows:

Deforestation

The use of wood for cooking and heating in winter creates a major problem of deforestation in the vicinity of Rushinga and other surrounding areas. Trees that exist are used for a variety of uses including building, cattle kraals, firewood, fencing poles and medical requirements. These demands on the woodlands have resulted in deforestation which has in turn affected the vegetation cover of the area. Moreover, trees of economic importance, like mahogany, teak and crocodile buck are being lost. It is also important to note that the loss of vegetation cover is resulting in soil erosion, siltation of dams and rivers as well as gully formation.

Siltation

Most rivers and dams in the district are heavily silted. This has drastically reduced their water holding capacity, exacerbating water challenges in the district. The district receives low rainfall and dams are important as a way of harvesting and storing water. Efforts are required to come up with ways to de-silt the dams so as to minimise water challenges.

Chapter 4: Population, Income and Employment

4.1 Introduction

This section of the report looks at Rushinga population size, past growth patterns, distribution, demographic features, and structure. It also looks at the socioeconomic problems that the people of Rushinga face, such as problems with employment and income.

4.2. Population Data Analysis

According to the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (ZIMSTAT, 2022) Rushinga district has a total population of 76,876 persons. If the 2012 figure is brought in for comparison purposes, then the district's population has grown by 70,548 representing an 8.9 % increase in population during the 2012-2022, a period of 10 years. The table below illustrates the population figures since 2012.

<Table 1: Population figures for Rushinga from 2012 to 2022>

Year	Population size	% Change
2012	70,548	
2022	76,876	8.9%

4.3 Population Projections Using 2012 And 2022 Census Results

The population trend of Rushinga indicate a continuous increase, in the year 2012 population was at 74 040, the population increased to 76 876 in the year 2022, this is according to census reports. According to ZIMSTATS the current total population of Rushinga is estimated to be around 77 000. Female population is higher that the male population since 37 056 are males and 39 820 are females.

4.3.1 Rushinga District Population Projections and Housing Census by Zimstats 2022.

<Table 2: District population Projections and Housing Census>

Ward	Males	Females	Total	Total Households
1	1268	1321	2589	588
2	716	771	1487	370
3	1661	1687	3348	797
4	1700	1799	3499	871
5	725	733	1458	345
6	922	924	1846	433
7	2413	2540	4953	1180
8	1902	2080	3982	970
9	1558	1645	3203	756
10	2136	2342	4478	1094
11	1440	1574	3014	693
12	2026	2161	4187	973
13	1443	1553	2996	691
14	1757	1941	3698	917
15	1950	2190	4140	1104
16	1643	1875	3518	823
17	1386	1616	3002	650
18	2170	2356	4526	1092
19	1356	1496	2852	713
20	1079	1039	2118	494
21	1269	1303	2572	637
22	1401	1405	2806	657
23	907	913	1820	445
24	1654	1940	3594	1003
25	574	616	1190	271
Total	37056	39820	76876	18567

Zimstats, 2022

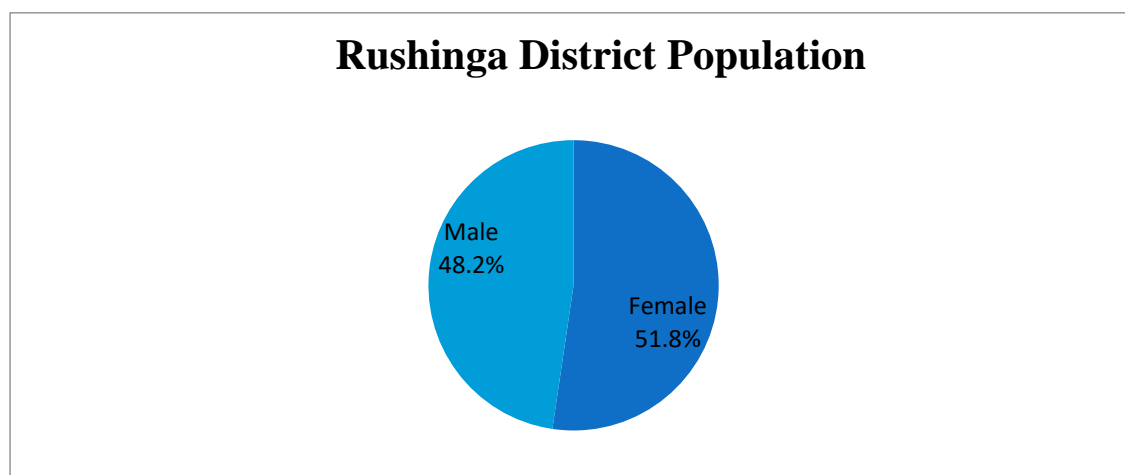
4.4 Population Density and Distribution

Overall population density in the district is 33 persons per square kilometre, a figure slightly lower than that of the provincial average of 49 persons per square kilometre. This figure may be misleading as it gives an impression of uniform distribution yet in reality some parts of the district are more concentrated than other, especially the growth points and rural service centres.

The district has a higher female population of 39820 constituting 51.8 % of the total district population as compared to the male population of 37056 absolving the 48.2 % of the population. The implication of having more women (51.8%) than men (48.2%) in Rushinga District holds significant potential for rural development and master planning. By recognizing and harnessing the knowledge, skills, and labour of women, rural development efforts can be more inclusive and effective. Women's active involvement in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and community development can contribute to increased agricultural productivity, economic diversification, and the creation of employment opportunities.

Empowering women through access to resources, education, and decision-making processes can enhance gender equality, social development, and environmental stewardship. Master planning initiatives in Rushinga District should prioritize the needs and priorities of women, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making and addressing gender-specific challenges. By leveraging the strengths and contributions of women, rural development efforts can foster sustainable and equitable development outcomes in Rushinga District.

Figure 5 Rushinga District Population.



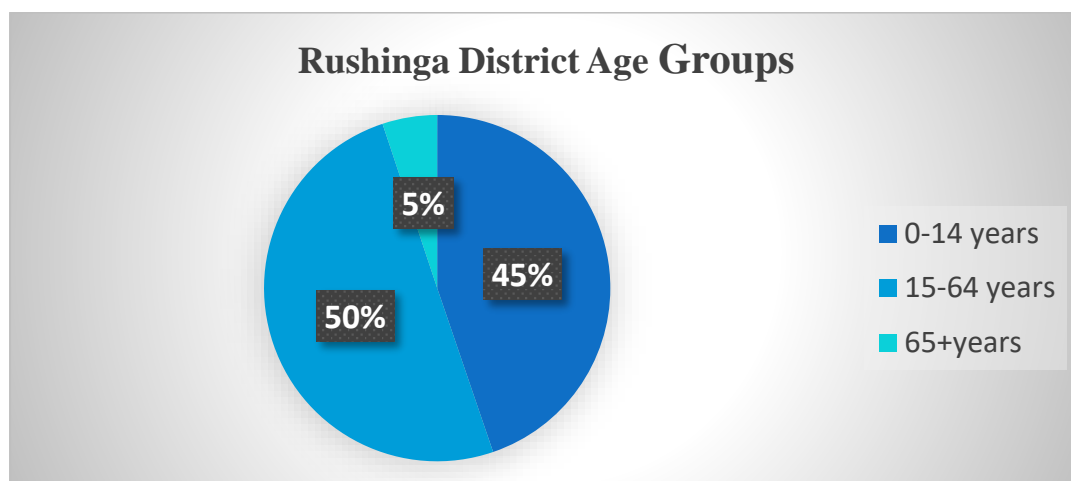
CSO Report, 2022

In Rushinga natural population increase has played for a significant role in the district population growth from that of 2012 population census. Efforts to resuscitate the health care system through the construction of health facilities has also effected high birth rates than the past years which coupled with infant mortality (**See Map 9**).

4.5 Age structure in the District

The pie chart clearly shows that there is a low number of ageing population due to natural death and there is a great percentage of active young population in the district.

Figure 6 Rushinga District Age Structure.



Zimstats, 2022

4.6 Household Size

According to the 2022 census report by ZIMSTATs the average household size in Rushinga Rural District was found to be 4.2 persons per household.

4.6.1 Household Head

According to the ZIMVACC report of Mashonaland Central, Rushinga Rural District had a 75% of male headed households against a 25% of female headed households. The majority of household's heads in Rushinga lived together with their spouses, 18% household heads were widows or widowers, with the remaining percentage of household heads living apart. Also 22 percent of the household heads in Rushinga had attained at least primary level education with 37% had attained Ordinary level.

4.6.2 Length of Residence in Rushinga

Majority of households in the district that participated in the focus group discussions had lived in Rushinga for about 15 years. Some people especially women in ward 18 reported to have migrated into the district from Mudzi and UMP Districts due to marital ties to their husbands. A majority of household resettled into Rushinga during the 1980s period of resettlement. The major led for the migration was cotton farming which thrived and was lucrative in the past.

4.7. Population Structure

The population structure of Rushinga Rural District has significant implications for spatial planning, which involves the organization and allocation of land use and infrastructure within the region. Understanding the demographic composition, including age, sex, and other characteristics, is crucial for effective spatial planning. The population structure guides decisions related to housing, infrastructure development, service provision, and the creation of age-friendly environments.

Analysing the population structure helps in planning the district as it illustrates the demand for different types of housing, such as family homes or housing for the elderly. It also helps to determine the need for schools, healthcare facilities, recreational spaces, and transportation networks that cater to the specific needs of different age groups. Additionally, considering the population structure enables the master plan for

Rushinga District to develop age-friendly communities by incorporating accessible design, walkability, and social support networks. Furthermore, by taking into account future population projections, spatial planning can be more proactive, ensuring that the district's infrastructure and services meet the evolving needs of its residents. The population of Rushinga District is dominated by women, with 48 percent male and 52 percent female. By leveraging the strengths and contributions of women, rural development efforts can be more inclusive and effective, and lead to sustainable and equitable development.

4.7.1 Population Projections

Figure 7 Rushinga District Population Projection.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS USING 2012 AND 2022 CENSUS RESULTS			
Year	Population Female	Population Male	Total
2023	49470	47297	96767
2024	50518	48478	98996
2025	51573	49674	101247
2026	52635	50887	103522
2027	53702	52114	105816
2028	54755	53334	108089
2029	55774	54523	110297
2030	56755	55680	112435
2031	57695	56801	114496
2032	58590	57882	116472
Grand Total	108060	105179	213 239

For the purpose of planning for service provisions, the research used high growth rate. The use of high growth rate in forecasting for service provision points to the need for a proportional mix of residential units in Rushinga in order to subsidise low income groups. From the population projections the master plan should address the problem of how much land would be required for housing , schools and health care facilities in the future versus the estimated and projected future population growth. Population growth will likely impact the district physical growth and its service provision.

The population projections as presented by the table shows that population growth is going to increase by an estimated 40 percent by 2032. Population growth is influenced by many factors that fall into the broad realms of demographic characteristics,

socioeconomic conditions, transportation infrastructure, natural amenities, and land use and development across space and time. Land-use conflicts, regional/tribal warfare, environmental degradation, and competition for scarce resources are all exacerbated by growing populations. Holistic or systematic approaches are becoming critically important in tackling the complexity of development and population change. Development and population change are complex; they have exhibited spatial variations in different time periods driven by different factors. These factors' effects on population change, however, are not constant over time or across space. The effects exhibit spatial dependence and variations and vary with population redistribution trends. A systematic understanding of population changes and its relationship to its driving factors requires a systematic consideration of influential factors across space and time.

4.7.2 Population and the Environment

Given the demographic trends in the district it is evident that the district is urbanising at a significant pace and the cost of the urban environmental degradation are rapidly becoming obvious in Rushinga. The population will continue to grow in the communal areas and urbanising wards and this will likely stress the environment as demand on resources such as water and wood fuels is expected to intensify in the future. The growth of urban population will also increase pressure on basic urban and social services and land use and will in turn contribute to pollution and degradation. There is need for the provision bulk water infrastructure in future to cater for the urban population.

4.8. Migration Patterns

Migration in Rushinga Rural District is often driven by a combination of push and pull factors. Push factors in rural areas include the limited economic opportunities, lack of services or infrastructure, environmental challenges such as droughts. Many people from Rushinga district migrate from the rural peripheral areas to urban centers in search of better economic prospect, improved access to education and health care and a higher standard of living. The capital city Harare is 200 kilometres south of Rushinga, is a common destination for urban migration. Even though there is no formal border between Rushinga and Mozambique there is significant seasonal cross border

migration in which some people in the district migrate into Mozambique to practice subsistence farming activities. They usually return to their home areas once the farming season ends.

Secondly, the lack of basic services drive migration in the District. Insufficient access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure push people to relocate to areas with better access to these services. Inadequate healthcare facilities or limited educational opportunities may prompt families to migrate, seeking better opportunities for themselves and their children. Spatial planning should ensure equitable distribution of services across the district, including the provision of healthcare centers, schools, and transportation networks, to mitigate the need for migration and enhance the attractiveness of rural areas.

Rushinga District also attract retirees or older individuals looking for a peaceful and affordable place to spend their retirement years. Majority of these are former garden workers from low density suburbs like Avondale and Mount Pleasant in Harare. Additionally, environmental factors also play a significant role in migration occurring in the District. Climate-related challenges, such as droughts and natural disasters, force rural populations to seek safer and more sustainable living conditions elsewhere. Inadequate infrastructure and disaster preparedness exacerbate the vulnerability of the District due to these environmental challenges.

Spatial planning master plan needs to incorporate measures for climate resilience, including land-use planning that accounts for natural hazard zones, the promotion of sustainable environmental practices, and the development of infrastructure that can withstand and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Rushinga District witnessed many resident migrating internally to areas they perceive to be safer for their living due to landmine risks.

The implications of rural migration for spatial planning are significant. The district master plan need to consider the demographic shifts caused by migration, including changes in population size and composition. This information is crucial for determining the demand for housing, infrastructure, and services in both sending and receiving areas. Spatial planning should focus on addressing the root causes of migration by

promoting economic development, improving access to basic services, and creating sustainable and resilient environments. Integrating strategies such as job creation, investment in infrastructure, and provision of social amenities in rural areas can help reduce the need for migration and support balanced spatial development. Additionally, spatial planning should consider the impacts of migration on both the sending and receiving areas, ensuring that infrastructure and services are adequately planned and provided to meet the needs of both populations.

The population trend of Rusinga indicates a continuous increase, and the female population is higher than the male population. Population growth is influenced by many factors, including demographic characteristics, socio-economic conditions, transportation infrastructure, natural amenities, and land use development across space and time. Holistic approaches are becoming critically important in tackling the complexity of development and population change. The majority of people live in wards 3, 7, 15 and 24, and there are extremely low populations in wards 6, 9, 10, 18 and 19.

The population of Rusinga District is dominated by women, with 48.2 percent male and 51.8 percent female. By leveraging the strengths and contributions of women, rural development efforts can be more inclusive and effective, and lead to sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

The population structure of Rusinga District has significant implications for spatial planning, as it helps determine the demand for different types of housing, schools, healthcare facilities, recreational spaces, and transportation networks that cater to the specific needs of different age groups.

Limited economic opportunities and lack of employment are common causes of migration in the district. This can lead to a decrease in the working-age population in some parts of the district and potentially impacts agricultural activities and local industries.

Insufficient access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure in the District pushes people to relocate to areas with better access to these services. Spatial planning should ensure equitable distribution of services across the district.

Environmental factors play a significant role in migration occurring in the District, including climate-related challenges, inadequate infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and land-use planning that accounts for natural hazard zones. Spatial planning should address the root causes of rural migration by promoting economic development, improving access to basic services, and creating sustainable and resilient environments. It should also consider the impacts of migration on both sending and receiving areas.

4.9 Integration with Mozambique: Opportunities and Challenges

Rushinga district shares a national boundary with Mozambique to the North. There are several porous points creating a freedom of entry and exit into either of the two countries. People in Rushinga practice farming in Mozambique where there are better arable lands compared to the semi-arid lands (sandy loamy soils) in Rushinga. Mozambicans, on the other hand, access health and education facilities in areas like Bopoma and Marry Mount Mission. Through intermarriages, there are now relatives on both sides of the border. All these are important in shaping the bilateral relations and fostering economic cooperation between the two countries.

However, the uncontrolled border crossings are posing significant challenges that require urgent attention. The porous border, devoid of controlled entry and exit points, raises issues related to security, public health, and revenue loss among others.

One of the primary challenges arising from the uncontrolled border crossings is security. The absence of proper monitoring and regulation opens the door to various illegal activities. Drug trafficking (mbanje), smuggling and human trafficking are thriving in the absence of stringent border controls.

Another significant drawback is loss of revenue through porous border point like Mafigu and Kahira. Customs duties, tariffs, and taxes go uncollected, resulting in a substantial economic impact on both countries. The district residents usually purchase

motor bikes from Mozambique to Zimbabwe taking advantage of the lower prices. It is easy for them to avoid customs duties, taxes or other regulations due to absence of a controlled border post. However, it was brought to attention that local police officers are going an extra mile to try deal with people who are involved in illegal importation of goods, particularly motor bikes.

Other challenges raised pertaining to the uncontrolled national boundary are theft of cattle and goats from either side, spreading of cattle diseases among others. In areas like Mafigu and Urayi the residents recently encountered challenges in their interactions with Mozambican counterparts, particularly concerning the demined area along the shared border. It has been brought to attention that the exact boundary demarcation is no longer clear, leading to escalating conflicts between the two communities. The people of Rushinga cited instances where Mozambicans assert their claims over the demined area, considering it to be within their territory. This conflicting perception of the boundary has resulted in heightened tensions and disputes.

Nevertheless, it has become evident through extensive interactions and discussions with the residents of Rushinga that there exists a strong resistance and reluctance towards the establishment of a controlled port of entry as a way of curbing the aforementioned challenges. The sentiments expressed by the local population consistently point towards concerns over potential negative on their daily livelihoods and hampering the ease of movement and trade that currently exist.

4.10 Main Sources of Income

A series of focus group discussions conducted with residents of Rushinga revealed that the district heavily relies on subsistence agriculture. The primary source of income for many families is derived from sale of groundnuts, maize, sorghum and millet to generate income. Through the discussions, it was discovered that many individuals diversify their livelihoods by engaging in the sale of groundnuts, baobab fruits (mauyu) and other cash crops like tobacco in agro-ecological region 3.

Ground nut cultivation has gained popularity among the farmers in Rushinga. Residents praised groundnut cultivation for its relatively low input costs and its ability to thrive in the district's climatic conditions, making it viable for income generation. Some farmers sell raw groundnuts while others process it into peanut butter on a small scale.

The natural growth of Baobab fruits (Mauyu) in some parts of Rushinga provides a valuable opportunity for income generation. They emphasized that baobab trees thrive abundantly in the in some parts of the district, making the collection of baobab fruits a relatively accessible activity for the local population. Usually the raw baobab fruits are purchased by middle men (Biopa) who then transport them to Harare for sale and processing.

Cattle and goats are also regarded as valuable assets and an essential component of their wealth. The sale of these animals is providing a direct means of generating income in supporting families. However, recurring concern emerged regarding the absence of formal cattle markets in certain areas leading to exploitative practices by middlemen. Residents highlighted that its only Chimhanda and Mary Mount that currently host cattle markets where sales occur every Monday and Thursday. As a consequence, middlemen exploit the situation, offering lower prices to farmers who have no alternative avenues for selling their cattle at a formal cattle market. Usually the purchased cattle is transported to Harare Abattoirs leaving no gain for the district. In addition to traditional agriculture, other sources of income that were noted are alluvial gold panning and small-scale dolomite mining.

The district is known to have gold deposits, and some individuals engage in small scale alluvial gold panning along the banks of the Mazowe River. The individuals and groups manually extract gold from river beds and sediments deposits using basic tools along Mazowe River in ward 18. The activity is however illegal and causing environmental degradation and massive water pollution in the river. This illegal mining activity has largely become a source of income for many communal residents.

Other small scale mining activities include dolomite, quarry and magnesium mining. These minerals are of high volume and low value compared to precious metals like

gold and diamond. When individuals mine dolomite or magnesium for their own survival, it is often an informal and small-scale operation. They extract these minerals from available deposits on their own land or within the district. The harvested dolomite or magnesium is then displayed for sale in front of their own homes.

The District also benefit from the informal sector which has sprouted since the economic meltdown, amongst the district residents a notable number has been consumed by the informal sector mainly through vending , welding , upholstery, carpentry, motor mechanics and retail shops. The district naturally fails to tap into the resources around it. The master plan should help the District in unlocking the potential in all the viable economic bases for example in mining and agriculture through value addition and beneficiation.

4.10.1 Main Livelihood Sources

Focus group discussion indicated that a majority of urban ward population were government employees thus their incomes were salaries.

<Table 3: Summary of economic zones>

Economic Zones	Description	Wards
1	Crop and Livestock Production	All wards except ward 24
2	Small and medium businesses	Ward 24, 15, 4,
3	Gold Panning	Ward 11, 10, 9, 1, 2, 3, 19, 18, 16, and 25

Agritex, 2024

4.10.2 Household Income

The distribution of income for the sample household is given in the table below. Although the figures appear to be on a low side, they indicate the level of poverty in the District. Also majority of household in the communal wards heavily rely on social cash transfer of \$US 54 for an average household of 4.2 from World Vision for their survival. Focus group discussions indicated that a notable number of households received remittances from the Diaspora relatives which aid them in the bid for survival.

<Table 4: Distribution of Households by Average Monthly Income>

Income	Percentage Household
Less than \$55	25%
\$100	24%
\$150	30%
\$200	8%
\$350	7%
Over\$ 500	6%
Total	100%

Socio-economic surveys, 2024

4.11 Social Problems in Rushinga District

4.11.1 Poverty

Rural poverty refers to the condition of individuals or households living below the poverty datum line in rural or agricultural regions. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor. Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. This has largely culminated from limited economic opportunities.

Rushinga Rural District is wholly communal and many rely on subsistence farming and low wage agricultural work which usually does not provide stable income or sufficient livelihood. Indigenous communities and ethnic minorities face social exclusion and discrimination which exacerbate poverty in the district. This can be seen through the minority's limited access to education, healthcare and resources which impedes their opportunities for economic and social advancement.

Rural areas are home to most of the poor and under privileged. According to ILO calculations, 88 percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas, where poverty rates are four times higher than in urban areas and decent work deficits are typically severe. The rural /urban divide is more evident in Rushinga Rural District when considering

poverty rates as nearly 20% of people employed in the rural areas are in extreme poverty (WESO, 2016).

4.11.2 Drug Abuse

One of the most severe public health and socio-pathological threats facing adolescents and young people in Rushinga is substance abuse, which long-term impacts their well-being and future. Drug abuse, just like child marriages, is becoming a pressing issue that is having adverse effects in the District and the country at large. Children of 10 up to 25 years are the most affected according to the respondents from the focus group discussions. The main drugs that are commonly found in Rushinga are mbanje and illicit beers. While other drugs are said to come from Harare and other large cities, mbanje is being locally grown privately in peoples' homes while other drugs are made available through illicit networks, smuggling and drug trafficking presenting a challenge for law enforcement agencies.

Drug abuse is posing significant challenges to individuals, families and the community as a whole. The impacts include deteriorating physical and mental health, increased vandalism, reduced productivity and domestic violence. Drug addiction is causing a significant breakdown in family structures, poor school attendance among students and hindered personal and professional growth. The picture below gives evidence of illicit intoxicant consumed by many people in the District.

<Picture 1: Showing Kings the most abused illicit beer in Rushinga District>

Fieldwork, 2024

Efforts to address drug abuse are being made through police patrols although it was cited that the law enforcement agencies are not effectively carrying out their work in relation to the control of drug abuse. It was also noted that no awareness campaigns or non-governmental organizations involved in addressing the issues of drug abuse in the district. Of greatest concern, residents lamented over the deterioration of cultural values through drug abuse among members of the community. Unavailability of public awareness campaigns, rehabilitation centres and counselling services is creating a gap among the efforts that can be made to offer support and treatment for the individuals struggling with drug addiction. The master plan should provide a remedy to this social ills through the provision of awareness campaigns, draft of a policy framework to assist in combating drug abuse, rehabilitation centres and counselling service in the district.

4.11.3 Child Marriages

Child marriages are a significant concern in many parts of the world, including Rushinga district in Zimbabwe. Child marriages refers to a formal marriage or an informal union in which at least one of the parties is a person under the age of 18 as prescribed by the Zimbabwean law. Focus group discussion raised a wide concern of

the growing cases of child marriages in the district across many wards. The average range of many child marriages include girls with 12 -16 years.

According to the respondents, child marriages are being perpetuated by factors like poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and lack of awareness among the district residents. Some of the respondents also cited that the long distances that the children travel to school also contributes to early marriages while others raised concern over the abuse of privileges provided on the children's rights and distress over use of cell phones by children which they believed facilitated access to inappropriate content and unsupervised communication with peers. In addition to their concerns about the abuse of privileges and the issues of rampant child marriages, parents also emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of children's rights policy.

Also child marriages are being exacerbated by the type of dressing, moral decadence and loss of culture through the adoption of western principles. For instance wearing of miniskirts in the district has led to circumstantial rape of the minors which also lead to family cover up and protection of the offender. Poverty is also the cause of early child marriages in the district. In areas like ward 18 where there is a lot of alluvial gold panning activities. Many gold panners have lured a lot of minors on the pretext and guise of marriage exploiting them. This is the ward that has witnessed a lot of teenage pregnancy deaths.

Efforts have been made by Zimbabwean government, non-governmental organizations like Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), World Vision, CCW, DAPO, among others to address child marriages. Communities are also taking part in addressing the issue of the rampant child marriages through CPC awareness campaigns, counselling sessions at Secondary schools. It is however important to note that despite all these best intentions, all the efforts to implement superficial policies proved futile in curbing the deep-rooted problem of child marriages. Focus group discussions indicated people in areas like ward 18 and 19 promoted early child marriages through the hiding of birth certificates during the period of enforcement by the ZRP and CSW and also family ties impeded enforcement as family feared taints brought about by the arresting of perpetrators. This is a major challenge to the district

development as majority of young active population is consumed by this social ill further lagging the productivity of the District.

4.11.4 Gender Issues

Gender inequalities in rural areas are pervasive. Women have limited access to agricultural assets, education, and markets as compared to men. Also rural markets are dysfunctional and gender biased. The presence of many early child marriages has evidenced a gap in gender. There is strong discrimination of women and girls in the District. Due to the prolonged dry spells in the district hunger and starvation has also become a common feature amongst many families in the district. This has brought about gender based violence as the hunger creates tensions in families.

Illicit beer (tumbwa) has also been blamed for the gender based violence as some tend to vent their frustration on their wives. Focus group discussions found out that men usually got drunk from the illicit beer would emotionally abuse their wives as this would deprive them conjugal rights as many will be worsted by the beer.

In many rural areas surrounding the district women were found to have limited access to and control over land and property. Cultural norms, discriminatory inheritance values and lack of legal protection contribute to women being excluded from land ownership and control.

The women also face challenge in accessing quality healthcare services including reproductive healthcare. Limited healthcare infrastructure, long distance to healthcare facilities and cultural barriers prevent women from obtaining essential reproductive health services, family planning resources and adequate maternal care. Traditional gender norms and cultural practices prevalence in Rushinga Rural District reinforces gender inequalities. These norms limit women and girl child mobility, restricting their participation in public life and reinforces gender based violence. Majority of women face social pressure to conform to traditional roles as wives, mothers and caregivers which hinder their ability to pursue education, economic opportunities and personal aspirations.

4.11.5 Social Services

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare has played a pivotal role in assisting the economically challenged groups in the district. This department distribute food aid, attend child welfare issues that include child marriage, teen pregnancies and school drop outs which are a prevalence in the District They also work to raise awareness and provide support on matters pertaining to adolescent's sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and control, child care. The department is usually assisted by various donors who have different MOUs enshrined on the mission and agenda of developing and empowering the people in Rushinga District.

Non- Governmental Organizations operating in Rushinga District.

<Table 5: List of donors and their roles and aid in the district>

Name of Donor	Area of Concern
AMTCO	Assistance on paying medical bills
FDMS	Food aid
World Vision	Cash transfers
CARITUS	Child protection
CAMFED	Assisting on fees payment and stationery needs for girls
WHH	Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods
SNV	Livelihoods and Climate adaptation
FASHIC Trust	Promoting Small grains production
COMTEC	Promoting Small grains production
ZICHIRE	HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control
ZVANDIRI	HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control

RRDC, 2024

4.11.6 Social Services amidst Drought

In the face of drought that has hit the whole country and region, Rushinga residents are suffering hardships of food and water shortages. Many families are now facing difficult decisions about how to feed their families and are looking forward to the social service department for assistance. They cited that better food distribution and more donor engagements is essential to ensure that everyone in the district has access to the food they need.

4.11.7 Employment

The term employment as used in this context means an activity or occupation bringing one income in cash and kind. Such an activity is engaged regularly for a continuous period of the day. Besides the informal sector in the form of retailing, welding employers in the district is the government and a few employees from AVC Ginnery and the few dolomite mining companies. Unemployment is perpetuated by the lack of manufacturing and processing value chain industries.

There are no strong economic linkages between the economy of Rushinga and its hinterland which can be noted by the absence of downstream industries in the mining sector. Most of the product are shipped and processed outside Rushinga and brought back as finished product. A good example of this is the tiles and agricultural lime. The mining sector depends on major towns for spares and equipment since Rushinga does not have any sophisticated mining equipment.

Focus group discussions in the rural wards showed a great discomfort in the lack of employment opportunities citing a change in narrative and condition for companies exploring for minerals to hire locals. Hence the master plan should incorporate the notion to promote local inclusion in both the agricultural and mining value chain thereby creating employment opportunities.

Agriculture remains the main source of employment in Rushinga. Small-scale farming activities include the cultivation of crops such as maize, cotton, tobacco, and small grains like millet and sorghum. Farmers work on their own land or may work as labourers in the irrigation plots. Seasonal employment opportunities may arise during peak agricultural activities, such as planting, harvesting, and processing.

The informal sector plays a significant role in rural employment. Small-scale businesses and informal markets exist in Rushinga, offering employment opportunities in various sectors such as food vending, retail trade, carpentry, tailoring, and transportation. These activities are often self-employed or family-based, providing income and livelihoods for individuals and households.

Rushinga Rural District has many resource endowment in the form of low value high volume minerals. However many of the mining activities in the district do not solely benefit the district residents through employment provision. World economic recessions affecting mineral prices have led to declines in production in the mining sector directly affecting employment in the district. The court challenges between G&W and Seldo Mining over mining claim rights has affected the employment in the district as operations has seized leading to retrenchments the few benefiting employed workers.

4.12 Problems and Planning issues

A high percentage of the youth population in the district calls provision of educational and recreational facilities that are in their proximity range. These include the teachers colleges, and polytechnic colleges.

There is need to balance the growing population with employment opportunities. Also there is need to promote the mining and agriculture sector of the economy in line with the provision of agro processing industries and mining processing plants.

The increase in population requires effective planning in provision of housing and community facilities such as clinics, schools, polytechnic colleges etc. Inadequate provision of these services is already evident in the district across many wards.

A large number of people in the District continue to use wood fuel and due to lack of electricity or solar power in the communal areas where people use wood fuel as a major source of energy.

Land use system and poor settlement patterns in Rushinga District can be blamed from the deterioration of land through erosion. Unmanaged overgrazing in many communal areas has led to the deterioration as the growth of livestock herds has exacerbated pressure on the land. Noted is the poor urban landscape which is largely caused the lack of maintenance and effective development control. Siltation of many rivers and dams has been noted as a major problem in the district as many water bodies have already dried up.

Chapter Five: Land Use and Land Ownership

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the study results on broad land use issues (land ownership, development status) as well as detailed land use issues like land utilization in already developed areas, as well as identification of developable areas outside the current Rushinga Rural District Council. The district has a lot of developable and irrigable land that can be utilised for future development and is viable land uses prioritisation. The district has a variety of landuse which include residential, commercial, agriculture and mining.

5.2 Mining

Mining activities are now also a predominant source of rural livelihood for households in the district. Rushinga is also known for its minerals deposits, including manganese, granite, dolomite, mica and gold. Artisanal and small scale mining activity are prevalent in the area with individuals and cooperatives involved in mining operations. Companies also carry out mining activities in the area although the minerals are of low value and high volume. These minerals are manganese, dolomite, granite, mica and gold. It is important, however to note that mineral beneficiation and social responsibility has however been a challenge which has seen most companies extracting minerals and leaving the communities with empty hands. According to the RRDC the district has 123 mines but only 6 still pay licenses to the local authorities. There is a G&W which used to mine dolomite in ward 24.

<Table 6: List of minerals present in Rushinga>

Mica	Corundum
Dolomite	Talc
Kainite	Lithium
Tungsten	Tantalum
Amazonite	Garnet
Tin	<i>Cordierite</i>
Beryl	<i>Manganese</i>
Gold	Quartz
Tantalite	Iron

Nyikadzino, 2019

5.3 Opportunities

The district has a lot of mineral resource endowment that when efficiently tapped it can sustainably benefit many areas. The presence of many minerals can be shown by the geological map which is below. The district has many high volume low value minerals in the form of dolomitic rocks. Mining is a major land use in the district and has great potential of reviving Rushinga District if practiced sustainably (**See Map 10**). The Geological Bulletin 92(a) Rushinga- Sutswe clearly shows the types of geological rocks in Rushinga District and the mineral and chemical composition of rocks.

5.4 Alluvial Gold Mining

There is presence of alluvial gold panning in Mazowe River which has seen many locals in ward 18 benefiting from this illegal activity. There is the presence of Chinese nationals in the Mazowe river bed practising alluvial gold mining. Unwarranted alluvial mining by Chinese companies has left human, aqua, wildlife and domestic animals at the brink of disaster in Rushinga district.

According to the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) the Chinese have been operating along Mazowe River for a long period. These Chinese firms are believed to be operating without license from both Rushinga Rural District Council and Environmental Management Agency.

Also worth noting is the presence of cyanide poisoning from the mining activities along the river bed with provide water for consumption for the villagers in ward 18. There has been illegal gold panning at Gwangava Secondary school which left the school grounds with pits and holes.

<Picture 2: illegal gold panning at Gwangava Secondary School>



RRDC, 2023

5.5 Challenges Associated With Mining

- Lack of investment in Rushinga has been alarming with the major mining firm G&W Mining Company in courts over mining claim disputes halting its activities. The limited or lack of financial resources and heavy financial investment in Rushinga has impeded development and expansion of the mining operation. There is no adequate mining equipment to implement efficient mining techniques that revolutionise the district mining capability fostering growth from within.

- Limited infrastructure in Rushinga has also been blamed as a hindrance to mining explorations. Insufficient infrastructure such as roads, rail and power supply make it difficult to mine and transport equipment, supplies and extracted minerals impacting the overall productivity and efficiency of mining in Rushinga.
- Mining companies typically seek areas with high concentrations of desired minerals. The geological characteristics of the district, such as the presence of ore bodies, mineral grades, and geological structures determines the economic viability. Minerals that are mainly found in Rushinga are high volume, low value. Therefore most interested mining companies end up setting up their operations where it is economically viable.
- The cost of establishing and operating a mining operations is a significant economic consideration. Factors such as land costs, construction costs, and the cost of establishing supporting infrastructure impacts the overall economics of mining. Operating costs, including energy costs, labour costs, and logistics costs also play a crucial role in determining the profitability of mining operations.
- There is general lack of investors for high volume low value minerals
- The mining activities are not benefiting Rushinga as a District including its residents as there are serious cases of unemployment in the District due to lack of beneficiation of the extracted minerals.
- There is no clear strategy for dealing with illegal gold panning, apart from “chasing away” illegal panners and closing some of the small mines (gold panning areas).
- Roads which lead to these mining areas are not being maintained, the mining companies have neglected maintenance of roads that service their area mainly focusing on the siphoning of dolomitic resources for the processing in Harare.
- Gold panning continues to contribute to serious erosion and water pollution; as a result, some rivers that used to have good potential for portable water generation and for consumption are now characterized by dirty and muddy waters.
- Issuing of prospecting licenses/mining permits leaves a lot to be desired in terms of coordination involving the key stakeholders who should enforce order (ZRP, the RDC and the Ministry of Mines). Sometimes the RDC only knows about the activities of private companies when the companies are already on the ground.

5.6 Tourism

Tourism has the potential to transform the Rushinga Rural District into an economic hub. The industry has the potential to generate significant revenue, and jobs and alleviate poverty in the region. Tourism is an industry with a long-term potential. Rushinga is well-placed to benefit from its resource endowments, and the Nyatana area natural attractions. Also the district can vitalise gastronomical tourism as it has many wild fruits. The district boost of the iconic Robert Mugabe Bridge, several Madzimbabwe sites and exhilarating caves which have a huge potential for tourism. This master plan should come up with ways to promote and revive tourism in Rushinga District. Also the district has a potential for gastronomy tourism as small grains crop production has proved viable in the District. These include sorghum and millet which are known for their traditionalism which can help in luring people in the district.

5.7 Communal Housing

Rushinga Rural District Council is wholly communal land and has a robust traditional “customary” institutions which aid in land use management. Majority of houses in the district are traditional types in the form of round huts and other buildings because vast amounts of land is under communal ownership. Demand for land has remained low, and state interference and presence is very weak. The customary arrangements offer high tenure security, effective land management, dispute resolution, and a social safety net in a way that is more accessible and less costly and limits on transferability may not be a binding constraint. Communal housing acts on the goal of collective decision making inn the district also promoting social interaction and a strong sense of community amongst residents. Customary institution’s internal and external accountability may need to be strengthened to ensure that chiefs act as custodians of land rather than as owners and that the rights of members are respected to ensure equity and efficiency of land use.

5.8 Residential Development

A significant portion of land in the district consumed by residential development and these include Rushinga, Chimhanda, Northlea and Garikayi. Residential developments in Rushinga are divided into high density, medium density and low-density suburbs to cater for all economic groups in the society which are low, medium and high-income

groups (**See Map 11**). Currently there is a residential layout for medium and high density development. There is a shortage of other types of housing such as flats and cluster houses especially near the town centre. Land must be identified to establish high-value high-density housing around the district.

These development are consolidated on layout plans and some of them need local plans to guide existing and future expansions. The existing residential developments in the district needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, such as water and sanitation systems that are well reticulated. Much of this land is private hands and constitute a significant percentage to undevelopable land.

During the time of the study there was land available for residential unit and with future development there might be need for the provision of serviced land for residential development. This master plan should zone land for residential development in the district. Servicing of land for residential development is a big challenge for the council because of shortage of finances. Servicing the land with surfaced roads, drainage system, reticulated water and sewerage require huge sums of money and with the competing needs the council is faced with, it has been foregoing the land servicing for other issues. A significant percentage of residential units are well reticulated with electricity in the district.

5.9 Commercial Development

Commercial development in the district appears to have been on an incremental basis, resulting in the existence of conflicting uses in the rural service centres which calls for a comprehensive rezoning of the areas. At present there is a waiting list of 87 applicants for commercial stands and there is limited land to cater for these demands. The major services under this land use are the filling stations in Rushinga rural service centres which is a fast urbanising node.

5.10 Land tenure

Land tenure refers to the rights and arrangements through which individuals or communities hold access, use, and transfer land. Land in Rushinga is governed by mainly two tenure systems which includes communal ownership and state or public

tenure. During the time of study only two commercial stands had title deeds for the land they occupied. Rushinga predominantly operates under a communal land tenure system. The land is communally owned and managed by the local community with traditional leaders playing a crucial role in allocating and administering land use rights. The community members hinted that they have rights to occupy the land for various purposes, such as farming, grazing and residential purposes. Rushinga is not spared by the gender disparities in land tenure. Women, despite playing a significant role in agricultural production, often have limited access to land ownership or control. Cultural norms, discriminatory laws, and inheritance practices can perpetuate gender inequalities in land tenure, restricting women's economic empowerment, decision-making power, and access to resources. This also has negative implication since majority of the district residents are women.

5.11 Preferred Land Tenure System

The data analysis from focus group discussion and socio economic surveys reveals that the majority of respondents in the Rushinga District prefer the freehold/title land tenure system. This preference suggests a desire for individual ownership and secure land rights. Also the presence of respondents who prefer tribal trust indicates the recognition and importance of communal land tenure systems in the district. The traditional leadership still prefers collective communal tenure ship in which they are the government custodians of land. The presence of respondents indicating no specific preference highlights the diversity of opinions and perspectives within the community. The district has vast land which is public land owned by the local authority or handed to the local authority by the Government of Zimbabwe.

5.12 Future Projection

There is need to maintain the communal land tenure system in many communal areas, however the master plan should also prioritise the need for free hold/ title land tenure system for the benefit of community inclusivity as many resident desire for individual ownership and secure land rights.

5.13 Housing Stock

There is reasonable provision of housing in Rushinga urban and Chimhanda service centres. There is a low-density housing for the upper income earning group, a medium density housing, and lastly high-density housing for the low-income earning group. Worth mentioning is the presence of communal households in the district as it is wholly communal in nature. Whilst the availability of detached dwelling houses is widespread in the planning area, there are no other forms of housing such as cluster houses and flats. There is need to provide high-density housing that is not necessarily for low-income earners so that the districts active young population necessarily benefit from affordable housing.

5.14 Characteristics of the housing types in Rushinga

In traditional dwelling units are found in the old style family settlement in which the number of buildings are made of pole and dagga /bricks with thatched roofs. Communal areas are the most dominant settlement type scattered across different the wards followed by the F14 housing units in Rushinga and Mazowe Bridge Old peoples home. Considering that Rushinga district is dominated by rural areas most of the houses are detached and concentrated along roads.

Although dominated by detached houses the qualities of these houses differs with those found within growth points and the town exhibiting high quality and are of standard as required by the council. Some houses in the communal areas were also good but very few surpass the qualities shown in the planned settlements. Pole and dagga are also widely used but gathered data portrays that these are used in the remote areas and peripheries due to poverty.

During the focus group discussion it was found out that some communal household had houses that were prone to disasters of whirl winds which has seen many wounded by the frequent occurrence of the disaster. Some of the housing material do not conform to the model building bylaws of Zimbabwe. There is need for the master plan to mandate all residential development to the model building bylaws of Zimbabwe.

5.15 Summary of Issues

- Servicing of land for residential development is a big challenge for the council because of shortage of finances. Servicing the land with surfaced roads, drainage system, reticulated water and sewerage require huge sums of money and with the competing needs the council is faced with, it has been foregoing the land servicing for other issues
- Whilst the availability of detached dwelling houses is widespread in the planning area, there are no other forms of housing such as cluster houses and flats. There is need to provide high-density housing that is not necessarily for low-income earners so that the districts active young population necessarily benefit from affordable housing.

Chapter 6: Industry and Commerce

This chapter discusses the findings that cover the two major areas of industry and commerce. It is divided into three sections. The first section covers shopping facilities. The second section covers small-scale and informal industry, and the third section covering large formal industry.

6.1 Shopping Facilities

The planning area has two types of set up which is the rural service centres and the growth points within its jurisdiction. Rushinga is the district main service centre with many services compacted in it. It serves the district residents with low order goods for day to day use. Residents reported inadequacies of commercial services facilities in Rushinga. The District does not have a Shopping Mall that is operational. A large outcry for the coverage of shopping facilities was generally observed as people move from as far as Mukosa to Rushinga to purchase mealie meal and other basic commodities at Rushinga service centre. These people who travel to Rushinga to access shopping facilities expressed their dissatisfaction lamenting the challenges of incurring transport cost. A general observation at Rushinga rural service centre shows that some of the commercial properties are old and have decayed needing renewal and upgrade to meet modern design trends of development.

The whole planning area has two fuel service station which is the Extreme Petroleum and Petroleum Rangers centralised in Rushinga. The main commercial centres contains both old and new developments, and stands which are under-utilized. The main categories of shops that were identified in major growth points and rural service centres are general dealers, bottle stores, grinding mills, butcheries, kiosk, clothing shops, barbers and hair salons, night clubs hardware stores, furniture stores and a supermarket. There are no large supermarkets that form part of the national or international chains such as OK, BornMarche, TM and PicknPay, Choppies, or Spar. There are just small grocery dealers whose range of goods is limited and the prices exorbitant anchored on a profit maximisation point of view. The majority of the shops are located in Rushinga rural service centre and Chimhandu growth point while others are found within the communal areas

Thus the master plan need to propose areas within the planning area that can support convenient supermarkets that are consumer friendly.

6.2 Shopping Problems in Rushinga

The inadequacies of the Rushinga shopping facilities require a holistic solution. The solution must integrate the identified different but related problems such as exorbitant prices, range of goods in shops, attraction of larger shops, different types of shops, as well as an improved shopping experience that meet the needs of residents whilst giving them a sense of pride of belonging.

There is also a limited availability of other types of shops. There are no large school uniform suppliers, furniture supplier, large clothes retailers or specialist shoe shops. There are also no large national wholesalers within the planning area. The shortage or unavailability of these shops was mentioned by several stakeholders during the stakeholder meetings.

6.3 Food courts

The planning area had one food court (TF Chicken) which was serving the whole district at Rushinga RSC, however it closed citing poor sales. There is need to provide more food courts and attract popular trademarks like Simbisa Brands popularly known as Chicken Inn. There is need for the master plan to unlock these kind of services in the planning area.

6.4 District Small Business centres and Rural Service Centre

<Table 7: List of commercial business centres and rural service centres>

Small business centre	Rural service centre
Nyatsato	Rushinga
Maname	Marymount
Nyabawa	Nyamatikiti
Bungwe	Bopoma
Nyamarodza	Chomutukutu
Mukosa	
Mazowe Bridge	
Nyamuzeya	
Gwashure	

RRDC, 2024

6.5 Small Scale and the Informal Sector

There is a growing small-scale industrial sector in the planning area in Rushinga rural service centre and Chimhanda Growth point. This refers to micro industries that make small appliances such as hoes, garden forks, and shovels. It also includes those manufacturing and welding bigger equipment such as scotch carts, wheelbarrows, and informally repairing cars and servicing other equipment. Such activities occur at the service centre, outside properties in road reservations and at open spaces.

Some of these operators have been formally accommodated by the Rushinga Rural District Council at a space adjacent to Rushinga Bus terminus. There is also a flea market that has accommodated 35 people selling clothes at retail prices. These vendors are fortunate to enjoy security of tenure, the facility has run out of space and has also problems of leakages during the rainy season. Most of the operators interviewed were of the opinion that the space is affordable and inadequate. Site observations also confirmed the inadequacy of the space and it need refurbishments to resuscitate the shed and make it conducive for proper business operations.

There is need to support this growing sector. More importantly it is beneficial to the operators if bigger spaces can be created for those that are growing in their

businesses. Whilst there is consensus in the country that the informal sector is now the biggest employer and is growing, little has been done to support this growth so that more people can benefit. Interviews with the SMES Ministry representative alluded that there are proposal for a SMES shopping mall within Rushinga rural service centre. This plan must suggest proposals to cater for the informal sector included other small-scale traders. It can either propose development of a business incubation centre or an industrial park providing affordable space and shared resources for small business to support the planning area economy. The informal sector plays a significant role in rural employment. Small-scale businesses and informal markets exist in Rushinga, offering employment opportunities in various sectors such as food vending, retail trade, carpentry, tailoring, and transportation. These activities are often self-employed or family-based, providing income and livelihoods for individuals and households.

6.6 Major Shopping Centres

<Table 8: List of major commercial business centres>

Ward	Centre
24	<p><i>Rushinga Service Centre</i></p> <p><i>Residential=1338</i></p> <p><i>Commercial =136</i></p> <p><i>General Industry=65</i></p> <p><i>Central Government Offices=14</i></p> <p><i>Post Offices=1</i></p> <p><i>Cemeteries=2</i></p> <p><i>Churches=9</i></p> <p><i>Community grounds=1</i></p> <p><i>Community center=1</i></p> <p><i>Banks=1AFC</i></p>
15	<p><i>Chimhanda District Service Centre</i></p> <p><i>Institutional =8</i></p> <p><i>Commercial stands=75</i></p> <p><i>Residential =845</i></p> <p><i>General Industry=45</i></p> <p><i>Central Governmental Offices=3</i></p> <p><i>Post office=0</i></p> <p><i>Churches=5</i></p> <p><i>Community centre=1</i></p> <p><i>Banks=0</i></p> <p><i>Recreation = Mugabe bridge for beach sports activities</i></p>

Fieldwork, 2024

<Table 9: List of commercial business centres>

Name of Business Centre	Commercial Businesses & Other
Bungwe	Commercial =10
Bopoma	Commercial=24 Gvt departments=3 General industry=2
Burai	Commercial =13
Kasanga	Commercial=11
Kasenzi	Commercial =17
Magaranhewe	Commercial =5 Churches =1
Karutwe	Commercial =5
Kanzou	Commercial=2
Kamanika	Commercial=9
Maguwo	Commercial =10
Makuni	Commercial =5
Katoni	Commercial =9
Nyamazizi	Commercial =10
Nyabawa	Commercial = 18
Mafigu	Commercial =16
Nyamasanga	Commercial =4
Rutuka	Commercial =4 Churches =1
Machirinje	Commercial =5
Runwa	Commercial =9
Chitange	Commercial =22
Nyamuzeya	Commercial =15
Rusambo	Commercial =13 Churches=1
Nhawa	Commercial =9
Nyatsato	Commercial =32
Nyamanyanya	Commercial =42 Churches =1
Nyamatikiti	Commercial =22 Churches =1

Nyamakamba	Commercial =17
Mubvundudzi	Commercial =13
Mukosa	Commercial =25 Gvt office=2
Muropa	Commercial =8
Mukonde	Commercial =10
Mazowe Bridge	Commercial =15 Gvt offices=2
Makachi	Commercial =9
Mandendera	Commercial =5
Chapinduka	Commercial =15
Chimandau	Commercial =6
Chimhanda irrigation	Commercial=2
Gwashure	Commercial =5
Chongoma	Commercial =10
Chomotukutu	Commercial =30

Fieldwork, 2024

6.7 Banking Facilities

Rushinga district has only one bank which is AFC Holdings located in Rushinga rural service centre. The bank operates on a limited scale referring much of its transaction to the main bank in the Provincial capital Bindura. The analysis of the data reveals a significant dissatisfaction with the adequacy of banking facilities in the Rushinga district. The overwhelming majority of respondents reported that the existing facility fell short of meeting their needs and expectations. This suggests that there may be challenges related to accessibility, service availability, or the quality of banking options available to the residents. Understanding the perceived inadequacy of banking facilities is crucial for the development of the master plan. It highlights the importance of addressing the deficiencies and ensuring that the banking requirements of the community are adequately addressed. Based on the feedback from the respondents, the master plan can focus on improving and expanding the existing banking facilities, attracting additional financial institutions, and implementing measures to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of banking services in the district. Additionally, further exploration of the respondents' experiences who found the facilities somewhat efficient

can provide valuable insights into specific areas of improvement and guide the plan toward enhancing the overall banking experience for the community.

6.7 Large Scale Industry

The planning area does not have many industries. The few industries are agro based and form part of the agriculture produce value-addition. All the large industries are dependent on the productivity of the agriculture hinterland. The largest operations in the industrial areas is the government-owned parastatal, the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and Cotton Company of Zimbabwe (COTTCO). The operation is mainly of a warehousing nature where procured grain is stored for future use.

Chapter 7: Public Utilities and Sanitation Infrastructure

This chapter examines the infrastructure that exists to support human settlement in Rushinga District. Many types of different infrastructure were examined in the planning area. These are water infrastructure, sewerage infrastructure, roads and transportation infrastructure, telecommunication infrastructure, and electricity infrastructure including public lighting. All the infrastructure and facilities are discussed separately in the sections below.

7.1 Education and Educational Facilities

The state of schools in Rushinga leaves much to be desired, as they struggle to meet the basic requirements for basic education. There are only 74 schools, 48 Primary schools and 26 Secondary Schools that serves the district. The educational landscape is further marred by the disparity between overcrowded schools like Rushinga Primary School. Schools are unevenly distributed as most of the schools are found on the Western part of the district. This imbalance is creating an uneven distribution of resources and educational opportunities, leaving students in underprivileged areas at a disadvantage.

The scarcity of registered schools is leading to the proliferation of unregistered private schools and satellite schools, which raises concerns about their authenticity and adherence to educational standards. To date, the district has 4 private secondary schools and 7 private early learning centres in both Rushinga and Chimhanda growth points. This is because communities near growth points have seized the opportunities of limited options available and took initiatives to establish these early learning centres to address the pressing issues of school shortages.

Moreover, the scarcity of electricity and network connectivity in schools is posing a significant hurdle for effective teaching and learning. Basic amenities such as lighting, heating and technology dependent resources are becoming luxuries, severely impacting the educational experience of both students and teachers. Lack of reliable connectivity in terms of network coverage, WIFI and other technologies that require network is restricting teachers and learners from utilizing innovative teaching techniques that rely with digital platforms especially with the new curriculum. As a

result, the motivation to teach dwindles, which explains why the district is experiencing a high turnover rate among teachers seeking better working conditions elsewhere.

Tragically, the dire educational circumstances in Rushinga have given rise to a sharp rise in school dropouts and concerning prevalence of child marriages. The lack of proper educational facilities and supportive environments is reported to be contributing to students' disengagements from education system, with some engaging into drug abuse while others get married.

7.1.2 Number of Schools

<Table 10: Distribution and types of educational facilities Rushinga District>

Status	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	VCT	Pre-Schools
Registered	45	19	0	1	63
Satellite	3	7	-	-	-
Total	48	26	0		63

Ministry of Education, 2024

7.1.3 Distribution of School in Rushinga District

There is a distance disparity amongst the existing schools in the district. This has seen many villages as far as Mukosa without schools that effectively service the demand (See Map 12& 13). A notable number of respondents complained of the long distances their children were being subjected to by the location of the existing school facilities.

<Table 11: Number of educational facilities in the district>

Educational facilities in Rushinga Rural District	
Primary schools	48
Secondary Schools	26
Private College	3
Vocational Training Centre	1

Socioeconomic Survey, 2024

Inadequate infrastructure is a significant challenge in Rushinga District. Many schools lack proper classrooms, furniture and other essential facilities. This scarcity of

infrastructure affects the learning environment and makes it difficult for students to concentrate and engage effectively in their studies.

7.1.4 Challenges in Education

- There is a shortage of qualified and experienced teachers in Rushinga District. This shortage is due to factors such as low remuneration, remoteness of the district areas network challenges to the teachers. The lack of teachers hampers the quality of education therefore conflicting development of the district thus the master plan should help in rectifying the problem that affect the districts development efforts.
- The availability of learning resources such as textbooks, educational materials and technology is limited in Rushinga District. This scarcity impedes student access to necessary materials for learning and restricts their ability to explore and gain a comprehensive understanding of various subjects. The district has a challenge of teacher retention due to its lack of adequate infrastructure and the educational facilities due do not have sufficient and sustainable teacher accommodation.
- Rushinga District has a significant number of families living in poverty. Poverty has profound impact on education as it limits the ability to afford fees, uniforms and other educational expenses. Some students may be forced to drop out of school to contribute to their family's income further perpetuating the cycle of poverty.
- Rushinga is a rural district characterised by long distances and poor road infrastructure. Students often travel long distances to reach schools which can be challenging given their ages. The lack of reliable transportation options makes it difficult for students to attend school regularly and punctually.
- Gender inequality is a debilitating challenge prevalent in Rushinga District's education system. Cultural norms and practices often prioritise boy's education over girls leading to lower enrolment and retention for girls. Limited access to education for girls hampers their personal development and perpetuates gender disparities
- The master plan should sanitise these challenges in a multi-faceted approach involving government intervention, community engagement and collaboration

with non-governmental organisations. It should focus on investment in infrastructure development, teacher recruitment and training, provision of learning resources and initiatives that promote gender equality to improve the education system in Rushinga District enhancing educational outcomes and fostering development.

7.1.5 Rushinga Vocational Training Centre

The Vocational Training Centre is situated in ward 18 Mazowe Bridge adjacent to Mazowe Bridge Clinic (**See Map 17**). It currently accommodates 59 student enrolled around three fields which includes Motor Mechanics, Clothing and Textiles and Brick Laying. The RVTC has 3 trainers over the 59 enrolled students. It is short staffed as it does not have sufficient trainer against the ratio of students. There is no internet of connectivity as they only have one staff laptop making it hard for students to cope up with modern learning trends. The furniture at the RVTC is old and dilapidated.

The building infrastructure has decayed as this facility was built in the colonial era. It is currently under the Ministry of Youth Sport Arts and Recreation under the Department of Skills Training and Vocational Development. Around the time of the study the RVTC did not have proper sporting facilities. There is a challenge of water scarcity at the RVTC which has reduced the enrolled of students. The existing tanks have dilapidated and are frequent with leaks thus they need resuscitation. There is also need for pipework for the borehole to supply water at the vocational training centre. Locally the RVTC has faced challenges like early child marriages, drugs and substance abuse, emergence of gold panning in Mazowe River, transport problems which have affected the enrolment and involvement of the local youths. Also the infrastructure needs repainting and toilets needs plumbing work.

7.1.6 Tertiary Education

The success of a district is also dependent on the educational achievements and skills of its people. Unfortunately Rushinga district lacks appropriate tertiary training institutions for the local people. The lack of tertiary institutions, public or private, in the district means that students and the youths in the district are disadvantaged through lack of access to tertiary education. There is need to provide space for a tertiary

institution so that the young adults and students are provided with the necessary skills and knowledge which will enable them to compete equally on the labour market.

7.2 Health Facilities

The district has 3 types of health facilities. These are primary care clinics, health post and a referral hospital. An observation and stakeholder feedback hinted that there is unfair distribution of health facilities in the district compounded with poor and deteriorating service delivery. Some clinic offer consultation only to patient with a general dissatisfaction in the lack of medication at the facilities. The district has 2 ambulances, one is stationed at Chimhanda District Hospital and the other is at Marry Mount Mission Hospital. However the ambulance fleet is old and are consistent of many mechanical defects. They need to be grounded as they pose a challenge to efficient reaction to emergency calls.

<Table 12: Distribution of health facilities>

Health facilities in Rushinga District	
Clinics	13 Clinics (Rushinga, Bopoma, Mazowe Bridge, Nyamatikiti, Mabvudzi, Chomutukutu, Bungwe)
Health post	1 Mafigu
District Hospital	Chimhanda District Hospital
Mission Hospital	Marry Mount Mission Hospital

Chimhanda District Hospital, 2024

The District has two pharmacies in Rushinga rural service centre. Focus group discussions showed that the communal residents had great dissatisfaction in the medication prices charged by the pharmacies. A general complaint was the exorbitant drug prices and the shortages of drugs in the clinics and hospitals.

7.2.1 Where do people get health service?

Service at all the health facilities turned out to be insufficient as indicated by the resident interviews. It was found that the services at the clinic were generally poor and the people in the district heavily rely on the Chimhanda District Hospital with many placing their choice and satisfaction in the Karanda Mission Hospital in Pfura Rural District which has better services and medical provision. The general perception is

that clinic are mandated to provide health service whereas emergencies and complications are directed to hospitals. Almost 35 percent of the population seek service in hospitals and 20 percent go to clinic cynical of the services. 45 percent of the population indicated their failure to afford the service and the remoteness of their location to the clinics worsened challenge.

7.2.2 Are the health service adequate?

Almost 90 percent of the respondents indicated their dissatisfaction in the services at the both the clinics and hospitals and their level of inadequacy.

7.2.3 What is lacking

The high percentage of respondents hinted that the clinic lacked the drugs that would have been prescribed to patients. Some complained of hostile and unfair treatment upon admission. Focus group discussions pointed the lack of sufficient staff to efficiently man the health facilities due to the District remoteness and lack of connectivity. The hospitals and clinics do not have enough and sufficient ambulances to react upon cases of emergency in the district. Most wards do not have a health facility catering for its catchment area, and some health posts have been suggested and cited (**See Map 15**). People have to walk for more than 10km to access the nearest health facilities.

7.3 District Water Supply

Rainfall variability has intensified in Zimbabwe due to climate change. Water woes has affected both urban and rural areas leaving vast of the majority vulnerable to lack of clean and portable water. Rushinga district receives low rainfall and it is prone to seasonal dry spells and droughts. It is important to note that, water scarcity has been the greatest hindrance, among others that undermines development initiatives in Rushinga district. Having to adapt to water scarcity is an uncommon phenomenon for many people. Residents and thematic group stakeholders were aware that the rivers and boreholes water gets recharged by rainfall, and that hotter temperatures led to excessive water evaporation in the rivers and distortion of water table levels. Siltation and sedimentation of the rivers and weir dams has increased the danger of water scarcity in the district. Currently the district is failing to cope up with the water demand

as it has a deficit of water supply system to full cater for its residents. Little effort has been made through the siting and drilling of boreholes and the provision of piped water schemes. A few areas get water supply from the Chimhanda dam which has a water treatment plant manned by the Zimbabwe National Water Authority.

<Table 13: Dam water supply data>

Chimhanda Dam Water Supply Data	
Capacity	5,5 x 10 ⁶ m ³
Yield 10%	1.05x10 ⁶ m ³
Pump size	60m ³ /hour centrifugal pumps
Water Quality	highly turbid in rainy seasons and fairly good in other seasons
Method of Abstraction	bottom suction for the new abstraction point and top suction for old raw-water point
Water Treatment Capacity	60m ³ /hour
Year of Commission	2 November 1991
Treatment Process	Filtration
Maximum Depth of Water	19mm
Surface Area	9 Ha

ZINWA, 2024

Rushinga Rural District is experiencing a shortage of water. The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) supplies and treats it. It is mostly extracted from the Chimhanda Dam and processed there. Due to significant and concerning levels of siltation and sedimentation, Chimhanda Dam is currently unable to sufficiently supply the district's water needs at the current water abstraction level.

Reservoir capacity within the basin has decreased, and as of April 2015, the capacity of the dam was cut by 38.6% from its original design capacity, making the dam less functional (Tundu et al, 2018). Heavy sedimentation has made it difficult for the dam and reservoirs to handle the demand pressure brought on by population increase, particularly in the rural service areas. Residents of numerous service centres were interviewed, and the results showed a level of dissatisfaction and outrage over the

inconsistent water supply, which can last up to three months without portable tap water.

Chimhanda and Rushinga service centres receive the water distribution, and among the beneficiaries are a few medical and educational institutions. The district's rural areas has primarily been left out, receiving only the benefits of water delivery through piped systems. The aging water distribution systems causes significant water loss. At the treatment plant, about 27% of the water is lost. Because the system is reportedly outdated and redundant, about 45% of the water supply network's loss is attributed to pipe bursts and leaks.

7.3.1 Rushinga Rural District Water Transmission and Distribution

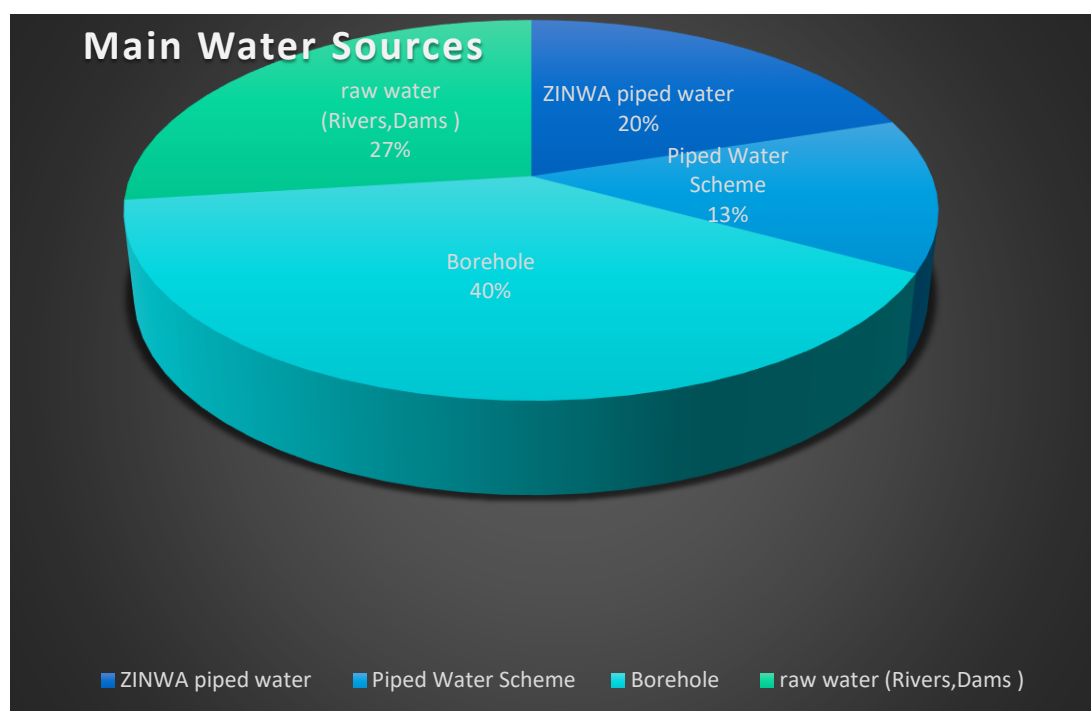
<Table 14: Water distribution and transmission >

Rushinga Rural District Water Transmission and Distribution	
Pipe Sizes	Rushinga 200mm PVC, Chimhanda 125mm AC and Nyamatikiti 150mm
Pump Size	18 horse power suction pump for raw water. <u>Distribution Pump Size</u> Rushinga 68 horse power Chimhanda 75 horse power Nyamatikiti 50 horse power
Storage Reservoir	Rushinga ZNA 250m ³ , Rushinga DDC 225m ³ ,Chimhanda 220m ³ , Nyamatikiti 350m ³
Network Coverage	+/- 25%
Monthly Water Losses	Treatment and Distribution 3%

ZINWA, 2024

There is limited coverage of water supply in the district. This was reflected in household survey and focus group discussions where 94 percent of interviews and focus groups reported having little to minimum access to both portable piped water and borehole water.

Figure 8 District Main Water Sources



There is high dissatisfaction among residents and the business community in access to portable water caused by the erratic supply of water by ZINWA. The residents contemplated and lamented water scarcity in their day to day business of life. Some revealed the unfair distribution of piped water in the district opening the option of drinking water from river such as Ruya and Mazowe.

Boreholes, which are dispersed throughout the region, provide an alternate supply of water. Nonetheless, the majority of residents bemoaned how far distant their villages were from the boreholes. Many hours of useful time are lost. Some lamented the loss of productive time through the fetching of water over the long distances.

7.3.2 Piped Water Schemes in the District

The RRDC has a piped water scheme which is still being rolled in many wards that are facing water scarcity.

<Table 15: Piped water Schemes>

Existing	Proposed	On implementation
Chimandau	Kazai (Kasika / Nyanhewe)	Katakura
Mukosa	Nyabawa	Kasenzi
Rusambo	Mutemachari (Mary Mount)	
Kamanika		
Nyamazizi		
Nyamarodza		
Mazowe Bridge		
Nyatsato		
Chomutukutu		

7.3.4 Borehole Distribution Information

<Table 16: Distribution of boreholes by ward>

Ward	Main water sources per ward	Total Number of boreholes	Functional boreholes	Non-functional boreholes	Reasons for the non-functioning of the boreholes?
1	Boreholes	26	16	10	Dry and collapsed
2	Boreholes	19	13	6	
3	Boreholes	26	20	6	
4	Boreholes	18	18	0	
5	Boreholes	12	11	1	
6	Boreholes	14	7	7	
7	Boreholes	25	20	5	
8	Boreholes	24	21	3	
9	Boreholes	34	24	9	
10	Boreholes	40	25	15	
11	Boreholes	26	19	7	
12	Boreholes	49	33	16	
13	Boreholes	32	19	13	
14	Boreholes	27	20	7	
15	Boreholes, Dam	17	12	5	
16	Boreholes	31	20	11	
17	Boreholes	20	18	2	
18	Boreholes	39	26	13	
19	Boreholes	20	16	4	
20	Boreholes	8	7	1	
21	Boreholes	10	10	0	
22	Boreholes	18	17	1	
23	Boreholes	26	16	10	
24	Boreholes, Dam	0	0	0	
25	Boreholes	9	2	7	
Total		570	410	159	

The boreholes are not efficiently distributed amongst the district wards. Also majority of the district boreholes are dysfunctional as some pumps have broken down as many

of them still used the traditional bush pumps. The district has a few solarized boreholes which also help in sustaining some piped water schemes. For the future development needs there is need for a hydrological survey in the district to assess the level and capacity of the water table. This helps in alleviating the challenges of drying up boreholes which has been a problematic issue affecting many residents. The challenge of water scarcity has seen many selling water to other residents especially in the urban wards.

7.3.5 Water Consumption in Rushinga Urban and Chimhanda

<Table 17: Daily water consumption in Rushinga urban and Chimhanda >

Suburb	Stands	Consumption m ³ /stand/day	Capacity m ³ /day
Rushinga	699	0.7	489.3
Chimhanda	227	0.7	158.9
Garikayi	360	0.7	252
Northlea Park	830	1	830
	162	1	162
Total			2099.2 m³/day=2.1ML/day

There is need to improve water provision to many areas in the district and the dredging of Chimhanda dam and construction of modern reservoirs and increase of the pump capacity so that there is efficient water provision. For future development needs the district ought to conduct a hydrological survey and site boreholes that offer perennial water supply given they are drilled in proper water fixated areas. In addition to borehole provision there is need to construction many dams for the sustenance of the district water needs.

7.3.6 Rushinga District Distribution of Dams

<Table 18: List of Rushinga District Dams>

Ward	Name of dam	Description (Perennial, Seasonal)	Year Built-Completed	Purpose	Initial Capacity	Sponsor/Owner
1	Nyamasonja	Seasonal	1977-1978	Domestic use Livestock watering	22 000cm ³	Gvt/Community
2	Nyamuwe	Perennial	2016-2017	2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering	45 000cm ³	CARITAS/ Community
3	Chimadau	Seasonal	1960-1961	1ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering	40 000cm ³	Community
3	Chitange	Perennial	2010	2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering	45 000cm ³	
5	Nyagusvura	Seasonal	2016-17	2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
5	Mukonde	Perennial	1953-1954	1.5ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering	35 000cm ³	Gvt/Community
6	Kasenzi	Silted		Domestic use Livestock watering		
7	Rupate	Perennial	1984-1985	Irrigation of 2 nutrition gardens, Domestic use Livestock watering	30 000cm ³	
8	Katiri	Silting Seasonal		2ha garden irrigation Fishery Domestic use Livestock watering	20 000cm ³	CTDO/Community
9	Rutuka	Washed away		2ha garden Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
10	Nyanhikiti	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering 1.8ha garden irrigation		CTDO/Community
11	Zviriuku	Seasonal		1ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
11	Chongoma	Seasonal	1963-1965	Irrigation of surrounding gardens Domestic use	80 000cm ³	Gvt/Community

				Livestock watering		
12	Magaranhewe	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		
13	Mutohwe	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		
14	Maguwo	Perennial		1ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
14	Gwangwava	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		
15	Chimhanda/Gulliver	Perennial	1991-1992	72ha irrigation scheme Watering surrounding gardens, Fish farming Domestic use (Rural & Urban) Livestock watering	5.5 x 10 m ³	ZINWA
16	Huruma	Perennial		2ha Garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
16	Kaponda	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
16	Mubvunduzi	Perennial	1965-1966	2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering	28 000cm ³	
16	Matyoramhinga	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering	35 000m ³	CTDO/Community
17	Manyeredzi	Perennial		Domestic use Livestock watering Irrigation of 1ha garden & other surrounding gardens		
17	Chinaka	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		
18	Kuhwira	Seasonal		2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
18	Kamanika	Seasonal		1ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		
18	Ndakupamwana	Perennial	1949	Irrigating surrounding gardens Domestic use Livestock watering	9 500m ³	Gvt/Community
19	Nyamanyanya	Seasonal		Domestic use Livestock watering		
19	Makuhununu	Perennial	1962-1963	Domestic use Livestock watering Irrigating surrounding gardens	40 000m ³	GVT/Community
20	Nyamagodo	Seasonal		1ha garden irrigation		CTDO/Community

				Domestic use Livestock watering		
21	Nyanhewe	Perennial	1963-65	Domestic use Livestock watering Irrigating 2ha garden & other surrounding gardens	35 000m ³	GVT/Community
22	Matoto	Seasonal		2ha garden irrigation Domestic use		CTDO/Community
23	Mawere	Washed away		2ha garden irrigation Domestic use Livestock watering		CTDO/Community
Total	33					

N.B. All dams across the District are heavily silting.

Majority of the dams have silted and have a lot of sedimentation and silt which has reduced their water retention capacity and carrying capacity. Some of the dams are old and were constructed during the colonial era thus they have exceeded their life span. Many dams dry up soon after rains and also some perennial dams have turned to be seasonal; dams mainly due to the excessive water loss through evaporation and limited rainfall culminated by climate change which has posed to be a significant threat in Rushinga District. The master plan should propose the dredging of the existing dams for the provision of water in the district. There is need for a fast track construction of the Semwa dam which will help the district in the provision of water for both domestic use and irrigation. The government is seeking to use water that will be harvested from the Semwa Dam boost irrigation capacity in the Rushinga district and domestic water supply for communities in Mukosa and surrounding areas.

7.4 Power Supply

Rushinga Rural District is fed from ZESAs 11KV substation in Jawara. This supply consist of one 11KV feeder supplying the district. The built up planning area in Rushinga Rural Service centre is serviced with electricity. All interviewed resident complained of erratic power distribution across the district. The business community lamented delays in servicing of faults and frequent power outage which has left them accruing loses and affecting their daily business operation. Majority of them were butchery owners positing their dissatisfaction in the decaying and rotting of meat due to frequent power cuts. ZESA and REA have the capacity to supply the District with electricity as they are advised in advance of any development as they have plans to

upgrade their Jawara station to 10 megawatts. The current district demand is estimated around 2.0 megawatts. ZESA noted that the erratic supply and distribution was a national constraint as there is notable deficit in the national grid.

The district has one receiving base power station in Jawara which is in Pfura Rural District Council. Rural Electrification Agency (REA) rolled a grid extension scheme called the (SWER) connecting many wards into the national grid. This involved the installation of transmission and distribution lines. REA expects to be consolidated and engaged on all future plans in relation to the provision of electricity in the district. The agency has been installed solar scheme in the District at various health centres such as Bopoma Health Post. Thus, the master plan need to address the power challenge the district is facing as it has a detrimental effect towards the future development of the district. Also the installation of the SWER has been delayed by the lack of equipment and some of the already pole have been destroyed by termites. Plans are in place to resuscitate the electrical power line and poles that have been destroyed as the REF has acquired the required material to finish the installation of electricity in areas like Kamanika. Also there have been sustainable initiatives in the planning area as there have been the implementation of **tsosto stove** another mechanism which tries to reduce the impact of using firewood for cooking.

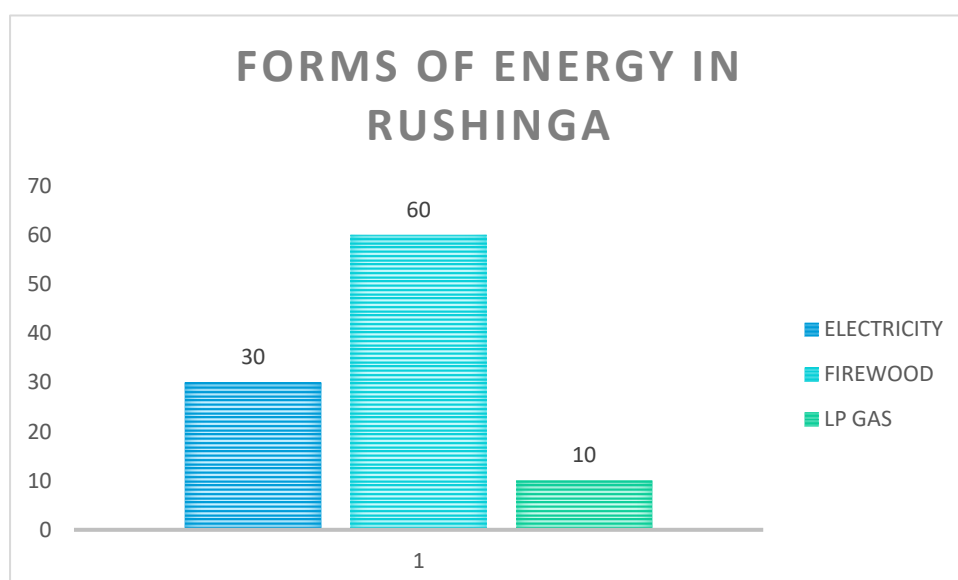
Rushinga rural service centre, Chimhanda service centre and a few schools in the district use electricity as the main source of power used by residents. In terms of usage, electricity is followed by wood, gas, and solar respectively. Although respondents highlighted electricity as the major source of power, there were complaints as to high electricity charges some residents pointed out that they use electricity only for lighting. The residents' subsidies electricity use with wood and gas. Many schools in the district are not connected on the national grid which has seen some lagging in the appreciation of the 21st century learning skills and adoption of ICT tools. Schools like Chiromba Primary and Kamanika secondary schools do not have electricity and this has affected the education facilities as many teachers easily transfer after experiencing the challenge of electricity.

The solar power system is the least source of power used in the district. Solar power is mainly used in areas which do not have electricity. Solar power is mostly used for

charging phones, lighting, Television, and radio. However many clinic and health post in the District use solar power for their operation. Currently schools and clinics are already using solar energy which has been installed by REF in a way to promote sustainable energy avoiding the consistent power cuts in the district. Solar energy has not yet made much impact in the district.

A proposal has been lobbied by the REF for Marry Mount Mission School to erect a biogas plant that will be funded by REF. Also REF has plans to electrify Huruma – Nyamatikiti 6-7 km power line and a 14 kilometres from Bungwe to Machiti. The graph below denote the main energy sources used across the planning area.

Figure 9 Forms of Energy.



Rural Electrification Agency (REA) rolled a grid extension scheme called the (SWER) connecting many wards into the national grid. This involved the installation of transmission and distribution lines. REA expects to be consolidated and engaged on all future plans in relation to the provision of electricity in the district. The agency has been installed solar scheme in the District at various health centres such as Bopoma Health Post. Thus, the master plan need to address the power challenge the district is facing as it has a detrimental effect towards the future development of the district. Also the installation of the SWER has been delayed by the lack of equipment and some of the already pole have been destroyed by termites. Plans are in place to resuscitate

the electrical power line and poles that have been destroyed as the REF has acquired the required material to finish the installation of electricity in areas like Kamanika.

7.5 Sewerage

At the time of the study district did not have a sewerage reticulation and a treatment plant with many residential areas using convectional septic tank systems. During focus group discussions, some stakeholders in the environment thematic group pinpointed that the Blair toilet system had a challenge of overflowing during the rainy season. Some lamented that raw effluent would flow with water which disturbs the health security of the residents in Rushinga. From an health and environmental point of view the above mentioned system and the presence of pit latrines scenarios is not acceptable and as such corrective measure will have to be undertaken which result in a significant increase in the volume of sewerage waste. The premises on septic tanks need a serious considerations if environmental damage is to be avoided. Currently there is need for the council to provide a honey sucker for all the houses connected on the septic tank.

7.5.1 Future Requirements

As a matter of urgency there is need for a proper sewerage reticulation system in the district. There is need to construct a sewerage system that service the new residential stands as it has been noted that the septic tank system leads to the contamination of wells in the vicinity. The proposed sewerage system should cater current and future development needs thus it should be modern. Properties on the septic tanks need to be connected to the proposed reticulated sewerage system.

7.6 Solid Waste Management

The District does not have a regular refuse collection system that covers all the built-up areas of the town. The refuse collection achieved by the use a tractor with a trailer and tipper truck depending on the intensity. The council does not have a refuse compactor that can be used in collecting refuse in the built up environment of the planning area. There is no land fill in the district which can be utilised for efficient refuse collection in all the built up environment. Some of the communal areas have dug pit

which they throw away their litter in. Some have dug compost which their put degradable waste to decompose producing manure for their nutrition gardens.

7.6.1 Future Requirements

The proposed Rushinga Rural District Master Plan will undoubtedly see the district develop and as such, it is necessary to upgrade the existing dumping site and or identify a new dumping areas that is in line with Environmental Management Agency standards and guidelines. The master plan should propose an area zoned for a proper environmental management compliant landfill, There is therefore evidence of land pollution at Rushinga service centre as observed through plastic and paper flying around as well as strong smells on the side that the wind blows. The dumping area should be strategically placed to cater for new residential areas and subsequent developments. Currently there is an inadequate refuse collection system. The council does not have proper removal trucks for refuse collection. These need to be purchased, if Rushinga RDC is to provide a proper refuse disposal service. The present fleet of one tractor and one tipping trailer and a tipper truck is critically inadequate. There is need to purchase refuse compactor and hire man power to suffice a proper refuse collection and disposal

In summary the following areas of concern need attention

Proper landfill technology has to be adopted in order to guard against environmental pollution. The district need to adopt the three bin system for efficient solid waste management.

7.7 Telecommunication

Telecommunication services play a vital role in connecting the local community to the rest of Zimbabwe and the world. These services are essential for communication, commerce, and staying connected with loved ones. In terms of telecommunications, Rushinga District has limited mobile network, making it uneasy for residents to make calls, send text messages, and access the internet. There is poor network coverage as mobile networks have limited and inadequate coverage leaving many residents in distress. There is presence of mobile networks in the likes of Econet, Telecel and Netone. This has largely been brought about by the remoteness of many

areas like Mukosa and Chomutukutu which are geographically distant from the already existing network base station and existing challenging terrain.

Generally there is lack of telecommunications infrastructure investment in Rushinga Rural District evidenced by the few network base stations. Also the district limited access to power has made it hard for even mobile network coverage. There is limited provision of fibre optic wireless fidelity in the district with it accessible at a few schools and Chimhanda Hospital provided by Telone. The district is actually lagging behind as some of the people have no access to social media platforms. The poor network coverage has been blamed for many death and implication as it hinders the calling for emergency. Also this has made the district unattractive to potential investment. Thus the master plan should provide areas for the provision of even and equitable network base station across the planning area.

7.7.1 Post Office

The district has a post office located in the Rushinga rural service centre, that used to provide essential postal services such as sending and receiving mail and parcels. The post office is no longer operational as it is has been converted into an information centre with a WiFi connection for the benefit of the youth populace in Rushinga. The building has decayed over the past years that it has deteriorated and needs attention. Hence the master plan should help in addressing this challenge. Below is the picture of the post office located at Rushinga Rural Service centre.

<Picture 3: Rushinga Post Office>



Fieldwork, 2024

7.8 Sports and Recreation

The district has limited sporting facilities and infrastructure which make it difficult to organize and practice certain sports. There are a few uneven grounds in the districts with one in Rushinga that is maintained by the Zimbabwe National Army. Also the district lacks sporting facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer stadiums, swimming pools etc. In terms of sports promotion the district is lagging behind as it has a lot of talent and potential but nothing is being done to promote it. The district has limited financial resources and funding for sports programs which has heavily impacted the availability of sporting equipment's and access to professional coaching and training. Many rural areas in the district are characterized by long distance and limited public transportation options which has also made it challenging for individuals to travel for sporting. Thus the ambition of sport dies an immature death with the youths in Rushinga as they are no opportunities to help them show case their talent. There was a general observation that some wards far away from Rushinga rural service centre had limited exposure and opportunities to different sports and this has hindered the development of local athletes and limit their chances of pursuing sports at higher levels or attracting scholarships and sponsorships. Paramount to note was that there is lack of awareness or knowledge about the benefits of sports and also extreme weather conditions which limit sport participation in Rushinga District.

Traditional gender roles and cultural norms also pose challenges to promote sports development particular for girls and women. Overcoming these gender stereotypes in a culturally saturated district is very hard and challenging.

The whole planning area generally lacks operational recreational facilities. There are major grounds at Chimhanda, Rushinga, Marymount and Chomutukutu centres. However, these are deteriorating due to poor maintenance making them unfit for use for use by the public. There are completely no stadiums nor community halls, yet the district is full of passionate and enthusiastic youths who enjoy sporting and games, particularly football. Lack of facilities has however caused many of these youths to gather in beer halls to watch the games which has a negative bearing on the reputation of the community. There is a recreational area that can be utilized as a sand beach which is the Mugabe Bridge in ward 15.

7.9 Cultural Heritage Sites

The study found out that the district has one cave in ward 14 that has Bushmen rock paintings which can be a tourist attraction and destination. Also the District has many sacred sites and of worth mentioning is the natural dense forest in the Rusambo area near Chomutukutu. The implementation and development of a Master plan in Rushinga must take into consideration the cultural and heritage significance of the district. It is important to engage with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that their traditional knowledge and practices are respected and integrated into the planning process. This may involve incorporating traditional building techniques, materials, and design elements into the development of infrastructure and public spaces.

Chapter 8: Transport and Transportation Infrastructure

8.1 Roads

The road network is the only mode of transportation in Rushinga district. The district is connected by access roads in the district are owned by the council as some of the roads are owned by the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) , formerly DDF, and the department of Roads but the rural district council is responsible for the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads (**See Map 15**). Rushinga district is about 256 km from Harare capital city, along the Mukosa – Mount Darwin – Harare link road.

Rushinga is one of the rural districts that also benefited from the government's drive to improve infrastructure in the country through the Emergence Road Rehabilitation Program (ERRP). The master plan preparation should sanitise the issue of poor transportation networks which has been lagging the district for a long time. It should posit efforts to improve the road infrastructure, construction of new roads and upgrading the existing ones to enhance connectivity, promoting economic growth through accessibility and improve the quality of life for the district residents.

<Table 19: RRDC road network>

Location	Road class	Sealed (km)	Gravel (km)	Earth (km)	Total (km)
Communal areas	Secondary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Tertiary feeder	0.00	618.00	0.00	618.00
	Tertiary access	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Total (kms)		0.00	618.00	150.00	768.00

8.1.2 Rushinga Rural District Roads

<Table 20: District Roads>

NAME OF ROADS	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	ROAD CONDITION
Chimhanda Growth Point	Local authority	Gravel and earth
Rushinga RSC	Local authority	Gravel and earth
Northlea Park	Local authority	Earth
Mubvundudzi pry access	Local authority	Earth
Make Godzi - Kamanika	Local authority, Department of Roads/ MOT	Gravel
Kamanika pry access	Local authority	Gravel
Kamanika sec – Nyamazizi access	Local authority	Gravel
Kasenzi pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Kasenzi – Nyamuziya	RIDA	Gravel
Kasika pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyumazizi-Nyabawa		Gravel
Nyamanyanya sec school access	Local authority	Gravel
Chiromba pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyamanyanya pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyamanyanya-Mukonde access	Local authority	Gravel
Marymount hos&sec access	Local authority	Gravel
Bopoma business centre &secondary		Earth
Nyanhewe-Nyatsato	RIDA	Gravel
Maparepare school access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyatsato – Hira access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyatsato – Nyamapako	RIDA	Gravel
Nyatsato sec school	Local authority	Gravel
Makuni- Nyagwiti	RIDA	Gravel
Makuni pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Makuni-Bopoma	RIDA	Gravel

Makuni-Nyatsato turn off	RIDA	Gravel
Nyatsato – Katoni	RIDA	Gravel
Matoto pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Katoni sec school access	Local authority	Gravel
Martargets pre-school access	Local authority	Gravel
Katoni-Kasenzi	RIDA	Gravel
Nyabvedzi-Kasenzi-Rusambo	RIDA	Gravel
Kasenzi-Mukonde	RIDA	Gravel
Mukonde pry school access	Local authority	Gravel
Mukonde-Makuni	RIDA	Gravel
Chomotukutu turn off-Mudhuri	RIDA	Gravel
Chomotukutu dam access	Local authority	Gravel
Kanzara pre-school access	Local authority	Gravel
Chitepo pry sch access	Local authority	Gravel
Chomotukutu-Mudhuri-Jiwa	RIDA	Gravel
Jiwa-Ganganyama	RIDA	Gravel
Chinaka pre school	Local authority	Earth
Katakura pry access	Local authority	Gravel
Katakura-Rusambo	RIDA	Gravel
Katakura-Majiga	RIDA	Gravel
Rusambo pry school	Local authority	Earth
Rusambo sec sch access	Local authority	Earth
Karararira pre sch access	Local authority	Earth
Mazowe Bridge VTC access	Local authority	Earth
Huruma pry access	Local authority	Earth
Makachi-Nyamasenga	RIDA	Gravel
Makachi pry access	Local authority	Gravel
Nyamatikiti-Makachi	RIDA	Gravel
Kawonde – Nyamatikiti	RIDA	Gravel

RRDC, 2024

8.1.3 Gravel roads

These are very common in Rushinga district and they are typical made of compacted gravel or crushed stone which is abundant in the district. These roads are susceptible to erosion and wear and they require regular maintenance to ensure proper drainage and repair of potholes and washouts. Off late the gravel roads in the district have turned to be disaster and accident risk due to the presence of many pot holes and gullies along the network.

8.1.3 Earth roads

The district has earth roads in remote areas like Chiromba and ward 18 in areas like Kamanika. These roads are made of natural soils and are general less developed than the gravel roads. There are reports that these roads become muddy and impassable during rainy seasons making transportation difficult evident by the withdrawal of many operators in areas like Chiromba. Thus the Rushinga district master plan should prioritises these areas as first priority project to effect incremental development in the district through efficient transport networking.

8.1.4 Tarmac Road

Rushinga district has tarmac or asphalt roads which is under the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development. These tarmac roads are more durable and smoother than all the other roads in the district. Currently the tarred road has been maintained by the Public Works Department through pothole filling and ramming.

Due to the rural nature of Rushinga District some areas like Chiromba may have limited road connectivity .Some of the district earth roads are very narrow which makes it difficult for vehicles to pass each other. During rainy seasons some areas are generally inaccessible due to the slippery nature they pose for transportation. Hence this hinders transportation impacting trade, healthcare and market access and overall development in the district.

8.2 Public Transport

There is no formal public transport in the district. The district lacks the presence of the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company services in its local routes. Local public

transport services are informally offered by omnibuses (15 seater), and pirate taxis in the make of Honda Fit and Nissan probox which are privately owned. The district is serviced by a ZUPCO daily bus which travel to and from Harare across several district routes. Also plying the long distance routes and servicing the local routes are Dzimababwe, Pavilion and Boundary Coaches which also have daily time bound buses. A survey of people preferences on the current existing local public system cited a notable dissatisfaction as many lamented about the high amounts charged by the pirate taxis and commuter omnibuses over the short district routes. Also a large number of participants in the focus group discussions indicated their discomfort in the daily buses leaving for Harare in early hours like 2am which is not conveniently flexible and sustainable for passengers. Also the district is serviced by an informal public transport system of pirate taxis. These typically refers to the unlicensed or unauthorised taxis services that operates outside the Zimbabwean transport legal framework. In Rushinga they operate without proper licensing, insurance, or safety regulation. This has posed risk to passengers whom may be unaware of the driver's credentials or conditions of the vehicles. This lack of accountability and oversight has been blamed to be causing a compromise in passenger safety. Since these pirate taxis operate outside the legal framework as they don't pay taxes.

8.2.1 Bus/Omnibus termini

Currently there are two formalised bus and omnibus termini that are currently managed by the Rushinga Rural District Council. The first one is in Rushinga rural service centre opposite the Post Office. The facility acts as a drop off and pick up point for local omnibus operators as well as a rank for rank for long distance buses like Dzimababwe. The bus termini in Rushinga is in a poor state lacking modernity. It has a gravel surface that has been eroded by the rains, and also the ground is not even as it steeply slopes towards the vending market. There is a lot of graffiti on the bus waiting shed which affect its aesthetic appreciation. There is need to replace or repair the structures at Rushinga bus termini.

Another formal bus termini is in Chimhanda growth point opposite the commercial business shops. It also acts as a drop off and pick up point for local omnibus operators as well as a rank for rank for long distance buses like Dzimababwe and Pavilion. The

termini is in a good state as its infrastructure fairly supports public transport, however it is also not modern. The RRDC has made effort to service and tar the bus termini in its bid to efficiently provide conveniently flexible pick up and drop off points for both its resident and transport operators. Also worth mentioning is that in the communal part of the district there is provision of proper signage for the bus stops. There is the emergence of an unauthorised pick up and drop of point along the A12 road, slightly opposite the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development (MOTID) offices. This spot is usually occupied by the pirate taxis (mushika-mushika).

8.3 Railways

There is no railway line in the district which links the district with other districts in the province. With the forecasted and predicted growth and the need to promote agriculture and mining value chains there is need for the establishment of a railway line. This is expected to boost investor confidence as rail transport is cheaper to transport goods. The future population growth will also require rail mass transit to effectively service the district.

8.4 Air Transport

The district once had an air strip though the facility has since been converted into a service station. During the time of the study the district did not have any airport or commercialised flight. Thus the master plan should ensure that there is provision of an airport, airstrips helipads and aerodromes which effectively abide to ICAO and CAAZ regulations.

8.6 Areas of concern

There is need to limit the pirate taxis and provide formal public transport in the District to ensure sustainable public transport. Action need to be taken immediately to solve the issue of pirate taxis as they exorbitantly charge the passengers. There is need to provide tarred roads in the district to lure operator who can efficiently ply the routes. There is need to effectively revive formal public transport and set up a ZUPCO depot in the district. There is need for the provision of rail and air transport too effectively and service the district.

Chapter 9: Agriculture

This chapter report on both crop and livestock production in Rushinga District during the time of the study.

9.1 Introduction

Agriculture is the primary economic activity in Rushinga. Agriculture in Rushinga is primarily characterized by subsistence farming, where small scale farmers cultivate crops for their own consumption and to meet the needs of their families and little surplus for sale. Rushinga relies heavily on rainfall for agricultural production as irrigation infrastructure is limited. Farmers depend on timing and adequacy of the rainy season for their crops. Erratic rainfall patterns and drought pose significant challenges to agricultural productivity and food security in the district.

The region falls in agro-ecological zone 4 and therefore receives a lower rainfall of 450-650 mm per annum. Rushinga has a diverse agro ecological zones ranging from higher high altitude areas suitable for cotton and maize to lower lying areas suitable for small grains millet and sorghum. Small scale farmers engage in subsistence farming growing groundnuts, sorghum, millet, tobacco and cotton in some areas that receives a better distribution of rainfall within the season.

Agriculture is the primary source of income for many communities in the district, however farmers face numerous challenges such as limited access to modern farming techniques, irrigation systems, quality seeds fertilizers and efficient credit facilities in the district. Climate change has not spared Rushinga Rural District further exacerbating threats of drought and hunger. Limited availability of water remains, among the main impediments to sustainable agriculture activities. Small holder farmers, who form the majority of the district depend on rain for crop and livestock. Livestock production, a promising livelihoods possibility in the area, also faces water challenges especially cattle.

9.2 Challenges in Crop Production in Rushinga District

- ✓ Lack of a crop production plan
- ✓ Poor irrigation water scheduling
- ✓ High electricity bills and frequent power cuts
- ✓ Production of low income crops
- ✓ Poor crop management practices
- ✓ Poor financial management systems
- ✓ Reliance on advance generated seed
- ✓ Low market networking knowledge and skills
- ✓ Input price instability
- ✓ Distant markets
- ✓ High transport costs
- ✓ Unreliable rainfall
- ✓ Pests and diseases
- ✓ Low capital base
- ✓ Poor produce prices

9.3 Crop Production Trends

<Table 21: Cereal production and adequacy by ward>

Ward	2018/19 Cereal Production				2019//20 Cereal Production				2020/21 Cereal Production Projection				
	Maize	Sorghum	P/M	Total	Maize	Sorghum	P/M	Total	Population	Maize	Sorghum	P/M	Total
1	156.32	61.17	18.73	236.21	160.54	15.00	2.49	178.04	4999	270	210	120	600
2	122.83	155.66	6.00	284.53	123.24	97.22	20.70	21.16	3120	169	131	75	375
3	114.73	137.58	21.36	273.66	117.60	94.45	10.19	222.24	6289	340	264	151	755
4	102.49	109.21	44.65	256.36	77.64	88.43	57.05	223.17	6577	356	277	158	790
5	116.10	73.17	32.21	221.44	63.24	37.69	25.21	126.14	2691	145	113	65	323
6	103.87	59.12	34.42	197.41	91.67	89.06	28.46	209.19	3765	203	152	91	452
7	219.00	140.16	48.18	407.34	97.07	144.51	56.38	297.96	9656	522	406	232	1159
8	200.92	34.00	3.10	238.01	117.01	99.80	14.01	230.82	7123	385	299	171	855
9	203.58	61.46	0.00	265.04	86.05	45.93	0.00	131.98	6226	413	262	149	747
10	261.34	73.99	6.75	352.44	66.94	22.58	18.48	108.00	7926	428	333	190	951
11	200.97	33.50	16.17	250.64	65.74	44.58	12.22	122.54	5024	272	211	121	603
12	234.12	90.87	0.00	471.55	75.46	19.03	10.56	105.05	7546	408	317	181	906
13	96.88	31.81	9.88	138.58	118.50	36.78	0.00	155.28	5786	313	243	139	695
14	127.80	8.14	2.99	138.92	211.5	27.84	22.85	262.19	6721	363	283	161	807
15	140.54	52.22	3.87	196.62	86.67	66.56	18.87	172.10	7055	390	304	173	867
16	110.70	77.84	9.97	198.50	139.16	175.50	5.43	320.00	6530	353	274	157	784
17	199.70	113.13	26.55	339.38	186.6	178.4	16.62	381.62	5714	309	240	137	686
18	129.78	84.98	6.80	221.55	126.13	80.19	5.82	212.15	7758	419	326	186	931
19	139.18	155.00	18.18	312.38	45.94	80.58	3.57	130.10	5014	271	211	120	602
20	146.33	14.29	12.51	173.13	126.41	72.20	15.94	214.55	4585	248	193	110	550
21	153.59	66.32	19.20	239.11	139.00	55.23	45.93	240.15	5330	288	224	128	640
22	66.71	74.10	30.25	171.01	91.27	124.39	10.09	225.75	6415	347	270	154	770
23	31.80	139.28	53.30	224.38	26.85	52.05	1.29	80.19	4016	217	169	96	482
24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6004	325	252	144	721
25	87.83	26.25	5.17	119.25	57.39	95.63	11.83	164.85	2417	131	102	58	290
Total	3779.74	1873.22	430.23	6083.19	2496.62	1947.72	414.01	4858.36	144287				17341

NOTE: *There is a mismatch between Cereal production and population growth in the District. Annual rate of population growth is pegged at 2.3 and food production is decreasing at a rate of 21% (2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons). Agricultural efforts need to be directed towards revival of the productive potential of the land resource towards food self-sufficiency and surplus to feed the urban population and SADC region. There is also a marked fall in maize yield from 0.5t/ha (2018/19) to 0.25t/ha (2019/20). The 2020/21 agricultural season targets an increase in cereal production of 45%, 35% and 20% maize, sorghum and pearl millet respectively. If this rate is achieved, every household will be food self-secure save for the urban ward, whom are believed to be supported from wards with surplus.*

9.3.1 Potential for Agricultural Development

Rushinga has untapped potential for agricultural development. Expanding irrigation infrastructure and improving water management systems can help mitigate the effects of rainfall variability and enhance agricultural productivity. The district has a large portion of virgin land along its border. These areas have a greater potential for agriculture as they have been neglected due to susceptibility of landmines. The ongoing demining process by the HALO Trust has reduced the risk susceptibility leaving the land potential for agricultural expansion and development.

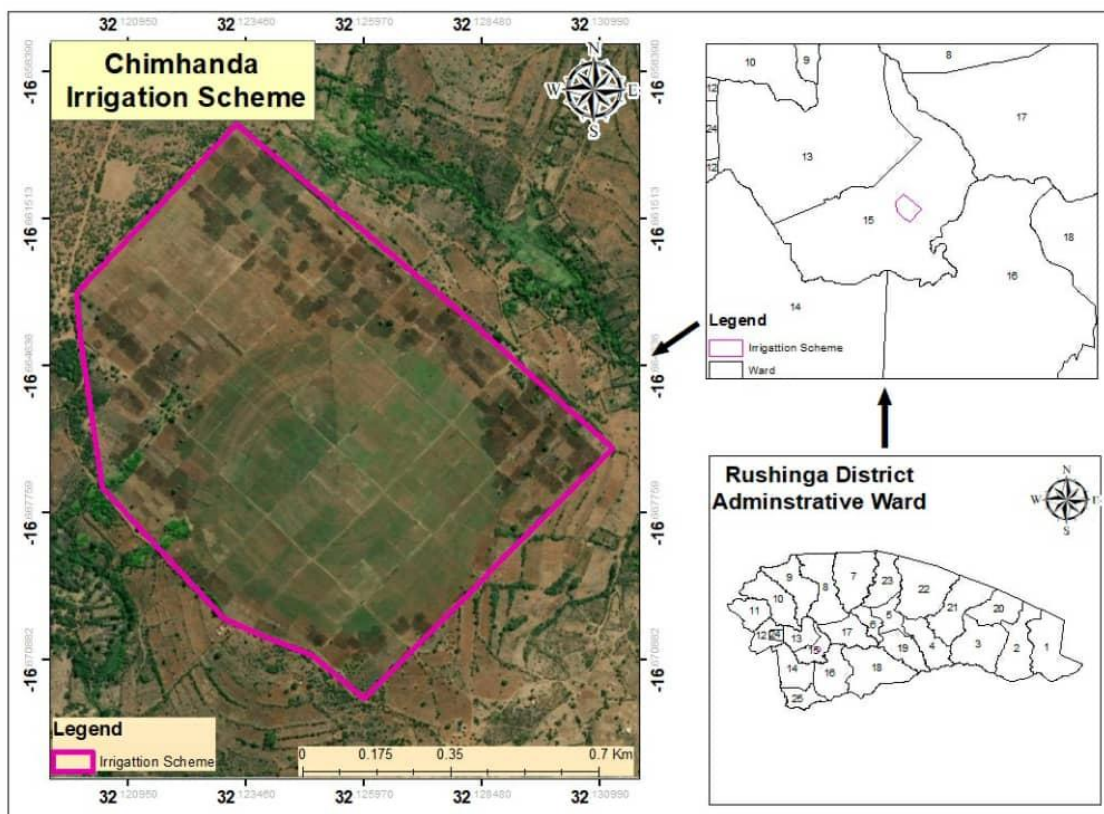
9.4 Irrigable land

The district has a lot of virgin land that can be used for irrigation purposes. The exact extent of irrigable land in Rushinga vary depending on topography, water source and infrastructure. The district has potential irrigable fertile land along the border line areas like Mafigu to Mukosa. These areas are naturally virgin as they have not been exerted to pressure due to their remoteness and risk susceptibility in the form of land mines prevalence.

By virtue of being of being an arid region where rainfall amounts are very low and the temperatures are very high, crop production in the district is lower. Irrigation practices in the district such Chimhanda irrigation scheme are improving crop production. Despite the fact that there are some irrigation schemes, they are very few relative to the size of the district. There is need for more schemes since the majority of the

population is depending on rain fed agriculture. The master plan need to unlock more land for potential irrigation in the district.

Map 1 showing the Chimhanda Irrigation Scheme in Rushinga District.



Rushinga Rural District has one operational irrigation scheme in ward 15 with 72 hectares that is sustaining the small scale farmers. There is also another irrigation that is being constructed in Manetsera area around Chimhanda Dam. The table below shows the irrigation schemes in Rushinga and their land allocation.

<Table 22: Irrigation schemes in the District>

Ward	Name of Irrigation Schemes	Total Area (hectares)	Status
15	Chimhanda	72	Operational
15	Manetsera	30	Under Construction
Total		102	

Field work, 2024

9.5 Food and Nutrition

In Rushinga there is a dire need to strengthen the link between agriculture and nutrition through the promotion of a balanced, diversified and nutritious diet. An interview with the Agritex Officer indicated that the district suffers from malnutrition due to lack of access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene and lack of access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food brought about by poor crop harvest common in the district. While most residents have been able to provide for themselves in the past years, the 2023-2024 farming season have been marred by a drought risk that has witnessed the loss of crops to high intensity sun exposure threatening the livelihoods of all inhabitants in Rushinga district. A huge crop failure is evident in the district as even the small grains has succumbed to high heat intensity in the district. The picture below clearly shows the effect of climate change on many agricultural fields positing the probable effect of possible hunger in the district.

<Picture 4: showing effects of climate change>.



Fieldwork 2024

The district has not been spared from the effects of climate change especially prolonged dry spells which have severely strained many drought resistant crop varieties. It is worth to mention that the nutrition levels in the district are likely going to worsen as many families have already started eating the treated grains. The drought conditions are traced to a weather condition known as El Nino, which has historically devastated farming patterns in Zimbabwe and other regions. In Rushinga there has

been a noted dependence on the traditional diets as many people rely on staple food that is readily available and affordable such as grains. It was also noted that these foods can provide energy but may lack essential nutrients like vitamins and nutrients.

<Picture 5: Nutrition Gardens in one ward>



Fieldwork, 2024

9.6 El Nino in Rushinga

El Nino refers to a cycle of warming and cooling events that happens along the equator in the Pacific Ocean leading to an increase in the sea surface temperatures across the Pacific. The cooling part of the cycle is called La Nina and has the opposite effects. El Nino is known to cause drought and heat waves, which affects water supply for domestic and commercial also affecting the crop production with prolonged dry spells. The district has not been spared by Elnino effects as the above effects have been evident in the past agricultural seasons. More than 80% of the families in Rushinga are in need of immediate food aid following the climate crisis that has threatened food security in almost all parts of the country. This master plan should sanitise the high levels of food insecurity in the District probing all necessary contingency plans like promotion of irrigation on the vast arable land.

<Table 23: Summary of Agro-Ecological Regions by ward>

Region	Characteristics	Wards
Region III	Average rainfall (650 – 700 mm/year)	10, 11, 12, 13,24
Region IV	Moderate rainfall (550 – 650mm/year)	14, 15, 16, partly 18 & 23, 25
Region Va	Below average rainfall (450 -550mm/year)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Agritex, 2024

NB: Reference to the above provided information can be visually supported by a map from Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA)

Most of Rushinga district fall in Natural Region Va (75%), NR IV (15%) and the balance 10% NR III. The average annual rainfall for the district is 650mm, however effects of global warming have seen an annual decrease in the amount of rainfall received over years. This further affects productivity and culminates in continued annual droughts and household food deficits.

9.7 Rushinga District Area against Household Ward Population

<Table 24: Ward population versus households and land sizes >

Rushinga District Area(ha)				
Ward	Ward h/h population	Total ward Area	Arable area	Grazing Area
120601	1163	14000	6000	8000
120602	709	11500	4000	7500
120603	1463	15500	5000	10500
120604	1566	11000	3500	7500
120605	626	9050	5430	3620
120606	801	16626	10416	6210
120607	2195	12125	4680	7445
120608	1657	8500	3825	5675
120609	1325	10687	5645	5042
120610	1802	10063	7487	5276

120611	1169	5750	2341	3409
120612	1715	5187	4225	962
120613	1286	5625	3987	1638
120614	1600	5000	3762	1238
120615	1721	3875	3075	800
120616	1484	19457	4265	15192
120617	1329	13263	2040	11223
120618	1804	14687	10287	4400
120619	1286	10625	6375	4250
120620	1042	7000	1800	5200
120621	1240	10500	2620	7880
120622	1426	13575	6313	7262.7
120623	893	7000	4200	2800
120624	1668	150	0	150
120625	484	5875	3916	1959
Total	33454	246620	115189	135131.7

Agritex, 2024

In the communal areas the average total land holding per household is 7.4 hectares and average arable land per household is 3.4 hectares. Also the average grazing land per household is 4.0 hectares. This also shows that there is more land that can be developable into agro residential stands.

9.8 Animal Husbandry

Livestock rearing is one of the main activity in Rusinga District due to its agro ecological region placement. Goats, sheep, cattle and poultry provides a greater source of income and food for the locals. Cattle rearing, in particular, plays a significant role in the local economy. Livestock provides a source of income, food security, and asset accumulation for farmers. However, middlemen have been ripping off farmers which led to the setting up of formal livestock markets which takes place every Monday at Marymount sales pens and every Tuesday at Chimhanda Growth point. Thus this master plan should propose a more formalized market and abattoirs to boost the district as it has a lot of livestock.

9.8.1 Animal Health Centres

The district has only two animal health centres which are in Rushinga Rural services centre and Chimhanda. Government has made notable effort in rolling animal drugs but there is need to maintain constant supply of these drugs in the district. Also the need to provide more animal health centres especially in deprived communal areas around the district.

<Table 25: Average livestock ownership by wealth group>

Livestock	Lower middle class	Middle class	Upper middle class
Cattle	2	5	12
Goats	5	15	30
Sheep	0	0	4
Donkeys	0	0	2
Pigs	0	0	8

Agritex, 2024

Dominating livestock types contributing to District population livelihoods include; beef cattle, goats, sheep, poultry (both exotic and indigenous) and bees. Aquaculture and piggery are also undertaken in isolated cases and at very low scale.

<Table 26: Average livestock holding per ward>

Ward	Average cattle holding	Average goats holding	Average sheep holding	Average chicken holding
1	4	7	0	11
2	1	4	0	5
3	2	6	0	6
4	2	4	0	7
5	4	5	1	6
6	3	2	0	4
7	4	6	0	7
8	4	3	0	4
9	2	2	0	5
10	2	4	0	7
11	3	3	0	6
12	2	5	0	4
13	3	5	0	10
14	3	4	1	9
15	3	3	0	9
16	3	5	0	12
17	3	3	1	13
18	4	5	1	8
19	3	3	0	8
20	3	8	0	9
21	2	3	0	7
22	3	0	0	8
23	5	6	1	10
24	0	0	0	0
25	2	5	0	10
Total	70	101	5	185
Average	3	4	0	8

9.8.2 Grazing land

It was noted that the District has areas that were designated for grazing of livestock however there has been a conflict with humans who have encroached into the grazing

land. This can be seen by the sprouting of settlements along the designated areas like Haipi area. Some grazing areas have been eroded and some are no longer capable to provide for the livestock in their areas. A general observation showed that majority of grazing areas had been eroded and notable gullies can be seen in the areas. Thus the master plan should align a remedy to alleviate the overgrazing issues in the affected areas.

9.8.3 Goat rearing

The district boast of a Goat Improvement Centre which is in Ward 14. This is a productive scheme in the district which offers services as breed improvement, dipping, veterinary drug sale, sale of fodder seed and aggregation of bulk slaughter house. This helps in addressing the weakness and gaps in livestock value chains contributing towards increasing productivity, production and incomes. The goat improvement centre is set to maintain value for money by removing middlemen who are ripping off livestock farmers on sales walking away with a lion's share. Thus the Rushinga District Master plan should be cognizant of the challenges faced by small and medium scale goat producers despite great potential within the sub sector to contribute towards economic growth resilient and sustainable agriculture.

9.8.4 Cattle sales pens

The district thrives in livestock production yet it does not have a recognized abattoir set up that can assist farmers in the communal areas. The absence of these kind of facilities in Rushinga has left many unscrupulous middlemen on rampant verge of conning farmers with shady deals. The district only has cattle sales pens both in Chimhanda and Marry Mount. The state of the cattle sales in Chimhanda aren't aesthetically pleasing as the appealing fields have pens have deteriorated. The master plan should help in synthesizing resources for the upgrade of the infrastructure or probe a better alternative such as abattoirs to benefit Rushinga Rural District.

<Picture 6: Chimhanda cattle sales pen in 2018>

Fieldwork, 2024

9.8.5 Dip Tanks

The district has a total of 27 dip tanks that are manned by vet who administer the dips as they are under the Department of Veterinary services. Many dip tanks in the district don't have permanent water source that can provide water throughout the year, as farmers fetch water from nearby streams that runs dry when it's not in the rain season. Also worth noting is that some areas like Mukosa do not have dipping facilities in their range thus have resorted to spraying of cattle which not that effective. Some village travel 15 kilometres to access the dip tanks and the District Veterinary officer indicated some of the farmers usually abscond dipping citing distances challenges. Also there is need for decentralisation on the issuance of drug for treating livestock.

9.8.6 Challenges faced by livestock farmers

- Non-viable livestock markets
- Predators (hyenas, jackals, baboons,)
- Inadequate grazing (herbage quantities to sustain livestock during winter)
- Availability and affordability of Supplementary feeds
- Poor genetic base and genetic improvement efforts
- Uncontrolled breeding/small sized beef animals

- Water availability/ seasonal water supply and competition amongst gardens, people and livestock
- Poverty deaths in large livestock (starvation, water shortage, distance to water sources)
- Poor management
- Low capital base
- Poor market

9.9 Apiculture

Apiculture also known as beekeeping is the process of raising and caring for honey bees for the purpose of harvesting honey, beeswax and other related bee products. The district has wards that are benefiting from apiculture which are ward 12, 10, 14, 15, 9, 5, 7, 21, 22, and 13. The master plan should provide a remedy to incorporate apiculture to boost the district economy. It was noted that many honey producers in Rusinga produce a significant amount of honey that is sold on the markets though there is need for strong value addition as also middlemen's remains the ones actually benefiting stripping the producers a larger profit.

Chapter 10: Organizational Structure and Capacity

Rushinga Rural District Council is situated in the North Eastern corner of Zimbabwe in Mashonaland Central Province.

10.1 Traditional Leadership

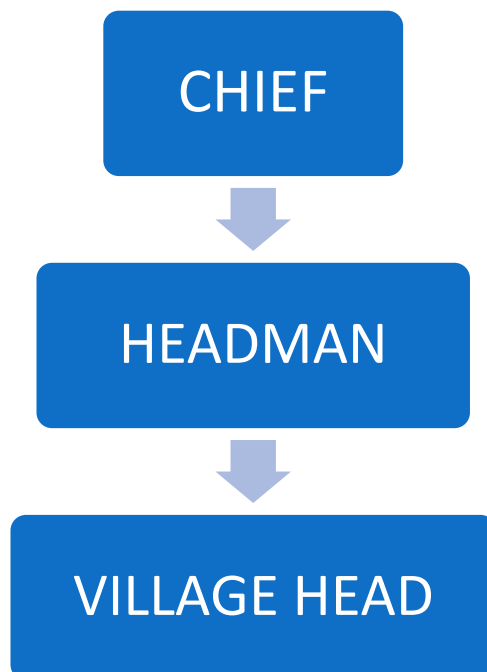
The district is administered by the Rushinga Rural District Council alongside the institution of traditional leadership comprising chiefs, headmen and village heads. The district has many villages which are led by the three main chiefs. The district is home to the Korekore people who have different clans which have their own totems (mutupo). The main language spoken is chikorekore. The boundaries or jurisdictions of chiefs are a contested area as the traditional leaders seek to expand their geographical area of influence. Section 18(1) of the Traditional Leaders Act requires the establishment of a ward assembly for every ward under the jurisdiction of a rural local authority.

The assembly is composed of the councilor, all headmen and village heads in the respective ward. It is chaired by a headman elected from amongst the membership of the ward assembly. Thus while the elected councilor represents the ward on the council, it is actually a traditional leader (headman) who provides leadership to the ward. The ward councilor chairs the ward development committee which is charged with providing technical assistance to the ward assembly including the formulation of a ward development plan for submission to the relevant local authority. Apart from the chief there are headmen, each of them having the status of a sub-chief. A headman reports to the chief of the relevant area in their jurisdiction.

Currently the district has 6 headmen's and 289 village heads. Traditional leaders continue to play an important role, regulating existing laws recognizing customary tenure in a way that clarifies their functions and incentives in the area of land management and maintenance of land documents may thus be more effective than trying to replace them (Bruce and Knox 2009). The master plan need to introduce ways for training of the local and traditional leadership for effective land use management and governances in the district to the extent that this would include providing capacity and access to information and technology such as digital landuse

maps and real-time information on land use, it would allow capitalizing on the local trust that traditional leaders enjoy while improving accountability.

Figure 11 Structure of traditional leadership.



10.1.2 Chieftainships in Rushinga

Chieftaincy in Rushinga is hereditary. The chief is the religious and political leader of tribal household. He administers rain rituals, serving as a link between the ancestors and the living. The appointment of the chief involves ancestors and living elders of the ruling households. The tribal spirit medium approves the name of the individual to be enthroned. Tribal politics involve the chief's council (*makurukota*), the ancestors of the tribe (*mhondoro*), ritual friends (*sahwira*), and some nephews (*vazukuru*) of the ruling household. Also worth mentioning is that the chief also administer court duties to their subjects.

Below is a list of the names of the 3 chiefs of Rushinga Rural District:

1. Chief Makuni
2. Chief Rusambo
3. Chief Nyakusengwa

10.1.3 Functions of a Headman

The headmen administer authority at village level and play the following role:

Judicial – some cases include adultery (hupombwe), divorce (kurambana), slander (katakana), trespass, debts (zvikwereti). Currently the district has six headmen in its jurisdiction and these are listed in the table below.

<Table 27: List of Rushinga District headman's>

Headmen in Rushinga District	
Headman Gwangwava	Headman Chikange
Headman Chimhanda	Headman Chipare
Headman Magare	Headman Chipare

TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP GOVERNANCE

<Table 28: Number of cases handled per month>

Headman	Boundary Disputes	Adultery	Marriage & Divorce	Debts and small claims	Environment Related	Others
Headman Gwangwava	2	5	4	2	2	2
Headman Chimhanda	3	4	6	7	1	3
Headman Magare	3	1	5	4	4	4
Headman Chikange	4	3	6	3	3	2
Headman Chipare	1	2	8	3	2	4
Headman Katevera	2	6	7	2	3	3

10.2 Rushinga Rural District Council

The Rural District Council is administered by a legislative council of elected members across the district. The Council comprises of 25 councillors specially selected by members of the districts. The RRDC consists of a range of professional and manual staff who carry out a wide range of functions. The elected council makes policy decisions and the staff provide expert advice to the councillors and administer and

operate the district on a day to day basis following the policy of the council and its committees. A chairperson chosen by the councillors heads the elected council and the paid officials from the council are headed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Vision Statement

A sustainable, people centred and developed district by 2025.

Mission Statement

To provide quality socio-economic services and infrastructure development for Rushinga District.

Core Values

- Professionalism- skills and qualities required.
- Transparency-openness with zero tolerance to corruption.
- Accountability-building trust through responsibility.
- Teamwork –coordination, cooperation and commitment.
- Integrity- being honest and reliable

10.3 Administrative Structure of the Council

The council's activities are co-ordinated by the Chief Executive Officer who is the chief legal advisor and the head of the management team of officers. The Chief Executive Officer is the main link between the Rural District Council and the Ministry of Local Government on administrative issues. There are seven departments, each of which has a specific functions and responsibilities and contributes to the overall administrative, control and provision of services to Rushinga District. The relationships between the various Department of the Council and the committees may be seen in the organogram. The heads of the Department together with the Chief Executive Officer make up the management team. The total number of permanent workers is vary from time to time.

10.3. Departmental functions

1. Social services, HR and Administration

- Co-ordination and collaboration with Government departments and developmental partners.
- Risk and disaster management
- Gender mainstreaming
- Provision of sport and recreational services
- Provision of water and sanitation services
- Formulation of committee budget, consolidated by the finance
- Provision of water and sanitation services
- Provision of health services
- Provision of street lighting services
- Provision of educational services
- Procurement of goods and services.
- Admin and support services.
- Provision of district profile
- Recruitment, selection and separation
- Training and development
- Policy formulation and review
- Payroll administration
- Human Resources Management

2. Finance and Admin

- Preparation and implementation of Council budget.
- Preparation of final accounts
- Investment promotion
- Revenue collection
- Management of trade receivables and trade payables database.

3. Audit

- Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of internal control systems.
- Evaluation of the cost effectiveness of any project undertaken by council.

- Preparation of External Audits.
- Risk management and control.
- Avail audit reports to audit committee and management.
- Managing compliance statute and regulation.

4. Environment

- Conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources.
- Public participation and sustainable environmental services.
- Crop and livestock management.
- Handling land disputes.
- Solid waste management.
- Sustainable wildlife and forestry management.
- Environmental law enforcement.

5. Roads Works and Planning

- Manage and co-ordinate spatial planning.
- Development control.
- Identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- Preparation of estimated expenditure for the department.
- Servicing of the Roads Works and Planning committee
- Infrastructure, planning and development (construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads).
- Construction of Sewer reticulation system and maintenance.

10.4 Policy making

Policy making in council is done through committees which are derived from the departments of the council and the full council. The committees are chaired by elected councillors, and heads of departments form part of the committee. These committees sit every month to deliberate reports from respective departments, thereafter full council convenes to deliberate issues from the committees and up with resolutions which are then implemented in council.

10.5 Council Budget

<Table 29: Rushinga District Council Budget>

1.Monies Appropriate by Gvt	24,165,407,936.04
2.Tax	2,893,076,640.00
3.IGP	3,257,520.00
4.Other Income	1,854,125,628.00
5.Fees/Licenses	13,507,519,416.00
6.Estate Funds	1,407,514,560.00
TOTAL:	43,830,901,700.04

RRDC, 2024

10.5.1 Budgeted revenues against council programs

<Table 30: Revenue against council programs>

Governance & Administration	8,143,685,542.71
Water Sanitation & Hygiene	723,726,143.52
Social Services	13,767,961,243.29
Roads	16,482,235,557.24
Public Safety & Security Services	1,154,283,996.48
Natural Resources Conservation & Management	3,565,482,616.80
TOTAL:	43,830,901,700.04

10.5.2 Budget performance in the last five years

<Table 31: Performance of budget >

2020	31%
2021	33%
2022	32%
2023	44%
2024	Nil

10.5.3 Rushinga District Council Revenue Base

<Table 32: Revenue base>

Revenue Collection Source	Major Sources	Potential Sources
Other General Gvt Units	N/A	N/A
International Org	N/A	N/A
Budgetary Central Gvt	N/A	N/A
Levies	Levies	N/A
Business Permits	N/A	N/A
Fees	N/A	N/A
Business Licenses	Business Licenses	
Estate Funds	Estate Funds	Cattle Marketing
Income Generating Projects (GHS)	N/A	IGP(GHS)
Penalties	N/A	N/A
Rentals	N/A	N/A
Other Income	N/A	N/A

NB: The council has a bleeding revenue base.

10.5.4 Future Revenue Projection

<Table 33: Revenue projections during the plan period >

REVENUE PROGRAMMES	Budget Estimate Total	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Governance & Administration	8,143,685,542.71	9,365,238,374.12	10,179,606,928.39	11,706,547,967.65	13,462,530,162.80	15,481,909,687.22
Water Sanitation & Hygiene	723,726,143.52	832,285,065.05	904,657,679.40	1,040,356,331.31	1,196,409,781.01	1,375,871,248.16
Social Services	13,767,961,243.29	15,833,155,429.78	17,209,951,554.11	19,791,444,287.23	22,760,160,930.31	26,174,185,069.86
Roads	16,482,235,557.24	18,954,570,890.83	20,602,794,446.55	23,693,213,613.53	27,247,195,655.56	31,334,275,003.90
Public Safety & Security Services	1,154,283,996.48	1,327,426,595.95	1,442,854,995.60	1,659,283,244.94	1,908,175,731.68	2,194,402,091.43
Natural Resources Conservation & Management	3,565,482,616.80	4,100,305,009.32	4,456,853,271.00	5,125,381,261.65	5,894,188,450.90	6,778,316,718.53
TOTAL: REVENUE	43,837,375,100.04	50,412,981,365.05	54,796,718,875.05	63,016,226,706.31	72,468,660,712.25	83,338,959,819.09

REVENUE PROGRAMMES	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Governance & Administration	17,804,196,140.30	20,474,825,561.34	23,546,049,395.54	27,077,956,804.87	31,139,650,325.61	35,810,597,874.45
Water Sanitation & Hygiene	1,582,251,935.38	1,819,589,725.69	2,092,528,184.54	2,406,407,412.22	2,767,368,524.06	3,182,473,802.66
Social Services	30,100,312,830.34	34,615,359,754.89	39,807,663,718.12	45,778,813,275.84	52,645,635,267.21	60,542,480,557.29
Roads	36,034,416,254.48	41,439,578,692.65	47,655,515,496.55	54,803,842,821.03	63,024,419,244.19	72,478,082,130.82
Public Safety & Security Services	2,523,562,405.15	2,902,096,765.92	3,337,411,280.81	3,838,022,972.93	4,413,726,418.87	5,075,785,381.70
Natural Resources Conservation & Management	7,795,064,226.31	8,964,323,860.26	10,308,972,439.30	11,855,318,305.19	13,633,616,050.97	15,678,658,458.62
Total: Revenue	95,839,803,791.96	110,215,774,360.75	126,748,140,514.86	145,760,361,592.09	167,624,415,830.90	192,768,078,205.54

Chapter 11: Findings and Results

This chapter synthesizes issues that have emerged from the above nine chapters that form the report of study. It also identifies areas that require to be addressed by the master plan by way of formulating appropriate proposals.

11.1 Rushinga District is strategically located 200 km north east of Harare and bordering with Mozambique. Despite its peripheral location, the districts sub regional position offers potential for cooperation in terms of mining and trade.

11.2 Over 75 percent of the district falls into natural region V(a), a region being regarded as being of low agricultural potential, suited for extensive farming such as livestock and game ranching.

11.3 Natural Resources and Environment

11.3.1 The main type of soils in the district are poorly developed, shallow and skeletal however they respond well to the application of water.

11.4 The low altitude and the topography result in hot dry environment with high evaporation rates. Evapotranspiration thus exceeds rainfall in most of the months of the year. Rivers in the district are seasonal, water becomes a drawback to sustainable arable and livestock agriculture during the dry periods thus necessity for dams to facilitate crop and livestock irrigation.

11.5 Rainfall decreases from about 650mm in the south that is ward 23 to about 450mm in the north. The district doesn't have a lengthy rainy season.

11.6 Vegetation- The vegetation is adapted to the region's climate and includes species such as miombo woodland and mopane trees. Also there is the presence of thick thorn bushes in some areas. The district falls within the Miombo woodlands biome, characterized by the dominant miombo tree species. These woodlands are known for their unique mix of trees, including *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia*, and

Isoberlinia species. Nestled in the northeastern part of Zimbabwe, Rushinga District is blessed with captivating forests and abundant natural beauty.

11.7 Environmental problems in Rushinga

Deforestation – this is because the district is wholly communal and a large number of people continue to use wood fuel and due to a lack of electricity or solar power in these areas where people use wood fuel as their main source of energy.

Erosion- this is mainly due to poor settlement patterns and overgrazing in the district.

Siltation- Water bodies have social, economic and strategic values with various functions and benefits for the environment and human life that depend on the resources contained therein and the need for achieving sustainability and healthy aquatic ecosystems. In Rushinga Rural District river beds and banks have high vulnerability to degradation from land based activities that cause a decrease in quality of the environment.

Stream bank cultivation is one of the land based activities that has been a threat. Most communities derive livelihoods from horticulture which has a lucrative local market in the district. However this has had a detrimental effect on the water bodies in areas where stream bank cultivation is done intensively. This has resulted in the siltation of streams and sedimentation of dams that offer sustenance to the survival of the livelihoods.

Poor urban landscape- this is a result of lack of maintenance and effective development control.

11.8 Population

11.8 Rushinga population is progressing in a linear fashion considering the last three censuses, currently reached about 76000. Its population is dominantly young population, pointing to need for future youth planning and interventions.

11.9 The land use and land ownership pattern is largely communal.

11.10 The district has a large youthful population which has to be considered in the planning of educational, health and other relevant facilities.

11.11 Rushinga has a higher proportion of women than men. Out of a total of 25 enumerated wards in the 2022 Census women outnumbered males in majority of the wards.

11.12 Generally population densities in the district are low by national standards but the carrying capacity of the land is also low.

11.13 Much of the growth of the urban population is a result of rural to urban migration due to a combination of drought and employment. Due consideration has to be given to the need to make communal areas attractive through the generation of employment opportunities and in this regard mining and small scale irrigation should be given priority.

11.14 Economy and Employment

11.14 In view of the high rate of unemployment in the district, which was estimated to be above 50 % of the economically active, more opportunities for economically active have to be sought in different sectors.

11.15 Communal agriculture despite it having very little returns is still the dominant agricultural activity.

11.16 Rushinga District has a significant number of families living in poverty. Poverty has profound impact on education as it limits the ability to afford fees, uniforms and other educational expenses. Some students may be forced to drop out of school to contribute to their family's income further perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

11.17 There is a notable land degradation within the district and a failure to alter farming practices is likely to see this figure rise significantly.

11.18 There are no start up loans facilities in the district to cater for the farmers.

11.19 The district has one functional irrigation scheme which is the Chimhanda irrigation scheme. And there need for yields to be increased on the irrigation scheme by encouraging growth of cash crops. Lack of widespread irrigation, particularly in the communal lands and high frequency of droughts and semi drought agricultural production has resulted in low productivity. Households rarely produce enough harvest to support themselves throughout the seasons. Various off farm and other activities are employed by households in an attempt to sustain themselves. These range from collecting Masau and Baobab fruits and selling them. There is a need for promotion of small grains production in the district.

11.20 Water development, particularly irrigation will provide the development engine in Rushinga District and is vital for the district food security.

11.21 There is need to address the RDCs direct involvement in wildlife and tourism as this is an area where the council could generate revenue.

11.22 Rushinga lacks growth despite that it's a border district. The growth points and rural service centres in the district have not grown as would have been expected.

11.23 Industrial development in Rushinga is virtually non-existent including the service industries.

11.24 An enabling environment for the informal sector has to be created in an effort to support the sector. An increasing number of families are now dependant on the informal sector for income and any future economic strategy for the district must recognise this fact.

11.25 Social Infrastructure

11.25 Primary and Secondary school facilities exist in the district, there is need to ensure that there are fully equipped and efficiently and effectively serve the district location wise.

11.26 The absence of a tertiary institution is a serious drawback, which impacts negatively on the employment sector. Such facilities would offer skills training in secretarial, computer and coding, mechanical engineering and others. The current vocational training centre cannot cope up with future development needs.

11.27 The district has limited sporting facilities in terms of both range and scope. Apart from soccer there are a few other facilities that exist in the district. Existing open spaces have to be planned and maintained for recreational purposes.

11.28 Health facilities appear to be adequate but people have problems of access to the facilities and service. In addition, there is need to improve the transport network through the provision of modern ambulances.

11.29 Forms of communication such as radio systems and telecommunication are very poor in Rushinga District.

11.30 Piped water schemes, boreholes as well as non-protected water supplies such as dams and rivers constitute the main water sources.

11.31 Many of the boreholes in the district are seasonal.

11.32 Many of the boreholes have blackish and brownish water which is not palatable and considerably decreases the life span of the pumps, thus increasing maintenance, repair interval and repair cost.

11.33 A substantial number of boreholes have mechanically broken down and dried up in communal areas, these need to be rehabilitated and in some part of the district

additional boreholes are needed to replace those that have dried and for supplementary efforts.

11.34 Economic Infrastructure

11.34 In terms of economics, while no quantifiable indicators were obtained to determine Rushinga RDC contribution to GDP were obtained. The district has potential for becoming a major export oriented industrial zone from dolomite, iron ore, gold and horticultural produce and value adding industries.

11.35 The roads in the district are in a deplorable manner. The roads constantly need maintenance in an effort to ensure that all parts of the district are effectively accessible.

11.36 Whilst some parts of the district are accessible by bus there is need to ensure that bus operators ply these routes in sustainable time intervals and flexible time tables.

11.37 The district doesn't have any formal public transport system that is locally servicing the whole planning area.

11.38 There is no rail transport in the district and this is coupled by the absence of air transport in the district.

11.39 Majority of the road network system is still gravelled and in a deplorable state.

11.40 Telecommunication in the district is very poor. However efforts are being made to improve the service through the construction of cell service tower that house all the major telecommunication service providers.

11.41 There is need for electrification of many communal areas including the schools. Also there is need to examine and recommend alternative sources of energy such as solar for the communal areas.

11.42 There is an ongoing dam construction project that will directly address the issues of water scarcity. The construction of Semwa Dam is considered to have vast potential for irrigation. However there is need to construct many dams and rehabilitate the silted dams in the district. There is need for awareness on effective and improved dam management and water conservancy in the district,

11.43 Water harvesting and conservation methods need to be improved to ensure that the available resources are able to sustain agriculture

11.44 Institutions

11.44 Government and donors are crucial for the development of the district. A clear appreciation of the role of donors as facilitators, policy formulators, technical supporters and funding agents should become a vital element of the capacity building of the district.

11.45 Donor organisations have gained prominence partly as a result of reduced central government support for various projects and programmes in the district. The main donor in the district is World Vision which is running an area programme termed the Rusambo Area Programme.

11.46 NGOs are involved in the district and they are supporting a number of projects and programmes. Several projects, mainly income generating, mechanised boreholes with nutritional gardens, weir dam construction and various training programmes are being supported. There is need to coordinate all these efforts within an overall rural development strategy.

11.47 Several government agencies are operational in the district and they undertake development programmes and services at district level. Some government department need to decentralise to the district and there is need for government operating space as the current is largely overwhelmed.

11.48 The Council experiences problems of skills shortage in its own staff. There is need to consider employing skilled manpower as well as generally capacity building of the Council to meet growing demands of planning and managing the district.

11.49 The study methodology was largely secondary data collection, with individual guided interviews, stakeholder consultative workshop with thematic group discussions and field data collection through enumerator guided data fact sheets at ward level. Challenges were encountered in getting latest updated status reports on things like primary schools, health clinics and business centres.

11.50 Some old government houses in Chimhandanda and Rushinga are fast deteriorating beyond urban housing standards and they need urgent rehabilitation.

11.51 There are no community halls in the district to cater for all the new residential development thus there is need to develop such multipurpose facilities for future development.

11.52 During the study it was noted that there is a border line challenge which has heavily affected the traditional leaders. Chief Rusambo indicated that the border was distorted inward towards the Zimbabwean side due to the colonial government landmines. Thus with the demining processes there has been a clash with the Mozambican official who claim the land that once was in the chiefs jurisdiction to be in their custody.

11.53 Currently the district has not been spared by the national drought. This is evidenced by the crops that has been burnt by the sun. The district received little amount of rain fall which has failed to sustain the plants even the drought resistant variant. Over the past years Rushinga has been hit by dry spells which has strained the district food security.

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