

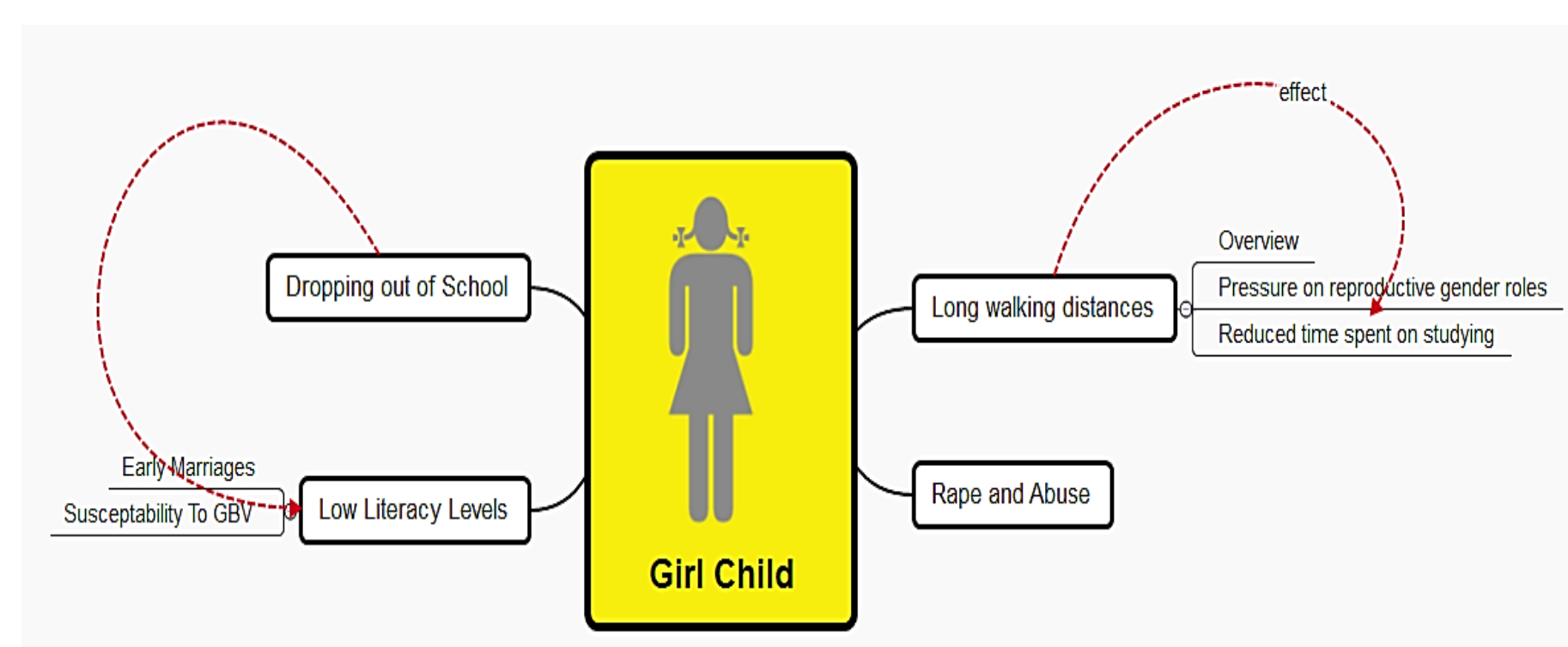


Water Scarcity in Women Economic Empowerment - The case of Magwadini

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Introduction and Objective

The Teakdale Qedudubo Women Empowerment Project is implemented by Umguza Rural District Council in Magwadini Village of Ward 13 Umguza District, Zimbabwe. This 2 year pro-poor development project seeks reduce long distances travelled to access water for women and girls of Magwadini who are often susceptible to IPV, rape, GBV and school dropout due to acute clean water challenges. Three in five school children are likely to miss school hours in search of water especially during the dry season. The overall objective is to contribute to women empowerment and livelihood diversification by improving access to sustainable and clean water supplies and creation of productive assets.



Target group and method

The project targets 252 households of Magwadini, Seafield Estate and Teakdale Villages comprising 484 females and 495 females. Preliminary and baseline assessments were carried out by the RDC through focus group discussions, interviews and use of secondary data from the ward Community Action Plan. Community vulnerable groups such as women and girls were purposefully targeted with the aim of achieving gender equality and empowerment. Local leaders also assisted in the identification, mobilization and registration of target beneficiaries. Data on beneficiaries was also sought from government extension officers from Ministry Of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), Ministry of Agriculture and District Development Fund (DDF).



Figure 2. Women attending a sensitization meeting

Results

To date , community sensitizations have been completed as planned. The project has managed to set up one piped water scheme , and drilled three boreholes in Magwadini. Construction of latrines is ongoing with facilities at superstructure level and expected to be complete by the reporting month of March 2018. Below is a summary of the key project achievements.

- One Community sensitization
- One Piped Water Scheme installed and functional
- Three boreholes drilled
- Latrine construction ongoing
- Site clearing for one nutritional garden is complete

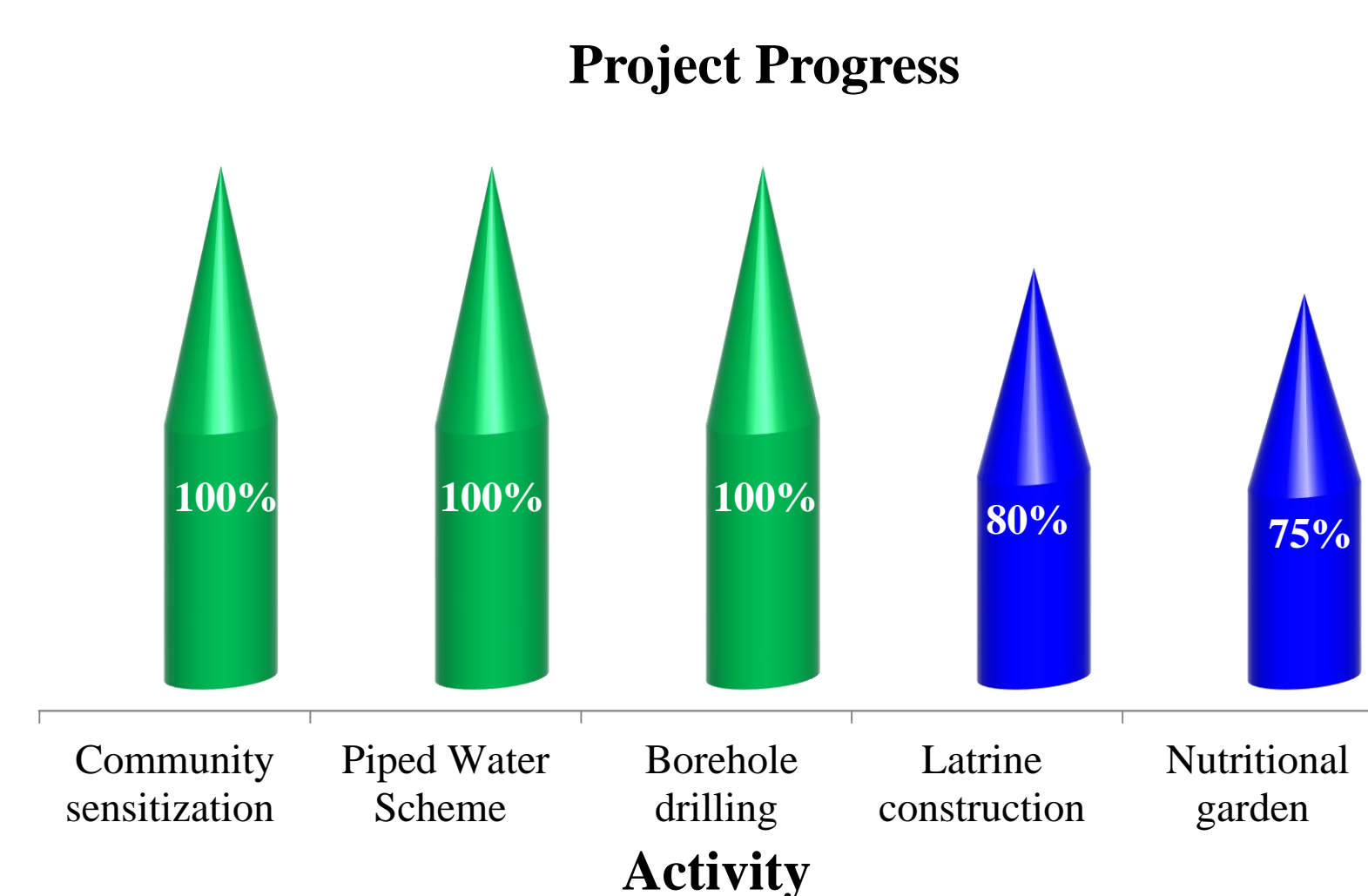


Figure 3. Project Progress



Impact

- ✓ More access to education for the girl child.
- ✓ Contributed to provision of portable water through augmentation of water supply systems.
- ✓ Improved community knowledge on gender and women's rights.
- ✓ Improving women's access to and control of incomes through horticulture produce
- ✓ Contribute to dietary and nutritional diversity through establishment of nutritional garden
- ✓ Improved community health care due to clean water provision

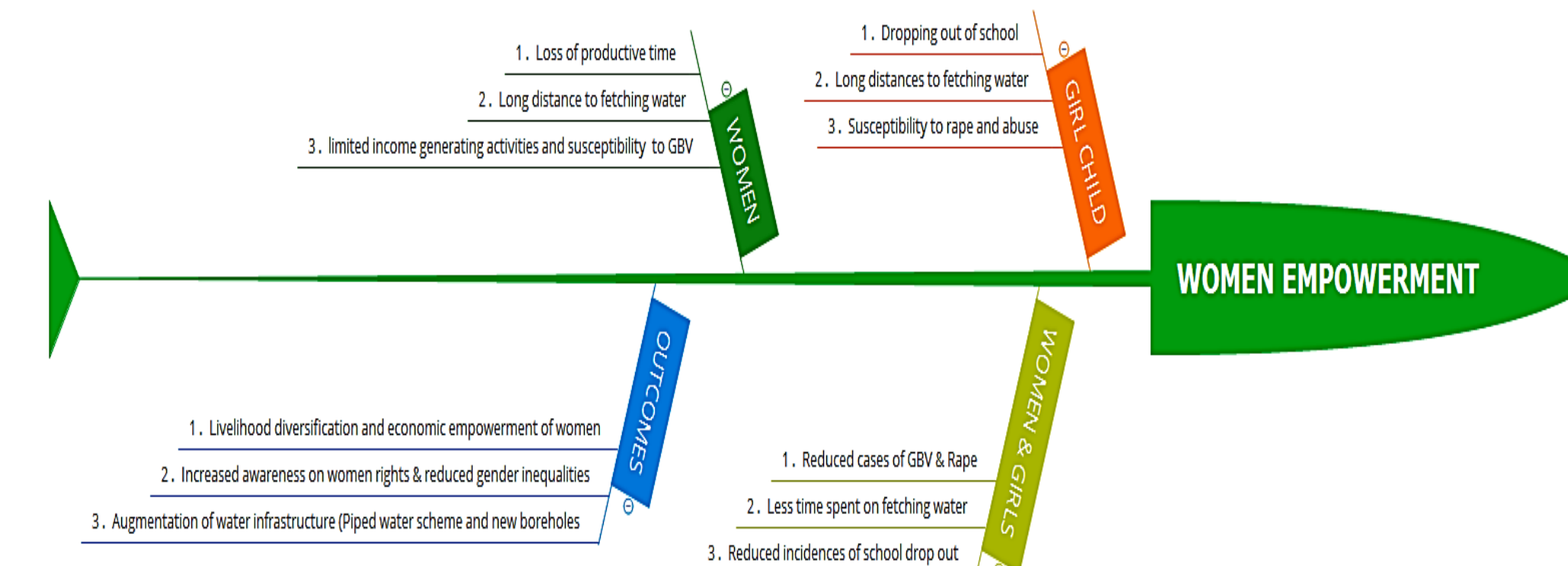


Figure 4. Project Pathway

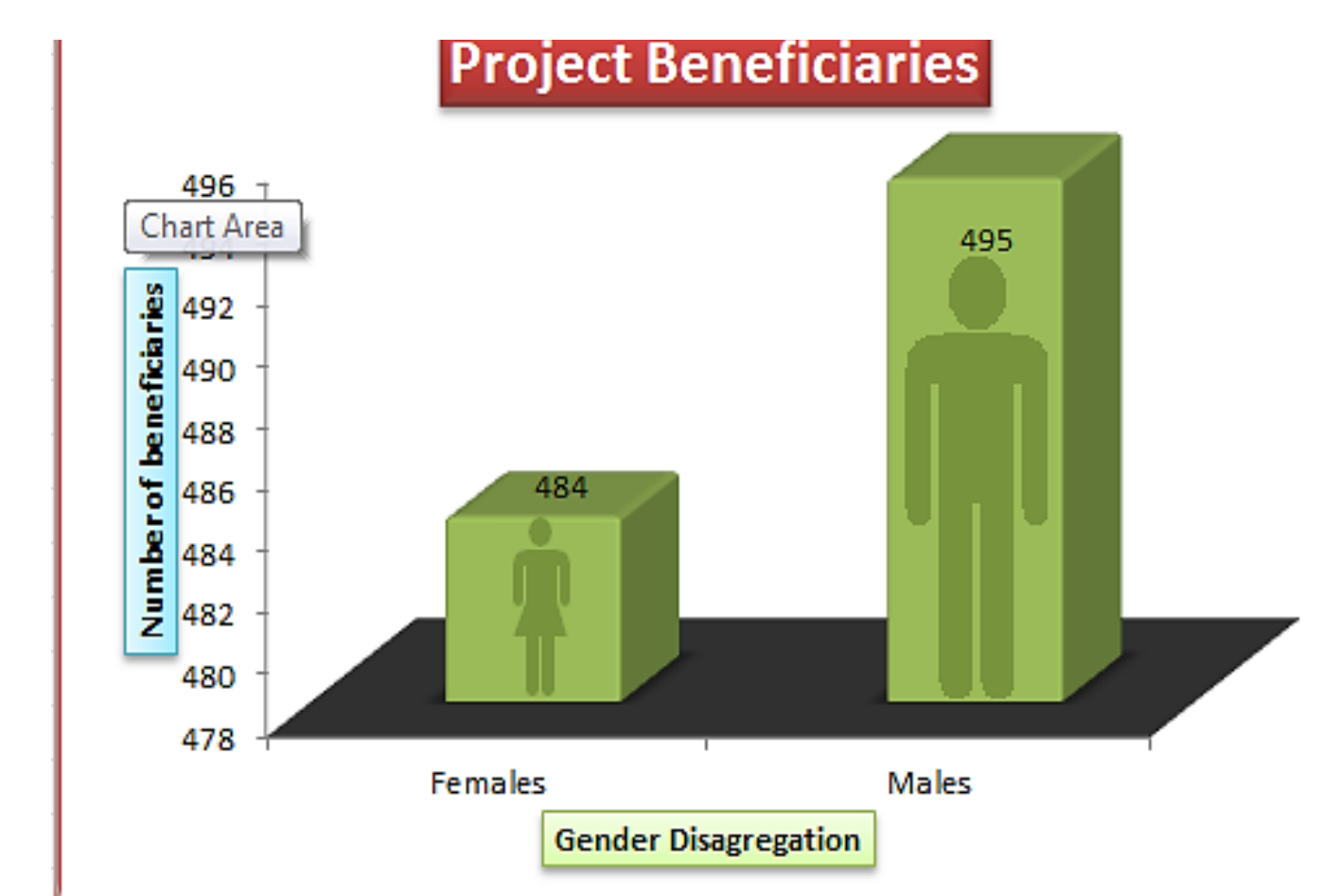


Figure 5. Project Beneficiaries

979 community members have access to safe and portable water resulting to reduced exposure to diarrheal diseases. At least 484 women and girls engage in productive activities due to reduced time spent fetching water and provision of productive assets.

The project has also contributed to improved gender awareness and empowerment of women and girls previously disadvantaged by limited livelihood and income generating activities.

The project has brought relief to women like Sipheshile Ndlovu, a mother of 4. She has to make sure that her children wash before going to school, and have enough safe water for household consumption. Her chickens and eight goats look upto her for watering. “ I used to take 3 hours to fetch water from a borehole in the neighboring village. In September we would que and sometimes the borehole would breakdown. This is history now, I only walk 300 meters”, says a jovial Sipheshile.



Figure 6. Newly drilled borehole; Magwadini

Conclusions

Results depict that clean, portable water is now available at a reasonable walking distance to the Magwadini community. The reduction in perpetuation of the ills and economic scarcity mentioned at the onset has reduced drastically as attested by the graph on GBV statistics as at 31 December 2017 .

The project has given a chain reaction as it has directly influenced emancipation of other projects within the area, like building of a clinic and pegging of a school so as to alleviate the plight for women and girls. Women no longer spend time looking for water but they now have time to engage in economic projects like market gardening and cattle ranching which rely heavily on water availability. There is a change in lifestyle for the better for the community

Acknowledgments

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For further information

Please contact The Chief Executive Officer at umguzardc@yahoo.com More information on this and related projects can be obtained at www.umguzardc.com

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