

SWISS HOUSE CHITUNGWIZA

RC AVONDALE



A team of six Swiss nationals were in Zimbabwe on a week-long visit to implement an agricultural and a capacity building project at Swiss House Chitungwiza from 30th September to 6th October 2022. These included; landscaper experts Jan Christen and Nevio Gloggner, the president of the Swisshouse Zimbabwe association Markus Löttscher and his wife Antonia Löttscher, Peter Bolliger and Michael Willi.

The project, funded to the tune of USD12 300, aimed at improving and enlarging the farming area to increase yields for the sustenance of the families with children living with Spina Bifida and hydrocephalus. It also included capacity building of five young local horticulturists and irrigation interns by Swiss experts.

The initiative was informed by the lessons learnt from the initial agricultural project which did not generate sufficient yields. The initial project was implemented from October 2021 to June 2022. To help improve project sustainability, the recent project focused on increasing the usable land and ensuring its irrigation; installing the drainage system with rainwater harvesting to prevent annual flooding of the fields.

Project activities included; constructing a drainage network for the site with installation of rainwater collection to prevent future flooding. There was optimization of arable beds in terms of quantity, dimension and location, setting up drip irrigation by laying the irrigation pipes from the tank, Consolidation of the access road, and optimization of the existing composting plant and Capacity Building of young African horticulturists by Swiss experts.

Zimbabwe Swisshouse is managed by one of the partners, Beloved Makina, who is also the President of Rotary Club of Avondale. The club assisted in the identification of the required tools and materials for the project and recruitment of the 5 local candidates for the capacity building project.

Commenting on the capacity building project, the Swiss House President had this to say; "This capacity building project was very successful and a fantastic example for further projects in the future, where young Swiss experts share their knowledge with African colleagues at Swisshouse Chitungwiza".

The Swiss team also had an opportunity to visit Mariele's Children home at Mhondoro, in



"Swisshouse Zimbabwe Association Markus (8th from left) and his wife Antonia Löttscher (far right) participate in the Polio Walk/Run organised by Rotary clubs of Harare in October 2022 during their Zimbabwe visit."

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"Rotarians from Avondale Club assisting during project implementation at Swiss House."



"Braai at mukuvisi woodlands with Rotarians from Avondale and Harare Central."



"Installation of rainwater harvesting tank at Chitungwiza Swiss House. This technology may become a model for similar future projects."



"People of Action: Pipe installation at Swiss House."

Zimbabwe's Mashonaland West Province, participated in the Polio Walk/Run organised by Rotary Clubs in Harare and wound up the visit fellowshipping with Rotarians from Avondale and Harare Central through a late afternoon braai at Mukuvisi Woodlands.

Rotary Club of Avondale is based in Harare, Zimbabwe. It was chartered two decades ago and has a membership base of 17 members. The club meets bi-monthly on Tuesdays at the Rotary Centre and also virtually. For more information, kindly use any of the contact details below;

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