

JULY 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



It was a privilege this month to welcome 60 new apprentices starting their journey with us at Ebenezer Matobo! Braving what felt like record-breaking cold temperatures, our new 1st years threw themselves into Orientation Week, finding out more about Ebenezer, playing lots of team-building games, going for a hike and spending a good amount of time huddled around fires trying to keep warm! With the arrival of our new apprentices, our new Ebenezer year has begun and lessons have now kicked off for first and second years. It's great to see so much eagerness to learn and across all subjects apprentices have been asking good questions and making confident contributions to discussions.



Our training at Ebenezer is not confined to the classroom and this month there has already been a lot of learning happening in our Productive Learning Areas (PLAs). Throughout their 12 week Foundation Course, our new apprentices will be rotating weekly around our various PLAs and as well as getting their hands dirty and growing their muscles, they will also be completing production journals which will encourage them to ask good questions and extend their knowledge and understanding of the practical tasks they are completing.



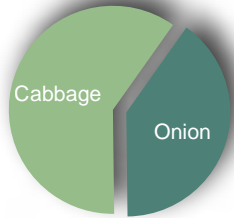
It's not only apprentices who have been trying new things, but our staff too! We enjoyed a Staff Day together at the beginning of July, reflecting on the year gone and making plans for the year ahead. As part of our day, we climbed a local mountain and then some of us enjoyed abseiling off the top. Well done to those team members brave enough to take the "leap"!



We love bumping into Ebenezer Graduates and seeing them thriving in their endeavours. This month we met Nkosilathi Dube, an Ebenezer graduate and ex staff member, who was selling his carrots at the markets in Bulawayo! Nkosilathi and his wife Silibaziso (also a graduate and ex team member!) are farming crops and chickens about 60 km outside of Bulawayo.

PRODUCTION

2.5 hectares under
irrigation



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We have been pleased with the start of our onion harvest this month. We have managed to hit the market early with our produce meaning we have received a very good price for the 1,000 bunches harvested so far. Our green house tomatoes are also doing very well and we harvested 1,000 kg in July.

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Our cropping teams have also been busy this month preparing land for our summer planting, and we are now ready to plant butternut, tomato, maize and watermelon!

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Thanks to generous giving from friends of Ebenezer, we have been able to install solar in our two broiler houses, and this month placed our first 10,000 chicks under the new system! For each 6-week cycle of broilers that we do from now on, we will save up to USD 800 in fuel generator costs, making our production more efficient and profitable.

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Our dairy production has increased significantly throughout this year. Thanks to a concerted effort from our dairy team as well as repairs to our solar and generator, our income from milk sales in July was six times what it was in February!

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Apprentices have been kept busy in our layer houses not only managing feed and egg collection, but also gaining experience in debeaking birds. It has been great to see first and second years working together to make the layer houses smart and productive!

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