

### Weathering droughts and building resilience

Judgemore Kowo lives with his wife and two young children in Moyosvi village, Mutoko. His family struggled to pay basic expenses because of persistent crop failure and diseased livestock. One of their challenges is a dire lack of water at the homestead. 'We have no boreholes in this area, and we barely have enough water to drink, let alone give to our animals and crops,' says Judgemore. Christian Aid's BRACK programme has helped Judgemore and his family look at their problems in a different light and realise that the solutions are in their hands.

One of the most important tools for Judgemore was disaster risk reduction. 'We learnt that to cope with drought and other challenges, we need to plan ahead. We have learnt to analyse our situation and identify the major risks that we could face then we come up with solutions and put them in place to reduce the impacts of potential problems.' Judgemore laughs and says 'It was as if, in the past we were sitting under a huge rock that was about to fall on our heads but we were doing nothing to prevent it!'

To help with farming, Judgemore has been trained as a lead farmer and has put a number of demonstrations in place at his homestead including water-harvesting pits, conservation agriculture, mulching, and growing a wide range of different crop varieties. He uses these demonstrations to teach other farmers in his group. He has also received a Boer goat buck and this has provided a successful income for the family.

Another benefit from the project has been how it has improved the family diet. Judgemore says, 'We learned about the importance of good



**Judgemore Kowo and his wife showing one of the water harvesting pits they have dug in their field.**

nutrition, especially for children. This has motivated us to consume a wide range of different foods including wild foods. We make healthy drinks for the children and do a lot of food processing and value addition to make sure that we have a variety of good food sources all year round. Because of the increased range of livestock that we are keeping including goats and chickens, we are able to eat more meat and eggs than we used to.'

Judgemore says the project has initiated a total transformation in the community. People are collectively analysing their futures and looking at the community on a broad scale. 'We are proud of ourselves... poverty is being reduced and our families are happier and healthier.'

**Thank you for all of your support through Commitment for Life which is helping farmers to weather the climate crisis.**

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Participants gain a deeper understanding of local and global

poverty, hear stories of faith and activism that challenge the status quo, and learn how we can all take steps to tackle poverty together.

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