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AN ANALYSIS OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN A NEWLY RESETTLED A1 FARM OF GWANDA DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE: A CASE OF THORNWOOD WEST FARM.

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ABSTRACT

Water supply and sanitation are two of the most important sectors in development. Access to water supply and sanitation are basic human needs and rights. The objective of the study was to assess the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in Thornwood West a newly resettled farm in Gwanda district of Matabeleland South province in Zimbabwe. The objectives were to determine the percentage of households with access to an improved sanitation facility, adequate water supply, hand washing facilities and households that are within a physically accessible distance to any water source. Questionnaires, interviews and observation were used as data collection methods. Results from the study show that only 20.8% of the population is within a physically accessible distance to the water source and 44% of the population has access to latrines. In addition, only 14% of the population with access to latrines uses their hand washing facilities. Therefore based on these findings we conclude that despite efforts that have been made to provide water and sanitation facilities, it is still not enough to cater for the people in newly resettled areas. Although there is adequate water supply for more than half the population in Thornwood West, only a fifth of the population is M l within a physically accessible distance recommended by WHO. Furthermore, a majority of the population do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. Hence, newly resettled areas are lagging behind in the water and sanitation sector.