Manyara A. Munzara-Chawira is a holder of a Master’s Degree in International Relations (University of Zimbabwe) and a Bachelor of Laws Honors Degree (University of Zimbabwe). She is also a holder of the following certificates: Human Rights Theory and Practice (University of Cape Town/Bard University); Making Social Accountability work in Hard to reach places (World Bank) and Desktop Publishing. She also holds a Diploma in Content Management and Blogging (Shaw Academy, UK).

Manyara has over 14 years of experience working with non-governmental (Community Technology Development Trust in Zimbabwe; Southern Africa Biodiversity Policy Initiative) and faith based organizations (Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Geneva, where she served as Chair of the Food Strategy Group). She is currently with World Vision International Global livelihood sector as the Senior External Engagement Advisor and Savings Groups Project Model Manager, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Over the years she has developed expertise in the following pro-poor policy thematic areas: natural environment and climate change; agriculture and food security; disaster risk reduction and resilience; economic development; village lending and savings groups; food assistance; bio-safety; land reform; HIV; gender; seeds and intellectual property rights. She also has expertise in developing advocacy campaign frameworks of action and strategies including training to build staff capacities to engage on policy issues. In addition, she possesses a wealth of experience on social accountability and monitoring delivering of public services.

Manyara’s work has touched many lives across the Africa continent. She has recently been awarded a Finalist in the 2017 Africa Most Influential Women in Business and Government Awards. She represents the Africa Region in the Compliance Committee of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) from 2013 until 2021. Above all, Manyara is a writer and has authored a number of books on food security and agriculture including a book available on amazon titled: Bio piracy of Local Seed Varieties: Implications of intellectual property rights on smallholder farmers in Southern Africa available on Amazon and Ebay.
Thulile Chapa Bio

Thulile Dlamini Chapa is a holder of a Masters Degree in Leadership and Change Management from the Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK. She is an Economic Development expert with over 22 years of experience in implementing savings groups, training in rural economic development; women economic empowerment at the national, regional and international levels.

Her journey started in 1996 where she worked for World Vision Swaziland (1996-2010) as a Development Facilitator and Area Development Manager coordinating the implementation of savings groups. She then worked for World Vision Southern Africa Regional Office from 2011 to 2014 as an Economic Development Technical Advisor supporting the following 9 countries in Southern Africa (Angola, DR Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) to implement savings groups. As a result, she became World Vision’s champion to kick-start savings groups in other countries such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Solomon Islands.

Thuli has also worked for a UNDP funded project as a Chief Coordinator for Swaziland AIDS Support organization (2001-2002), also as Micro enterprise Manager for UNICEF funded project in the Deputy Prime Ministers office in Swaziland and then as a Social Worker for the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) (2003-2005)

Currently, Thuli is now the Economic Development Advisor for the Somalia Resilience Programme (SomRep), a consortium of seven international non-governmental organizations (World Vision Somalia; Oxfam; ACF-Action Contre la Faim-Action Against Hunger; ADRA- Adventist Development -CARE- Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere; ADRA-Adventist Development and Relief Agency; DRC-Danish Refugee Council and Cooperazione Internazionale)
Dr. Daniel Gilligan is Deputy Director of IFPRI’s Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division. His research addresses the economics of household investments in childhood nutrition and education in developing countries, as well as the impact and cost-effectiveness of programs in social protection, agriculture and nutrition. Much of his research is based on experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations. He also leads the research flagship on social protection in the Poverty, Institutions and Markets CGIAR Research Program. He is currently Lead Principal Investigator for an evaluation of the UNICEF Social Cash Transfer project providing social protection and nutrition interventions to poor households in Ethiopia and is Principal Investigator for an evaluation of the DFID-funded mNutrition mobile phone platforms providing nutrition information to farmers in Ghana and to pregnant and lactating women in Tanzania. His research has been featured in The New York Times, the Economist, The Atlantic online, Christian Science Monitor and Voice of America, and in blog posts at the World Bank and The Guardian online. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from University of Maryland.