

ActionAid Zimbabwe wins Sustainable Development Goals Award



AAZ Country Director, staff members and partners pose with the SDG Award

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) was on 13 September 2019 awarded the Best Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in communities of Manicaland in particular the impact it has made in its Women Led Cyclone Idai Response Programme in Chimanimani and Chipinge. The award came from the Corporate Social Responsibility Network Zimbabwe (CSR Network Zimbabwe) under its 2019 Responsible Business and Corporate Social Responsibility Awards for Manicaland.

Handing over the award to ActionAid Zimbabwe and Cyclone Idai Response partner teams that attended the award ceremony which took place in Mutare, Director in the Ministry of State for Provincial Affairs for Manicaland, Terence Machocho said: *"The award to ActionAid Zimbabwe has been inspired by the organisation's immense contribution and involvement in the upliftment of people and communities of Manicaland especially its support towards survivors of Cyclone Idai,"* Mr. Machocho was speaking on behalf of Dr. Ellen Gwaradzimba who is the Minister of State and Provincial Affairs for Manicaland.

Running under the theme: *"Shaping Responsible Business Towards the attainment of Vision 2030,"* the awards were organised by the CSR Network. The awards are based on the input being made by individuals, private, civic society and public sectors towards the promotion of the Government's Vision 2030 and SDGs.

CSR Network is an NGO which is aimed at raising awareness, build capacity, promote and support the development and implementation of best Corporate Social Responsibility practices in the public and private sectors in Zimbabwe.

Speaking soon after receiving the award, ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director Joy Mabenge said: *"We are implementing Early Recovery Cyclone Idai Response Programme and have reached close to 7 000 people affected by the Cyclone Idai disaster in partnership with community-based organisations such as Jekesa Pfungwa Vulqondo and Simukai Child Protection Programme."*

*"We are focusing on our humanitarian signature which looks at three areas namely; **Women Leadership, Accountability and Shifting power.** Women are taking lead because they are the ones most affected by emergencies.. [Read More](#)*



Left: One of the wooden housing structures put up by AAZ in Chimanimani District following the devastating cyclone

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AAZ Advocates for gender sensitive agricultural policies

AAZ, inspired by its feminist approaches, participated in the 2019 Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS) Exhibition from 19 to 24 August 2019. The focus of the participation was on the promotion of agricultural policies which promote resilient livelihoods for women and at the same time reducing the burden of unpaid care work on them.

Women provide the bulk of the agricultural labour in Zimbabwe which is largely unpaid labour due to the patriarchal practices in Zimbabwe. To address this, AAZ has been pushing for sustainable agricultural policies and practices to improve women's livelihoods, facilitate the redistribution, recognition and reduction of unpaid care work on women.

"If government provides quality gender sensitive services such as water for domestic use and agricultural purposes, it reduces the time women spend on household chores and in the field and they can now actively participate in the marketing of their produce, which is normally done by men. If women take less time in household work and providing labour in the field, they can at least have time to be actively engaged in decision-making processes in their community," said Joy Mabenge, ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director.

"As ActionAid Zimbabwe, our mission is to work with people living in poverty and exclusion, the bulk of whom are women and other vulnerable groups like youths in Zimbabwe, to achieve poverty eradication, gender quality and social justice. Our interest in the Harare Agricultural Show is to continue to push for the promotion of agro-ecology practices which promote resilience building for communities and the increase in the women's access to markets and income," said Mabenge.

Provision of women friendly agricultural policies is in line with AAZ's Citizens' Collective Actions for Social Justice Strategy for 2018-2023 which was popularised at the organisation's exhibition stand which was situated in the Rajiv Gandhi Hall.

The thrust to ensure that there are gender sensitive agricultural policies, forms part of the Expanded Bill of Rights which focuses on socio-economic rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe...[Read More](#)



Reginald Tafadzwa Sibanda an Activista Zimbabwe member attending to visitors at the stand

Lean season assistance programme launched in Makoni

AAZ with support from the World Food Programme (WFP) is introducing a Lean Season Assistance (LSA) Programme in 10 Wards in Makoni District of Manicaland reaching 50591 vulnerable people from October 2019 to April 2020. The 2019/2020 LSA Project seeks to mitigate short-term (transitory) food insecurity in Makoni District during the peak of the hunger period (October 2019 to April 2020).

The programme will be in form of a food basket given at household level and corn-soya blend porridge which will be distributed to lactating mothers and children under five years. The food programme will be complemented by livelihood activities aimed at strengthening community resilience for future shocks and stresses. This will also enable households to expand their capacities for either owning production or diversification of livelihoods. Complementary activities include training on nutrition (such as healthy harvest and Infant Young Child Feeding), conservation agriculture, income generation activities (small business management), aquaculture, small livestock husbandry, to mention a few.

Speaking at the Inception of the LSA Programme on 20 September 2019, AAZ Head of Programmes and Fundraising, Andrew Itai Chikowore said: "ActionAid Zimbabwe will work with key government departments to ensure the entire basket of activities is implemented effectively, [Read More](#)

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Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba 2019 Leaving No One Behind!



Gladys Mavhusa from Chiadzwa, Manicaland speaking at ZAMI 2019

By Andrew Karamaji, Youth Advisor, ActionAid Zimbabwe

Replete with an array of spectacular cultural and Afro Pop performances that highlighted the plights and hopes of mining communities, the annual Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) begun in earnest on 18 September 2019 in the famed City of Kings, Bulawayo.

The three-day gathering drew participants from the fraternity of nongovernmental organisations, holders of elective and appointive public offices, communities that eke out a living from mining, development partners and scholars. Being the 8th Edition of the ZAMI, the conference has maintained its role of giving a voice to the voiceless.

“ZAMI has been a platform that has enabled us to demand for our rights in particular learning on how to engage members of Parliament who also attend the conference. Through ZAMI, we are lobbying for policies on compensation in Zimbabwe and mineral law reforms so that we recover from the effects of mining taking place in our areas,” said Gladys Mavhusa from Chiadzwa, a diamond mining area in Manicaland Province and one of the women who attended the 2019 ZAMI.

ZAMI was organized by the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, Africa Forum and Network for Debt and Development, Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development, who are ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) partners. In the musical and literal sense, Hugh Masekela’s legendary steam train continues to ply our countries in the South of the continent—not least in Zimbabwe.

Accordingly, on top of the agenda were matters pertaining to the rights of workers, concerns about the adverse effects of industrial scale mining on the environment, regulation of multinational concerns as well as protections for small scale miners.

The Indaba featured side sessions which were tailored along the café model. They were intended to shine a particular focus on emerging issues such as compensation of communities before expropriation of land, enforcement of the laws on mining and the responsibility to protect the quality of life of affected societies.

AAZ led the pack on the above topical areas. Particular attention was drawn to the phenomenon of Illicit Financial Flows which manifests heavily in this sector in part because of its complexity and the porosity of existent institutions. Noteworthy was the attendance of citizens from neighbouring countries, their participation highlighted the similarities and contrasts between mining communities outside of Zimbabwe...[Read More](#)



Above: Reverend Tarwireyi of Mutoko speaking during a plenary session

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Seed Food Fair 2019: Provides Market Linkages for women farmers



Farmers were able to showcase and sell their produce such as sesame seeds and butter as well as buy new varieties of seeds from other farmers

By Nhamoyatanga Muchetu, Agronomist, Binga, ActionAid Zimbabwe

The Botanical Gardens in Harare were turned into an arena of traditional seeds and foods on 13 and 14 September 2019 as communal women farmers, seed experts and food experts congregated to showcase and enjoy various seeds and traditional foods from across the country. Over the course of the two days, farmers showcased a variety of local open-pollinated cereal and legume seeds from their respective districts.

Farmers had the opportunity to interact with farmers from other districts and exchanged seed and information in the process. In addition, visitors were given an opportunity to learn how various communities are using traditional seeds and foods to combat poverty and hunger.

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) facilitated the participation of nine women farmers under the banner of the Zambezi Valley Alliance (ZVA), a project under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) being implemented in Binga, Kariba, and Mbire. The project aims to improve the adaptive capacities of targeted communities through increased community asset accumulation and ensuring implementation of sustainable livelihoods and economic strategies and systems.

Achieving seed security is essential in building communal farmers' resilience to climate change and other natural shocks. Seed is the most important input which makes the investment on all other inputs such as fertilizer, crop chemicals, and labour be realized.

Attending the seed and food fair presented the farmers with an opportunity to promoting traditional seeds that are suitable for the project's operational areas and linking them with buyers of seeds and traditional foods. In addition to selling their produce, the farmers also managed to buy seeds of crop varieties from other districts with similar climatic conditions to their respective districts. It is important for farmers to get access to crop varieties from other districts as it improves seed variety in their own areas especially for small grains which most seed companies are not eager to invest in.

Among the seed which the farmers were able to buy were pearl millet, finger millet, sorghum, maize and cowpeas, groundnuts and round nuts. One of the participating farmers, Ketura Chipare from Mbire said: "I am grateful for this festival, I have learnt a lot about seeds and food varieties from other areas. Over the course of the fair, we have managed to sell and buy seeds from other farmers from different areas, with these new seeds I am confident that our yields will improve." [Read More](#)

AAZ teams leave an impression at the 2019 NGO games

It was a fun filled day as AAZ joined hands with other organizations and participated in the 2019 NGO Games held on the 31st August at Barclays Sports Complex in Mount Pleasant Harare.

The annual NGO games are held once every year in Harare. This platform provides an avenue for both International NGOs (INGOs) and local NGOs to come together for a common good and compete in various sporting disciplines with the proceeds going towards an identified charitable cause. Each year, different organizations volunteer to co-ordinate that year's games and the 2019 games were coordinated and hosted by Save The Children Zimbabwe.

The games encourage the active participation of staff in fun and healthy physical activities according to their interests and abilities. They enable staff from various organization to network and relax and take them out of the routine work environment. Participation of staff in the games improves work relations and communication back at work, leading to better understanding of instructions and ultimately leading to improved results and deliverables.

Organizations were asked to submit team members for the different games. AAZ staff and Activista Zimbabwe teams represented ActionAid. Games were professionally umpired and refereed. The ActionAid sports teams showed potential and competitiveness in the various disciplines that they participated. AAZ teams competed in soccer, netball, volleyball and tennis. [Read more](#)

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Seed Food Fair 2019 in pictures



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Project to create a viable goat value chain for small and medium holder farmers launched

Thirty anchor farmers and Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (Agritex) officers under AAZ's Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project attended an inaugural goat indaba on 18 September 2019 at the Henderson Research Institute in Mazowe. The Indaba ran under the theme "Transforming goat production to commercialisation" which resonates with the objectives of the four-year project to upscale and empower the goat value chain in Zimbabwe. The VALUE project is part of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme which is supported by the Government of Zimbabwe and funded by the European Union.

Key topics discussed at the indaba included breed improvement, goat value chain development, market linkages and trade opportunities, enhancing production and productivity, animal health and general management of goat farms.

The goat value chain initiative of the VALUE project was launched at the Indaba with the project Team Leader, Newton Chari informing value chain actors in attendance that the project was designed to address the prevailing bottlenecks to create a viable goat industry.

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"We are taking a systems approach in our endeavour to upgrade and upscale the goat value chain in the targeted districts. Overall, the project seeks to address constraints that have hindered the commercialisation efforts of small and medium goat farmers including use of inferior breeds, poor market linkages, regulatory and policy constraints."

Prior to the indaba, the anchor farmers and Agritex officers participated in a learning visit to Cader Amato stud farm in Beatrice where they were taught on various aspect of commercial goat husbandry such as appropriate housing, feed, animal health and breeding. [Read more](#)



Left: Anisha Cader taking the farmers and Agritex through the goat tagging process



Right: Farmers congregated at a goat race where they were taught the functions of the race

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Goat value chain integrators under the AAZ's VALUE Project dominate livestock awards at Zimbabwe Agricultural Show 2019



Renowned goat breeders Zvikomborero Farm and Michview Enterprises scooped multiple awards at the 109th edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show. The show ran from 19 to 24 August 2019 at the Exhibition Park in Harare. The two are the goat value chain integrators, tasked with building the capacities of small and medium scale goat farmers in the project under the VALUE project led by AAZ.

Zvikomborero Farm scooped the prestigious grand champion prize following a dominant display in goat and other livestock breeds. Overall, the farm received a total of 26 prizes while on the other hand, Bulawayo based integrator, Michview Enterprises received 4 awards for their goat and sheep breeds.

The recognition of Zvikomborero farm and Michview Enterprises at the Show presents a positive outlook for the VALUE project which is seeking to improve goat breeds, enhance organisational capacities and market linkages for small scale goat farmers. The upgrading and empowerment of the goat value chain will be done through organisation, capacitation and integration of small and medium scale goat farmers in five corridors namely Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South.

Through funding provided by the European Union, the VALUE project will set up a Goat Improvement Centre in each of the 12 strategic districts the project is being implemented as well as establish 2 Goat Holding Centres at locations close to the Harare and Bulawayo markets. The goat project is being implemented in Buhera, Chipinge, Rushinga, Mbire, Chikomba, Mudzi, Binga, Lupane, Nkayi, Beitbridge, Gwanda and Matobo districts.

Newton Chari, the VALUE Team Leader said “the recognition of the two private sector players as key actors in the livestock industry, did confirm that the preselected integrators were visionary, had much to offer and our targeted small holder farmers were only set to benefit.

An estimated 800 000 goat farmers are expected to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of the VALUE project's interventions in the goat value

Climate Change Survivor fights devastation caused by Cyclone Idai

In March 2019 Cyclone Idai made landfall, devastating the homes and livelihoods of tens of thousands across eastern Africa. Climate change is a major contributory factor to these extreme weather events, which are growing in both frequency and intensity.

Hilda Hlabiso lives in the Chimanimani district of eastern Zimbabwe. She is a climate change survivor, her home and community left in tatters by Cyclone Idai. Hilda's experience proves that climate change is not some far-off proposition. It's happening now.

Hilda said her kitchen was levelled by the cyclone, while her lounge where she and family were staying had cracked. Her crops were ruined. Her husband, who worked



Hilda Hlabiso of Chimanimani district in eastern Zimbabwe is a climate change survivor