

### Partnering to Empower Adolescent Girls for Improved Quality of Life

*By Nqobile Nkiwane, Information and Communications Officer, for Forum for African Women Educationalists*

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) in partnership with Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWEZI), Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and AIDS Counselling Trust (ACT) held a series of stakeholder meetings in three districts (Shamva, Hopely and Chitungwiza) to introduce a new project titled “Empowered Adolescent Girls for Improved Quality of Life.”

The stakeholder meetings were held from 23 to 25 July 2019 as a springboard to the 14-month implementation of the joint intervention.

This project aims to increase empowerment and improved quality of life among adolescent girls in Shamva, Chitungwiza and Hopely by implementing unique best practices and models to address three areas: Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Economic Empowerment (EE).

During the meetings, the consortium sought to introduce the project and partners, gain understanding of the projects that are already running in the specific areas and identify the existing referral pathways that would be essential during the implementation of the project.



*Vimbai Jukwa (14) of Harare during the stakeholders meeting on the programme for Adolescent Girls in Hopely*

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The stakeholder meetings were an eye opener to the representatives of the partner organizations as they learnt of the different levels of awareness on issues of VAWG, CSE, and EE in the different districts and also the diverse organizations which are already implementing other projects in these districts... [Read more](#)

### A push for ratification of the ACDEG



Between 30 July and 1 August, AAZ together with the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum co-convoked a National Planning and Review Meeting on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) in the lakeside town of Kariba.

The overarching objective of the stakeholders at the meeting was to appraise themselves on the progress made at the individual and collaborative levels in the ratification and domestication of ACDEG.

In the course of deliberations, it was noted that whereas Zimbabwe has made remarkable steps, there remains a few outstanding undertakings to make the document legally binding on the country. Following the approval of the Charter by both Houses, next steps are the transmission and deposition of the document with the African Union secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia thereby symbolising full ratification.

Accordingly, participating non-state actors, among them non-governmental organisations, implored the represented government commissions and state authorities to employ their respective mandates towards delivering on the remaining steps. In response, state actors such as the ministries of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs; Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Electoral Commission undertook to deliver on their functions.

In his remarks, Joy Mabenge the AAZ Country Director noted that *“we are coming from various locations and stations, but our individual and collective efforts continue to contribute towards the grand vision envisioned in the Charter. Our hope as ActionAid is that the implementation of ACDEG will contribute to the realisation of social justice in Zimbabwe.”*

From the side-lines of the convening, there was an evident air of optimism as the stakeholders agreed to pool energies and involve citizens in support of this effort. The three-day gathering was attended by forty participants. [Read more](#)



*Part of the delegates at the ACDEG meeting posing with copies of the Charter during a break away session*

# ActionAid Zimbabwe Newsletter

**AAZ Newsletter: June - July 2019 Issue**

**ACDEG workshop in pictures**



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# ActionAid Zimbabwe Newsletter

AAZ Newsletter: June - July 2019 Issue

## Empowering the youths through sport



Activista Zimbabwe Girls' Soccer Team participated in a Girls Soccer Tournament organised by the Rosaria Memorial Trust on 20 and 21 July 2019 in Murehwa, Mashonaland East Province. The Rosaria Memoria Trust is a local non-governmental organisation which promotes access to quality education, health and entrepreneurship for young people in resource-poor communities in *Zimbabwe*.

Activista Zimbabwe is a social movement of youths supported by AAZ.

A total of 15 teams from Shamva, Mutoko, Murewa, Harare, Seke and Chimanimani participated in the tournament comprising about 300 young women and girls. Cheering on the young women and girls were about 600 community members who included the local traditional leaders.

Running on the side lines of the Soccer Tournament were informative and educative sessions on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, teenage pregnancies, HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and Child Marriages targeted to the young women and girls.

Sport empowers and over time has been used as a tool for empowering young people especially young women and girls because opportunities to participate in sport are often reserved for and dominated by boys and men. The event was a successful exchange programme in promoting young women and girls' leadership, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights including prevention of child marriages and in promoting soccer as career for them.

The soccer tournament offered Activista Zimbabwe an opportunity for teambuilding and strengthened the Activista Girls' Soccer team. It motivated them to participate in future tournaments riding under the Activista theme, "Youth Solidarity Power".



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## High Court rescues Banana growing community of Vhimba

A landmark ruling by the High Court of Zimbabwe in November 2018, has brought some immediate relief to around 300 people of the Vhimba community in Chimanimani. Last October residents of Chikware and Mapombere villages were threatened with a 72 hours eviction notice by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Due to rapid intervention by AAZ Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA), the High Court stopped the eviction notice, ruling that it was unlawful and arbitrary. This is the latest chapter in the long history of displacement of people living in this remote but beautiful area of Zimbabwe close to the Mozambique border.

Since colonial times, land has been taken from the people of Chimanimani, including the establishment of the Chimanimani National Park in the 1960s. The boundaries have continuously been redrawn since the 1990s, leaving the community, who mostly depend on banana production for a living, surviving on fewer and fewer natural resources...[Read more](#)



*A woman from Vhimba sorting her bananas for sale. Banana farming is the community main source of livelihood*

## Resilience Building Programme Phase 2 reaching 45,105 households launched

AAZ in partnership with ZELA, AfroSoft Private Limited and Africa Breeders Services Total Cattle Management (ABS TCM) has launched the Second Phase of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) Programme in the Zambezi Valley reaching 45,105 households. Phase 1 of the ZRBF Programme ran from July 2016 to May 2019. The objective of the programme is to increase the resilience capacities of communities in Binga, Mbire and Kariba districts in the Zambezi Valley to withstand shocks and stresses in the event of disasters. The ZRBF programme has so far reached 20,210 households in the Zambezi Valley. [Read More](#)



*The livestock programme has increased smallholder farmers' income due breed improvement and linkages to viable markets*

### Pork producers set to benefit from ActionAid's pork value chain empowerment project

Players in the pig industry are set to benefit from the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project, a programme under the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme. It is aimed at enhancing production, productivity, access to viable markets and improve breeds. AAZ is leading a consortium which includes Mercy Corps, Braford Enterprise, Shamiso Farm and Pig Industry Board, specifically for the Pork Value Chain. The VALUE project is being funded by the European Union with support from the Government of Zimbabwe.

In total 56 000 pig farmers will benefit from the project nationwide.

The initiative comes against the backdrop of critical challenges affecting pig producers which include use of inferior breeds, unavailability of funding, high feed and drug costs, persistent droughts, high cost of compliance, lack of skills, insufficient extension services and policy bottlenecks. The project is designed to address these challenges.

One of the ways the VALUE project will seek to contribute to the transformation of the pig industry is the establishment of Pork

Production Business Syndicates (PPBS) in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West in partnership with the Pig Industry Board (PIB) and the Pig Producers' Association of Zimbabwe (PPAZ). These syndicates, which will establish Business Management Units (BMUs), will be tasked with driving the back and forward logistics, business elements and growth of the project in the two provinces.

“The idea behind the two Pork Production Business Syndicates is to ensure an efficient delivery of value adding business services to farmers in the pork value chain. This will be done through the establishment of business management units that will drive the commercialisation efforts of small and medium farmers especially women and youths” said Newton Charri, the VALUE Team Leader.

The VALUE project will focus on changing women and youth pig farmers' lives. Specifically, these will be targeted to improve their capacities in the value chain through provision of small subsidies aimed at enhancing animal housing, production and productivity, training, supply of breeding stock and stock feed.

There are four levels of farmers the project will offer support to. At the top there are two integrators namely... [Read More](#)



**Left:** Pig Industry Board is leading the way in maintaining good production standards! A worker at PIB cleans one of the pigsties. A consistently high standard of cleaning and disinfection is an effective way to break the on-farm cycle of infection and reinfection with infectious diseases.

### Zambia, Kenya and Zimbabwe share skills on gender sensitive humanitarian volunteering to improve programme delivery

A Skills Share workshop for three ActionAid International (AAI) sister country programmes namely Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe implementing the Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Volunteering (GESHAVO) project was organised between 15 and 19 July 2019 in Harare. This was done for the three countries to share key learnings and tools used in the implementation of the GESHAVO project.

The project aims to build capacity of the implementing countries on how to ensure that humanitarian work is gender sensitive and especially ensure that it is women-led as per the AAI Humanitarian Signature using volunteers. Guided by a feminist approach, the AAI's humanitarian signature focuses on shifting power to local actors, holding humanitarian actors accountable to affected communities and actively promotes women's leadership as well as protection of women's rights during emergencies.

GESHAVO also aims at building the capacity of ActionAid staff focusing on best practices on youth and women leadership in humanitarian aid and community led early warning systems. In terms of volunteer management, the project aims at building the capacities of staff both at local and national level to ensure a robust, safe and impactful volunteer management at all levels.

Some of the key learnings from the workshop on GESHAVO implementation across the three countries were that the project strengthened country programming on women and the incorporation of gender sensitive mainstreaming in other humanitarian activities implemented by ActionAid. There was the realisation that countries could do more with limited resources through integration of GESHAVO in country programmes. The GESHAVO project supported the capacity building of staff thus enabling partners and communities to have strengthened understanding of AAI Humanitarian Signature. One of the examples cited was that AAZ mainstreamed gender sensitivity in its Cyclone Idai Response activity by ensuring that women-led the emergency response.

By the end of the week-long workshop, participants appreciated the diverse ways that each country had implemented the GESHAVO including its incorporation to other projects. Among the key notable issues were on how to ensure that the deployment of the GESHAVO volunteers is meaningful to the organisation and contributes to the needs of the AAI partners and the community.

***“GESHAVO aims at building the capacity of ActionAid staff focusing on best practices on youth and women leadership in humanitarian aid and community led early warning systems.”***



Above: Participants at the GESHAVO skills sharing workshop hold up a banner on the project