



ActionAid Zimbabwe

NEWSLETTER MAY - JUNE 2020

ActionAid
donates PPES
to vulnerable
communities
to help fight
COVID-19





ACTIONAID DONATES PPEs TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19

AAZ Country Director, Joy Mabenge holding some of the sanitary pads to be distributed in vulnerable communities



ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ), supported by various donor agencies, has availed personal protective equipment (PPE) to seven provinces in Zimbabwe as part of the country programme's efforts to assist in the fight against Coronavirus, which has wreaked many nations, Zimbabwe included. AAZ currently implements programmes in Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Harare.

Of importance to note is the organization's thrust in promoting the protection of women and girls who are affected the most by emergencies as we respond to COVID-19. Among the materials being distributed to communities in AAZ operational areas include sanitary wear to benefit women and girls during lockdown. This gives women and girls dignity in the face of the pandemic and is part of ActionAid Women-Lead and Protection signature for its Humanitarian Response work.

On 4 June 2020, AAZ handed over PPE to Nyanga District Hospital situated in Nyanga where ActionAid is implementing three local rights programmes. Materials such as 1500 surgical masks, 15 x 5 litre sanitisers, 500 x 500ml sanitisers, 2 x 50 pack



Some of the PPEs distributed across the country by AAZ and above holding a sprayer is David Kamonere, AAZ head office caretaker



tissue papers, 100 x 500ml liquid soap, 10 boxes of latex gloves and 10 buckets with taps were distributed.

“These PPES should not only benefit frontline health workers from Nyanga Hospital. Pregnant mothers who come to deliver at this hospital should also be catered for as part of our women protection focus to emergency response,” AAZ Head of Programmes and Resource Mobilisation Andrew Itai Chikowore said as he handed over the PPEs to the Ministry of Health Officials from Nyanga.

Other PPEs procured by AAZ and being distributed to other project areas include sanitisers, surgical and cloth face masks, sprayers for disinfection, liquid soap, tapped and untapped buckets, plastic buckets and containers, work suits, sodium hypochlorite, tissue paper and sanitary wear for women and girls.



The PPE handover ceremony for Nyanga Hospital



PROMOTING DECENT AND SAFE WORK FOR HEALTH WORKERS DURING COVID-19

BY WINNET JOWA
PROGRAMME OFFICER, FAMILY AIDS
CARING TRUST ZIMBABWE

Dallia Matema Sister in Charge, Nyanga Hospital



Frontline health workers worldwide are at most risk of contracting Coronavirus. This is worse for Zimbabwean health workers as they are working with little or no PPE. The unavailability of PPE in the public health sector does not affect the dignity and safety of health workers only but also has a bearing on service delivery to people living in poverty. The rural communities cannot afford health services from private hospitals and hence rely on public health institutions. If the health workers do not have enough PPE they end up not motivated to do their work. This will affect people living in poverty who need their services especially women and children.

Nyanga District Hospital is not spared from the challenges of inadequate PPE that the public health sector is experiencing. It is a hospital which has about 200 workers and a referral centre for 26 health centres in the district. The hospital does not have enough face masks for staff.

“We have been getting two surgical face masks per day for the last three weeks. This week things have been worse as we were given two masks each for

the whole week. A surgical mask should be used for four to six hours only. It is not practical and safe to have two masks for a whole week. This means that the life of the health worker and that of the patient are put in danger of infection,” said Dallia Matema, a Sister in Charge from Nyanga Hospital.

The hospital has made some cloth masks to help ease the situation but the masks are not the ideal ones for a health setup as explained by Dallia:

“The cloth masks that were made by the hospital are not safe because the material that was used is not good enough to protect us from infection. We are just using them so that we do not have direct contact with patients but when it comes to infection control they do not work. It is better if they had a double layer.”

Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT) Zimbabwe, in partnership with AAZ has provided Nyanga Hospital with PPE that include 500 disposable surgical masks, 185 cloth masks, 70 litres hand



sanitizer, 92 x 500ml liquid soap, 1900 latex gloves and 200 litres of diesel. The diesel will be used by the COVID-19 Response team for the Hospital as well as to ferry staff to work. This is in addition to another donation of PPEs made by AAZ on 4 June 2020.

FACT will purchase more PPEs to support the frontline health workers, village health workers and community child case care workers as COVID-19 continues to be a threat in the country.

“We are grateful of what FACT Zimbabwe and ActionAid have done for us. They have made our lives easier. I will deliver my service effectively knowing that I am protected. I am also motivated to do my work,” said Dalia.

FACT and AAZ continue to advocate the Government of Zimbabwe to prioritise the protection of health workers by providing them with enough PPE to promote decent work for the health workers as well as right to quality health services for people living in poverty.

ACTIVISTA NYANGA MAKES FACE MASKS TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19

BY HAPPYMORE CHIBVURA,
AAZ YOUTH HUB COORDINATOR

Loveness Banda (top right) and Shyleen Chibvura (bottom right), both Activista Nyanga members making the masks

The vibrant and active Activista Zimbabwe Nyanga Chapter has joined in the fight against Coronavirus, a global pandemic that has ravaged nations, Zimbabwe included.

Activista Nyanga witnessed altercations between people and law enforcers regarding a new law on compulsory wearing of masks in Zimbabwe. Police officers have in recent times been pouncing on citizens found without wearing face masks in public. Part of the new COVID prevention measures and new regulations make it mandatory for all people to wear masks when they leave their homes especially when they are in public spaces. The Nyanga Activista Chapter organised themselves and started to sew face masks to supply Nyanga residents. They made a research on the production of masks and





looked out for the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and standards of making masks.

Activista Nyanga teams sourced for funds from individuals in Nyanga. They looked for a professional tailor to equip them with tailoring skills prior to them sewing the masks. Samples of the masks were done. The Ministry of Health and Child Care in Nyanga approved the masks.

Activista Nyanga teams are selling the masks for US\$1 for two masks to recover the cost of making them. The masks are being sold in Nyanga and are aimed at benefitting Nyanga residents. A total of 500 masks had been produced by mid-June 2020 despite Activista Nyanga teams having limited resources.

Nyanga Activista members want to ensure the protection of the health of all persons within the Nyanga District through the provision of face masks. Activista Zimbabwe is a youth movement with provincial chapters across the country supported by AAZ.



Primrose Manyanga (above), an Activista Nyanga member making the masks (above)



UNPAID CARE WORK AND LOCKDOWNS: HAS THE BURDEN ON WOMEN INCREASED OR NOT?

BY KUDAKWASHE CHIDZIYA,
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER,
DIOCESE OF MUTARE COMMUNITY
CARE PROGRAMME

Kuziwakwashe Gutu from Ward 13, Nyanga doing some of the unpaid care work that is not recognised



The COVID-19 lockdown has become an eye opener for men to appreciate unpaid care work done by women especially housewives. However, the burden of unpaid care work on women remains an issue. Historically in Zimbabwe, bread winners were men which has resulted in the perception that women and girls are care givers and inferior to their male counter parts. The prevailing gender norms have vilified and denigrated women as male subordinates thus undermining women's rights, limiting their opportunities, capacity and economic participation. This impedes women empowerment.

Men in Zimbabwe have busked in a reality fallacy that they are superior as they directly provide for the family while undermining the large amounts of time spent by women and girls on unpaid care work.

Despite lack of appreciation on women's indirect contribution to the family and national economy, unpaid care work is solely invisible across public policy and spheres. This has led feminist organisations such as ActionAid to push for the

redistribution and reduction of unpaid care work among women and men to promote gender equality.

The Diocese of Mutare Community Care Program (DOMCCP), in partnership with AAZ has in the past held trainings to enlighten women and girls on unpaid care work. Community sensitisation meetings on unpaid care work were done focusing on the Four R's - recognition, reduction, redistribution and representation. This is advocacy work for the recognition, reduction, redistribution of unpaid care work and women representation in productive work.

DOMCCP facilitated the formation of Reflection Action Groups. Members of these groups were equipped with knowledge and skills to stimulate dialogues as community champions on unpaid care work.

The community champions advocated and further disseminated information on unpaid care work. In Ward 9 and 13 of Nyanga, 140 community



Mutsa Nyabadza from Ward 13, Nyanga tending to her chickens, for family subsistence also not recognised

champions were trained with 70% of the champions being women. An assessment of time diaries was also implemented as a way of gathering evidence on realities of unpaid care work while closely working with Reflection Action Groups.

These champions in both wards, cascaded information on unpaid care work during community gatherings and organized meetings with evidence depicting that an estimate of 2 500 community members were reached.

DOMCCP project officer Martin Kanengoma said there is need for a paradigm shift on how societies value women's unpaid care work as it contributes immensely to the national economy.

“Women have remained invisible in our societies. Their roles and contributions are not valued as they are categorized as chores yet turning a blind eye on the notion that unpaid care work is essential for human wellbeing and for economic development. If unpaid care work is converted to salaries or rather valued from a gross development product (GDP) perspective, one would realize that unpaid care work is worth millions globally,” Kanengoma said.

Kuziwakwashe Gutu: “When I got married, I was told that farming is part of my household chores. I am responsible for the field and my husband helps me here and there. My husband is also responsible for deciding what we will

do with the farm produce and money from the sales made. My efforts are not recognized since I have no say on the profits made. I only work in the field and all credit goes to my husband, yet I remain invisible.”

The lockdown period has changed men's perceptions on the roles played by women as they witnessed the daily routines of women in the home.

“Vakadzi vane basa,” (Women have demanding responsibilities) I now have an appreciation of what it means to be a housewife. I used to shout at her whenever she told me she is tired, yet she had been at home all day. This lockdown has taught me lessons that without my wife's support I cannot achieve anything. She works more than a maid, yet maids are paid,” said a Mr. Kambeni after spending the initial 21 days of lockdown at home observing the daily routines of his wife.

The current lockdown has helped reduce the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it is a cause for concern as it risks compounding already existing gender inequalities and exacerbating Gender Based Violence (GBV) and unpaid care work. There are few men like Mr. Kambeni.

The burden of unpaid care work on women has become more pronounced during lockdowns. The burden of unpaid care work affects all women including girls. Women now face the burden of unpaid care work such as cooking, fetching water and taking care of children, the elderly and sick. This has made working from home virtually impossible for most working women.



GENDER SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN WORK EXPERIENCE A VIEW FROM NYANGA AND MAKONI

BY EMILY ABEL,
FIELD MONITOR, LEAN SEASON
ASSISTANCE, NYANGA

Part of the Nyanga and Makoni LSA team



The AAZ Lean Season Assistance Programme (LSA) team supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) endeavours to serve communities in a gender sensitive manner which enables participation and inclusivity of all people assisted. AAZ mobilized a gender sensitive team to assist food insecure households in Makoni and Nyanga districts in 2020. The Nyanga team comprised of 11 female and 10 male staff members who were headed by a female district coordinator. This composition alone enabled a gender sensitive approach to programming in communities.

There was high inclusivity of women in all project activities from being direct aid recipients as well as food distribution point (FDP) committee members. Amid the food distributions, entered COVID-19 which threatened the food distribution, safety of communities and the LSA team.

The transition to working in the COVID-19 mode was smooth for both the LSA team and Assisted Persons (APs). The FDPs were managed by women who ensured that there were hand-washing facilities and adherence to social distancing during the distribution. Women inclusion also meant that the food aid reached the intended assisted persons and was safeguarded.

A gender sensitive humanitarian approach entails protection of vulnerable groups in the community such as widows, single women and children as part of the ActionAid International Humanitarian Signature.

The signature focuses on women leadership, protection and accountability to communities during emergencies.

AAZ staff members distributed food to 92000 people in Nyanga and Makoni in March and April 2020. This was part of the organisation's response to the food crisis that has crippled Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa in the era of the Coronavirus pandemic.



HASHTAGS

#WE ARE GENDER SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN AID VOLUNTEERS.

#WE CARE ABOUT COMMUNITY WELLBEING

#WE ENABLE GENDER INCLUSIVITY IN OUR DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS

#WE WORK WITH AND FOR COMMUNITIES IN A GENDER SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

#WE EMPOWER COMMUNITIES WE WORK WITH

#WE PROMOTE PROTECTION ISSUES WITHIN COMMUNITIES

#WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE AND PROMOTE GENDER SENSITIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

WE ARE GENDER SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN AID VOLUNTEERS.



GIRL EXCELS AGAINST ALL ODDS

BY WINNET JOWA, FACT ZIMBABWE



Erica in a hat with one of her secondary school teachers and other school pupils supported by the Empowering Girls to Overcome Barriers to Education Programme



Erica

Erica, a 17 year old girl has passed her Ordinary level examinations despite challenges in her learning environment. She stays with her widowed mother and three younger siblings in Nyanga rural. Her father passed away in 2010. Since her father passed away, life has never been easy for Erica and her family. She had lost hope of pursuing her education because her mother could not afford to pay for her education. Erica's mother struggled to feed the family hence the only option she had was to drop Erica from school.

“I was hurt when my mother failed to enroll me to secondary school. I felt my future had been shattered and I lost all hope. Seeing other children of my age rushing to school while I was stuck at home pained me. I understood the reality that my mother could not afford to pay for my secondary school fees,” she said.

Erica went to the Nyajezi Secondary School head to beg him to help her find donors for her to go

to school, but it seemed fruitless then. Her prayer was finally answered when AAZ in partnership with three local rights partners in Nyanga introduced the Empowering Girls to Overcome Barriers to Education Programme in 2017.

“I received a phone call from the Nyajezi Secondary School head who told me that a new donor funded project had been introduced at the school which could pay for my school fees. I was very happy. I did not sleep that night. I did not believe I would start school soon. My hope was restored, and I made a commitment to work hard no matter what,” said the ecstatic Erica.

FACT Zimbabwe with financial assistance from AAZ paid school fees for Erica and 10 other vulnerable girls at her school from 2017 to 2019. The girls attended school without fear of being told to go back home for failure of paying school fees.



Erica speaking to stakeholders during the official closure of the Empowering Girls to Overcome Barriers to Education Programme on 4 June 2020

Apart from direct school fees, the girls were supported with school-based income generating projects that helped fund other education requirements such as stationery. The income generating projects were in the form of onion and poultry projects.

Read more here to get details on Erica's story:

<https://zimbabwe.actionaid.org/stories/2020/girl-excels-against-all-odds>



MEET, SHARE AND LEARN PODCAST WITH JULIANA MAKONISE

A CLOSER LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF PRECIOUS GOMBERA

The Meet, Share and Learn (MSL) Podcast is a Global Platform Zimbabwe youth-led monthly podcast hosted by Juliana Makonise, a member of Activista Zimbabwe. It seeks to challenge shrinking civic space by creating a platform where young people can learn from the lives of leading experts in different fields and sectors to inspire them to act on common causes.

COVID-19 disabled people to meet face to face. Therefore, the podcast, which is digital, made it possible for them to meet through the Face to Face, Share and Learn Global Platform Youth Hub Activity. It is recorded on Ringr, an online platform which enables people in different locations to record podcasts in studio quality, as if they were in the same room and is published on the Global Platform Zimbabwe SoundCloud and YouTube accounts.

In this second episode of the Podcast, Juliana Makonise (host above) interviews Precious Gombera (guest above), the ActionAid International, Learning and Knowledge Sharing Advisor. Precious reflected on

her life experiences and how she has climbed the ladder of her career under difficult circumstances. Of particular to note and standing out in her life were barriers to women such as patriarchy. She challenged youths, particularly young women to be the change that they want to see and consider investing in their personal development.



Precious said: **“Learn from those ahead of you, learn from your peers, learn from formal schooling or classes, learn by volunteering, learn by observing, learn from trying, learn from experts and follow them and learn by sharing. Never tire from learning. Learning is a journey and we need to excise lifelong learning for us to be able to fit into a world that is constantly shifting and changing daily.”**

This episode of the Podcast was released on 21 May 2020 and is available on the Global Platform

Zimbabwe YouTube account, Link as follows:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4hz2tL5xIY>

WHAT TO EXPECT?

The MSL Podcast will now take the form of a monthly webinar in which young people from across the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe get to participate, network, and interact with invited guests. The same webinar will be broadcast live on Facebook and the webinar recording will be produced into the usual podcast.

COVID-19

REALITIES: MOST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RELY ON ASSISTANCE AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Therefore, it is important to ensure respiratory hygiene as directed by World Health Organisation, constant cleaning of hands with water and soap or sanitisers and to disinfect handles, surfaces, rails and assistive devices. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to use hand sanitisers that have at least 60% alcohol.



act:onaid

NATIONAL OFFICE

📍 26 Divine Road, Milton Park, Harare
 ☎ +263-04-788123/5, 776127,
 📞 +263-772164449
 ✉ info.zimbabwe@actionaid.org
 🌐 zimbabwe.actionaid.org
 📘 www.facebook/ActionAidZimbabwe
 🐦 www.twitter.com/ActionAidZim
 📺 ActionAid Zimbabwe

REGIONAL OFFICE

📍 281 Chimurenga Street, Rusape
 ☎ +26325-3537,
 📞 +263-772395967

