



Electoral Promise Tracker design shapes up as ActionAid engages Parliament

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) organised breakfast meetings with members of Parliament and civil society organisations in Harare on 13 and 14 November 2019 to get their input in the design of an Electoral Promise Tracker that will help citizens monitor the performance of their elected leaders based on their electoral promises.

The meetings held at a Harare Hotel, was a follow up to a meeting jointly convened in November 2018 by ActionAid Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria in Livingstone, Zambia.

The meeting in Zambia, which drew participants from ruling and opposition parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe, public servants and civil society organisations from both countries was organised to share experiences on Electoral Promise Tracking and policy commitment with focus on gender responsive public services.

It was resolved that a similar election promise tracking initiative be reciprocated in Zimbabwe. This would contribute towards the empowerment of citizens, constructive engagement with elected officials' campaign promises and the progress (or lack) thereof. The tracker will be an effort towards providing citizens with reliable, accurate and nonpartisan information that assesses the status of electoral promises by elected representatives at both the national and local level.

There were mixed feelings on Electoral Promise Tracker from the Members of the Parliament Portfolio Committees on Local Government, Public Works and National Housing and Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs who attended the breakfast meeting. Most of the members of Parliament agreed that the tracker will empower citizens as the elected will account to the citizens and at the same time allow members of Parliament to review their work in their constituencies and improve their effectiveness.

There were however calls for objectivity when designing the tracker. ActionAid Country Director, Joy Mabenge said AAZ would not design the Electoral Promise Tracker on its own and hence the need to consult both the members of Parliament and other civic society organisations (CSOs). The breakfast meeting with members of Parliament was held on 13 November and while the meeting with other CSOs was on 14 November.

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Young woman defies odds

By Martin James, Project Officer Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe

Patience Muronzi (24) of Chitungwiza never ceases to astound the disability fraternity. She has exceeded society expectations to act against the exclusion faced by children with disabilities in mainstream schools and colleges to graduate with an Accounting Degree from a local university. Despite having albinism, she has been instrumental in advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in her community as part of the implementation of the “Empowered adolescent Girls for Improved Quality of Life Programme.”

Patience has been supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) partner Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) in partnership with Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe Chapter (FAWEZI) and the AIDS Counselling Trust (ACT). Albinism is a range of disorders that result from a reduction or absence of melanin. These vary in severity and often cause white skin, light hair and vision problems and which has resulted in persons with disability being left out of mainstream development.

Patience is a living example to explain to the parents of children with disabilities that all children are important and should be released to learn about life including learning about SRHR. According to World Health Organisation (WHO) World Report on Disability for 2018, people with disabilities are sexually assaulted at nearly three times the rate of people without disabilities.

Patience told the parents of children with disabilities that 60 % of people with disabilities especially females had at one time in their lives been subjected to some form of unwanted sexual activity citing the 2018 WHO Report on Disability.



Left: Patience Muronzi captured addressing parent of children with disabilities

Patience’s key note session on SRHR hinges on the need for male guardians to take an active role in educating their children on SRHR. “It was my father who guided me through the biological phenomena of the menstrual cycle. Had it not been for him, I would have led a very stressful adolescent life,” said Patience, a real-life model on how good parenting can shape the future of children with disabilities positively.

At her youthful age, Patience has been able to captivate parents, caregivers and teachers of children with disabilities. She has trained them on the need for them to provide sex education to their children. She said they should understand the physical and reproductive changes their children go through during puberty and adolescence and learn the ways to communicate their values to their children.

Parents and caregivers left the sessions conducted by Patience armed with tools and strategies for communicating with their children about SRHR. Patience has reached out to 47 female and 16 male parents or guardians in Chitungwiza in 2019...[Read More](#)

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Empowering a woman is empowering a nation



Above: A group photo of participants at the Women Symposium

By Billian Matambo, Senior Officer, Zimbabwe Diamond Allied Workers Union

The recognition of woman's entrance in the mining sector became one of the major emphasis at this year's Manicaland Women Symposium on Extractives which was put on spotlight by the Zimbabwe Diamond Allied Workers' Union (ZIDAWU) in partnership with ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ). ZIDAWU with AAZ's support hosted the second Manicaland Women's Symposium which took place in Manicaland on the 31st of October to the 1st of November 2019. The event was attended by more than 70 participants with the majority being women from more than 10 mining community-based organisations (CBOs) of Mutoko, Marange, Arda-Transau, Vhimba and Hotsprings in Chimanimani, Chipinge, Penalonga and Mutare.

Representatives from the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, Rural District Councils (RDCs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), community share ownership trusts (CSOTs) and members of the media from Manicaland. The women symposium, running under the theme "Empowering women in the extractives industry to eradicate poverty, abuse and inequality," discussed issues of sustainable development in Zimbabwe including the need for women to demand not only food security but food sovereignty. Women are agents of change in remedying challenges in the mining sector.

As the participants of the event, we shared experiences on how mining is affecting our livelihoods. Hence the training we received from different presenters during the symposium equipped us with the ability to deal with our day to day challenges as we advocate for access and control of mineral resources. Getrude Chimange, an exemplary woman who is the director of Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) for Mutare shared her presentation on how God mandated human beings with the stewardship of natural resources. She also said it is our responsibility to safeguard and become custodians of these resources hence benefiting from them...[Read More](#)

VALUE Project holds Goat and Pork value chains assessment validation workshops

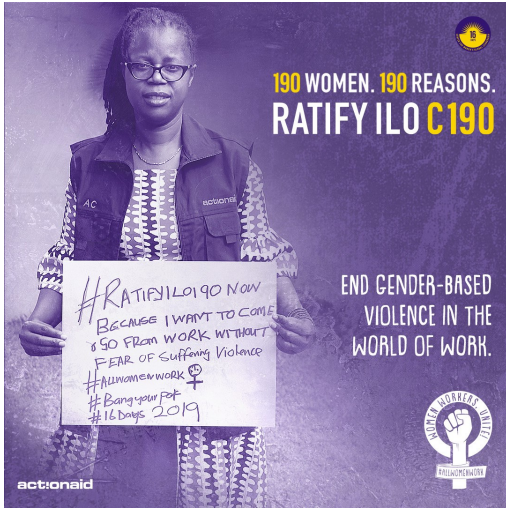
The VALUE Consortium conducted four validation workshops in Harare, Mutare and Bulawayo for its goat and pork value chain corridor specific scoping studies between 28 November and 5 December 2019 in Harare, Mutare and Bulawayo. The objective of the workshops was to share the findings of the scoping study with the relevant value chain actors, get feedback and validation of the findings as well as develop goat and pork value chain upgrading strategies. The input received from the value chain actors will be incorporated into the final report and form the basis for the development of the project's advocacy strategy, value chain upgrading strategies and baseline indicators.

In attendance at the workshops were industry players (input suppliers, buyers etc), selected lead farmer, government representatives (Ministry of Lands, DVS, AGRITEX, Women Affairs, Youth, ZRP, Local government), Rural District Councils, farmer unions, Livestock and Meat advisory bodies, farmer unions and project partners.

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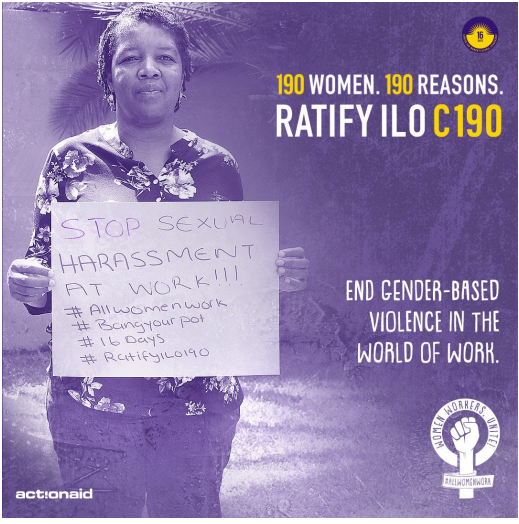
190 reasons to ratify ILO Campaign #16days

AAZ joined the ActionAid International Federation in the global commemorations of the 16 days of Activism on Gender Based Violence under the theme **End gender based violence in the world of work**. The campaign was called “190 women, 190 reasons to ratify the ILO C190”. See below pictures of some AAZ staff who participated in the campaign.



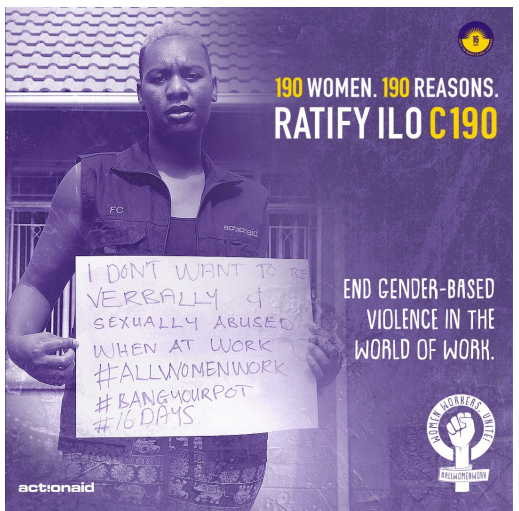
Takaitei Bote
Communications Focal Person

Betty Sithole
Empowered Adolescent Girls for Improve Quality of Life Project Manager



Delight Moyo
National Project Manager: Partnership for Social Accountability

Fadzai Chari
Business Development Officer Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund



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Mbire Youth encouraged to venture into income generating projects

By Yeukai Kaponda AAZ, Communications Intern



The Zambezi Valley Alliance (ZVA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Recreation organised a Youth Expo in Mbire on 7 November 2019 supported by the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF). The Expo which took place at Mahuwe Crop and Livestock Learning Centre (CLIC), which is an initiative of the ZRBF programme in Mbire. AAZ is the lead organisation in the ZVA Consortium implementing the ZRBF programme in Mbire, Kariba and Binga to enable communities to adopt, adapt and promote transformative change in the face of disasters droughts, livestock diseases among others

The objective of the expo was to bring together youth, government ministries and finance organisations to discuss possible ways to increase youth and young women participation in the running income generating projects appropriate to area. The expo was attended by 300 youths from Mbire and other surrounding districts in Mashonaland Central.

The expo activities included the touring of various projects practised at Mahuwe CLIC and hand over of certificates to various youth that undertook courses offered at Chaminuka Vocational Training Centre in 2016-2018, as part of the ZRBF initiative programme.

Financial organisations such as Empower Bank, Agricultural Bank and Micro-Finance Services were invited to provide some information to the youth on how they can access loans for start-up grants for the income generating projects. Many youths have been failing to run income generating projects as a result of lack of funding.

“As youth of Mahuwe district we want to thank the organisers of this event as it has provided us with the knowledge we have been yearning for the past years. We now have the information for one to access a loan or grant “said Arnold Chaumba one of the youths who attended the expo...[Read More](#)

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ActionAid Zimbabwe scoops SDG and Community Impact Award

AAZ has been accorded one of the top 20 organisations effectively implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributing meaningfully to the communities of Zimbabwe under the Corporate Social Responsibility National Awards 2019.

AAZ Head of Programmes and Resource Mobilisation, Andrew Chikowore and Women Rights and Economic Justice Manager, Rumbidzai Makoni received the award entitled “Sustainable Development Goals and Community Impact Award” on behalf of the organisation in Harare on 21 November 2019. The award was conferred by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Network Zimbabwe working in partnership with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA).

This is the second time AAZ has received an award to recognise its work in the country. In September 2019, AAZ received yet another CSR Network award in Manicaland Province, where it was awarded as one of the top organisations implementing the SDGs in Manicaland and its contribution to Cyclone Idai Response. The National CSR Network Awards Handover Ceremony was held at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) and was officially opened by the Minister of Industry and Commerce Sekai Nzenza. Over 300 guests representing various organisation attended the ceremony.

Running under the theme: “Shaping Responsible Business Towards the attainment of Vision 2030,” the CSR Network awards are based on the contribution being made by individuals, private, civic society, media and public sectors towards the promotion of the Government’s Vision 2030 and SDGs. Officially opening the Awards Handover Ceremony, Minister Nzenza said: “Partnerships with the various sectors such as private and business are critical to the government as it makes it possible to meet the requirements of the SDGs in which Zimbabwe is signatory to.”

Head of Programmes for AAZ Chikowore said he was humbled that the organisation continues to be appreciated for its work nationally.

“ActionAid Zimbabwe Vision and Mission work speak directly to nine SDGs such as: SDG 1 on NO Poverty, SDG 2 on ZERO Hunger, SDG3 on Good Health Being, SDG4 on Equality on Education, SDG5 Gender Equality, SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation, SDG 8 on Decent work and Economic justice, SDG11 on Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 13 on Climate Action,” said Chikowore.



AAZ staff members (middle) holding the award and the certificate at the awards ceremony at a venue in Harare

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Pig Producers Business Syndicates set to transform fortunes for small and medium scale farmers

Located about 15 kilometres South East of Marondera Town in Ward 23, Tarara farm lies on a spacious swath of land littered by various species of vegetation which break only to accommodate an array of buildings, giving the impression of a hive of activity. The worn-out dust road betrays frequent movement into the plot where one's attention is immediately drawn by the cacophony of sounds bellowing out of the pig sties – this is a pig farm on the rise.

The owners, Brian and Kimberly Nyatanga, a young and energetic couple recount the journey they took to establish the farm and outline their dreams for this project.

“This has become our new life and these pigs have given us hope. We are currently operating a 12-sow unit, our goal is to reach a 200-sow unit. In addition, we have plans to fully integrate operations, through the establishment of an abattoir and biogas digester.” Kimberly Nyatanga the co-owner says.

As with 992 small and medium scale farmers registered so far under the VALUE project, the hopes of commercialising their pig production are faced with a plethora of challenges that must be surmounted.

Kimberly becomes pensive as she narrates some of the challenges they are currently facing in realising their dream of fully commercialising their pig production. “The market prices for the product are very low, stock feeds and veterinary drugs are costly making it difficult to sustainably continue production.”

“I am hopeful that the coming in of the VALUE project will go a long way in addressing some of the viability challenges I have mentioned and provide a launch-pad for commercialising our production”

Under the pork value chain, the project will facilitate the establishment of Pig Producer Business Syndicates (PPBS) in Mashonaland East and West corridors which will have Business Management Units that will drive the development of viable pork value chains for small scale farmers. For instance, the project will provide market linkages, establish and refurbish abattoirs and cold chain facilities in the two provinces. Technical and non-technical trainings that include animal health management, localised feed formulation, leadership skills and pork business development will be facilitated to support farmer transformation. In addition, the PPBS will be capacitated to ensure bulk procurement of veterinary drugs through collective bargaining.

Watch more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rYvJVekPY8>



Tarara Farm co-owner Kimberly Nyatanga poses with some of her piglets

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Activista Zimbabwe Launches Youth Hub

October the first 2019 was a day of pomp and fun fare as Activista Zimbabwe launched a space for creative activism and action-oriented learning – the Youth Hub. The Youth Hub housed at the AAZ Harare office in Milton Park is a youth-led space for AAZ to support young people to convene, strategize and act on social injustice through frequently organizing and hosting network meetings, debates, documentary screenings, photo expositions, youth festivals and various campaign activities.

Under the theme #YouthSolidarityPower, the launch was attended by young people drawn from the Activista Zimbabwe Provincial Chapters across the country. The launch came a day after the 2019 Youth Organising and Leadership Outcome Harvesting that was attended by ActionAid Denmark. Evidently elated by this development and opportunity to have ownership of the youth led space to build their collective power for poverty eradication and social justice, one Activista Masvingo member Melissa Museka glowingly applauded the move, “I am already dreaming about how we are going to utilize the hub as young people. I see it as a space to unroll our innovations and nurture our dreams.”



Attendees at the launch of the Hub watching a documentary

Speaking at the launch, Joy Mabenge, AAZ Country Director said, “In our vision, the Youth Hub should be a conducive working space that allows for thought, reflection and innovation for young people as the predominantly target user population. We support young people’s movement building in various ways because they assist AAZ in connecting with communities in the social justice work. We put young people at the centre of our programming because the present and the future belongs to young people. It is our belief that the launch of the youth hub will solidifying the future and destination of young people.”

The Hub features workstations, learning spaces, laptop computers and interactive conferencing equipment to enable young people to pursue their interests, interact with and network with their peers elsewhere and innovate solutions for the communities from which they come. By connecting young people, networks and movements in communities across social and geographical borders Activista Zimbabwe will facilitate online communities, foster organizing, create new alliances for shared and mutual learning, solidarity and sustained actions on emerging issues.