

# act:onaid

ActionAid International Zimbabwe

# 2011 annual report



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annualreport

# Acronyms

AAI	ActionAid International
AAI Zimbabwe	ActionAid International Zimbabwe
ACPDT	African Community Publishing Development
ACT	AIDS Counselling Trust
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
Agritex	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
ALPS	Accountability, Learning and Planning System
ART	Anti Retroviral Treatment
AUSAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BUIYSAP	Bulawayo Integrated Youth Survival Alternative Project
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CAMPFIRE	Community Areas Management Programmes for Indigenous Resources Association
CCMT	Centre for Conflict Management Transformation
CD	Country Director
CD4	CD4 cells/T-helper cells are a type of white blood cells that fights infection and their count indicates the stage of HIV or AIDS in a patient.
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CP	Country Programme
CSB	Corn Soya Blend
CSP	Country Strategy Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWGH	Community Working Group on Health
DA	Development Area
DFID	Department of International Development
E Africa	Environment Africa
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission
E-FAST	Emergency First Action Team
ESMT	Expanded Senior Management
FACHIG	Farmers Association of Community Self Help Investment
FACT Nyanga	Family AIDS Caring Trust Nyanga
FACT Rusape	Family AIDS Caring Trust Rusape
FCTZ	Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe
FGG	Fair Green Global
FR	Food Rights
GAD	Gender and Development
GMF	Global Monitoring Framework
Gov	Government
GNU	Government of National Unity
GPA	Global Political Agreement
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HROD	Human Resources and Organisational Development
HRPII	Humanitarian Reform Project, Phase II
HBC	Home Based Care

IGA	Income Generating Activity
IGT	International Governance Team
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPD	International Partnership Development
ISAL	Internal Savings and Lending
IT	Information Technology
LDP	Local Development Programme
LIG	Low Input Garden
LDGA	Lower Guruve Development Association
NDH	New Dawn of Hope
MAC	Matabeleland AIDS Council
MASO	Midlands AIDS Support Organisation
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Association
NIZA	Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NYDT	National Youth Development Association
PRRP	Participatory, Review and Reflection Process
PLWHA	People Living with HIV and AIDS
PRP	Protracted Relief Programme
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
RDA	Regional Development Area
RDC	Rural District Council
RDZ	Restless Development in Zimbabwe
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy Through Empowering Community
RWA	Rural Women Assembly
SDC	School Development Committee
SIRDC	Scientific Institute of Research, Development and Cooperation
STAR	Societies Tracking AIDS Through Rights
TB	Tuberculosis
TOLACCO	Tonga Language and Culture Committee
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VIDCO	Village Development Committee
WCoZ	Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
WASH	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WiPSU	Women in Politics Support Unit
WADCO	Ward AIDS Action Committees
WLZ	Women and Land in Zimbabwe
YAT	Youth Agenda Trust
WOLAR	Women's Land Rights
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZBC	Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation
ZCC	Zinyangeni Christian Trust
ZDCP	Zimbabwe Decentralised Co-operation Programme



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ZILPA	Zimbabwe Indigenous Language Promotion Association
ZIMCODD	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development
ZFU	Zimbabwe Farmers' Union
ZELA	Zimbabwe Environment Law Association
ZESN	Zimbabwe Election Support Network
Zimrights	Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
ZNA	Zimbabwe National Army
ZPP	Zimbabwe Peace Project
ZIYEN	Zimbabwe Youth Environment Network
ZWRCN	Zimbabwe Women Resource Centre and Network



## Political and socio-economic context

Since the last quarter of 2010 there has been increasing political tension among the main political parties that is, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU PF) and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). This is mainly due to the limited progress in the implementation of critical institutional and legal reforms outlined in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). There are also sharp differences between ZANU PF and MDC politicians and civil society organisations on the process and content of the new Constitution and the timing of the Referendum and next general elections. It is feared that without credible and enforceable reforms, the country faces the prospect of entrenched polarisation and crisis.

Although the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe was stable in 2011, the situation remained fragile due to the continued threat of diseases outbreaks and food insecurity affecting about 1.026 million people in six of the country's ten provinces. Highly vulnerable groups mainly include child-headed households, female-headed households, and the chronically ill, internally displaced people, returned immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It is estimated that 3 million Zimbabweans are living abroad and that the majority of them are in living South Africa and Botswana. The status of most of Zimbabwean immigrants is irregular and they have been threatened with deportation. About 2,500 Zimbabweans were deported from Botswana per month while about 6,000 per month were deported from South Africa in 2011. The country has also been affected by mixed migration flows of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who are fleeing conflicts, drought and

serious economic challenges from the Great Lakes and Horn Africa region.<sup>1</sup>

The cost of living for the majority of ordinary people in Zimbabwe remained high in 2011, particularly pensioners, farm workers and the unemployed. The Poverty Datum line was estimated to be about USD540 in 2011. Unemployment still remains high at over 60%. The majority of workers who are formally employed in the private and public sectors earn wages below this figure. For example, most of the civil servants were earning an average monthly salary of USD250 while workers in the agricultural sector were earning USD44 in 2011. The dollarization of the economy has negatively affected the payments for pensioners, most of whom are earning payments of about USD40.<sup>2</sup>

The quality of social services such as health, education, water, sanitation has remained low in most communities mainly due to the limited capacity of the public sector to provide the services. In 2011, the education sector continued to face challenges such as poorly maintained infrastructure in schools, low motivation among teachers due to poor remuneration, high child to teacher ratio and high levels of school drop outs due to increased levies

and fees in schools. The increasing cost of health services has meant that the majority of poor people in both urban and rural areas are failing to access quality health care. The health sector also faces challenges poorly maintained health facilities and the high brain drain due to low remuneration among health workers. The low coverage of basic health care has led to rising maternal and child mortality, while the HIV and AIDS prevalence which stands at 13.7% continue to substantially increase vulnerabilities among people in Zimbabwe.<sup>3</sup>

While the incidence has significantly decreased compared to previous years, localised outbreaks continued in 2011. This is mainly attributed to poor infrastructure for water, sanitation, hygiene and health. About 30% of rural Zimbabweans are still drinking water from unprotected sources and therefore exposed to waterborne diseases. In the last quarter of 2011, diseases such as typhoid, dysentery and watery diarrhoea were reported to have reached epidemic levels in Zimbabwe. This is due to water shortages resulting from dilapidated water and sanitation infrastructure particularly in the densely populated urban areas in Harare and Chitungwiza municipalities.<sup>4</sup>



Woman at work

<sup>1</sup>UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Consolidated Appeal 2012 for Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup>IRIN News, 23 December, 2011. ZIMBABWE: Where pensions can mean poverty (<http://www.irinnews.org>)

<sup>3</sup>UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Consolidated Appeal 2012 for Zimbabwe

<sup>4</sup>IRIN News, 12 December, 2011. ZIMBABWE: Is another cholera epidemic on the way? (<http://www.irinnews.org>)

## Programmes implemented

The year under review saw AAI Zimbabwe implementing various programmes in line with 2010 Local Development Programmes (LDPs) and Strategic partners Participatory, Review and Reflection Processes (PRRPs). The socio-political context in Zimbabwe and the AAI Global priorities for 2011 also informed programme design. This report presents a summary of the impact made by the various programmes implemented in 2011. It also presents impact stories which give reflections on the most significant and powerful impact that the Country Programme (CP) cumulatively recorded between 2005 when the CP was established and until 2011. The stories indicate the changes in the lives of poor and excluded people (women farmers, children, women living with HIV and AIDS, and their communities) as a result of support from AAI Zimbabwe and its partners. They seek to demonstrate how the observed changes have come about and challenges in securing the desired changes. The stories seek to deepen our understanding of the relevance and effectiveness of AAI strategies and tools such as the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) within a fragile political environment.

### Right to a life of dignity in the face of HIV and AIDS

The Right to a life of dignity in the face of HIV and AIDS programme was implemented in LDPs as well as project areas. LDP programmes focused more on the Society Tackling HIV through rights (STAR circles) where communities were provided with skills, knowledge through trainings and awareness programmes that helped communities cope with HIV and AIDS. Communities formed HIV and AIDS support groups which were also involved in income generating activities (IGAs) whose proceeds were ploughed back to the community and in particular to adults and children infected or affected by HIV and AIDS.

The year saw AAI Zimbabwe implementing the Protracted Relief Programme (PRP) in Chinhoi, Rusape, Harare, Gweru and Bulawayo urban areas of Zimbabwe in partnership with seven AIDS service organizations. The project targeted urban poor households infected or affected by HIV and AIDS and these often face challenges of food insecurity and who also lack access to professional health services. This project was designed to reduce extreme urban poverty through supporting community led initiatives which promote food and livelihood security of poor and vulnerable urban households affected by HIV and AIDS. The project comprised four categories with different interventions and activities feeding into each of them. These include food security and livelihoods, Water and Sanitation Hygiene [WASH], social protection and community home based care. All interventions were implemented in an integrated manner so as to build synergies of impact between the interventions.

Cash transfers and corn soya blend (CSB) ensured immediate food and cash

demands were met giving households space to engage in other long term livelihood activities. Monitoring of the use of money from cash transfers showed that most beneficiaries used the cash to pay school fees for their children and to buy food. Also because of the cash transfer, some households managed to participate in Internal Savings and landing clubs, an exit strategy to the cash transfers. Treatment vouchers were also a major highlight of the PRP in 2011. Access to professional health services has become very limiting especially to the poor urban households due to high fees being charged. People living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) needed regular contact with health practitioners for periodic check-ups and management of opportunistic infections. The use of treatment vouchers enabled beneficiaries to consult with doctors, go for regular CD4 counts, have access to prescribed drugs and also improved access to specialized tests like liver function tests and x-rays. This improved the health status of most of the beneficiaries who had access to this facility giving them confidence to engage in long term livelihoods activities.



Income generating activities such as sewing helped women to look after their families. Here, school pupils from Rusununguko Primary School in Chiendambuya, Makoni District, wear some of the uniforms sewn by women groups.



Most beneficiaries under the PRP were out of employment due to the effects of the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy from year 2000 to 2008 which saw most people lose their jobs. Most of them infected/affected by HIV and AIDS and therefore had very little livelihood options. Through the PRP, beneficiaries were trained in Internal savings and landing [ISAL] where beneficiaries organized themselves into groups which contributed savings towards a fund. This fund would be available to the group members to borrow from. Over time, the fund would grow in

value and beneficiaries can access capital to start up income generating activities. In 2011, this initiative saw most beneficiaries engaging in different types of income generating activities due to increased access to working capital as a result of the ISALs. Vending and cross border trading were the most common types of IGAs being done by the majority of the groups. We however also had some beneficiaries who are into designing and sawing, gardening and chicken rearing.

The major learning point from PRP for the year was that, ISALs promoted a lot of

illegal vending. This was primarily because of the low values of capital that could be raised by ISAL clubs. This also translated to low returns which didn't meet the household's cash requirements. There is therefore need to have resources to boost capital generated by ISALs for the club members to engage in 'bigger' projects which have a potential to generate more returns. There is also need to be in consultation with key stakeholders like the town councils who would give advice and help in interpreting rules and by-laws which govern the operation of various IGAs.

## Right to a life of dignity in the face of HIV and AIDS story of change

### A New lease on life

*"When my two sons died leaving me with four grandchildren, I knew my life had changed. I am 71 and I live with my 75 year old husband, our 4 grandchildren and a daughter who suffers from tuberculosis (TB). My relationship with New Dawn of Hope (NDH) began when NDH home-based caregivers began looking after my two chronically ill sons. They helped me to bath them and also provided me with soap, towel and medicines. My two sons eventually passed away and I was left with four (4) grandchildren to take care of. Life became so difficult for us after the death of my sons who used to provide food for my household. It was very difficult to get food for the family. I always cry when I think about my children. Back then, life was so difficult for my family.*

*When NDH came to Mufakose, I decided to be part of their programme so that I could take my mind off thinking about my late sons. NDH helped provide food for my family on a monthly basis. When I started receiving food from NDH, I just said to myself "my sons are not dead but are still living". I viewed it as a restoration of the life that I used to live with my sons. NDH assumed the same role and this comforted me as I did not have to miss my sons so much. I*

**“ Joining NDH has helped me to reduce psychological stress and helplessness I felt from losing my sons and not having a steady income. ”**

*remember the first time that we received the food, I could not believe that all that food was in my house. I had last seen such food before the death of my sons. We were then transferred from getting food to getting cash every month. This gave us some flexibility as a household as we were then able to buy other household necessities. NDH trained us in setting up low-input gardens which helped us start our own nutritious vegetables using locally available resources. As you can see, the soil type here is not so fertile, so I adopted the container garden technique which ensures that we look for nutritious soils which allow for better vegetables. We were also trained on compost making which we have since adopted and we no longer need to look for fertilizers, I can't even remember when I last bought some vegetables since I can now get the vegetables from the garden. I am also now able to sell some surplus vegetables which I produce.*

*Joining NDH has helped me to reduce psychological stress and helplessness I felt from losing my sons and not having a steady income. Now I only have to look for mealie meal and my family is now guaranteed of a meal every day. I am like anyone else who goes to work as I am guaranteed of cash at the end of every month which I use to buy my household's basic needs. These days I no longer miss my children very much as compared to what used to happen in the beginning.*

# Right to Education

The year 2011 was an important year for our Education theme. After the training in Mombasa Kenya on promoting rights in schools and education financing during the year under review, AAI Zimbabwe rolled out the trainings at national level during the year under review. A total of 30 national stakeholders in government, education sector and partner NGOs, district level stakeholders such as education officers, headmasters, school development committees (SDCs) representatives from the eight (8) LDPs participated. The next moves in promoting rights in schools and education financing are to conduct trainings at community level targeting local leaders, SDC members, business and local government officers, then work with one of the universities in Zimbabwe to come up with baseline study of the situation of children in promoting rights in schools. This will then be used as an advocacy tool for promoting rights in schools.

Since most schools in our LDPs have classroom blocks that needed refurbishment, AAI Zimbabwe through its LDP partners repaired and refurbished 12x2 classroom blocks in Nyanga, Makoni, Hwedza and Nkayi. AAI Zimbabwe assisted the SDCs in these LDPs with cement, door frames, window frames and panes. The SDCs mobilized parents and provided pit and river sand, bricks and builders who did the repairs. AAI Zimbabwe also provided 480 x 2 seater desks

and benches for the refurbished classrooms. All these ensured that pupils' learning environment is safe from such weather hazards like rain, dust bowls. Their stationery is now also being safely kept.

AAI Zimbabwe through its implementing partners in the eight (8) LDPs also paid schools fees to 513 primary school pupils.

AAI Zimbabwe worked with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation and produced a radio programme series which was aired for five weeks. This radio programme was called "Mangamuchizviza here" (*Did you know it?*) and it highlighted voices of teachers, children and members of the SDCs. The programme also provided a platform where rights holders shared on radio the impact made by the AAI Zimbabwe education interventions among other thematic interventions. The radio programme helped increase AAI Zimbabwe's visibility and demonstrated sound programming in promoting rights in schools.



Giving a voice to the community –women from Nyamazira in Chiendambuya, Manicaland Province, during a radio programme recording with Sifelani Chikwape of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation- Radio Zimbabwe station

“ The SDCs mobilized parents and provided pit and river sand, bricks and builders who did the repairs. AAI Zimbabwe also provided 480 x 2 seater desks and benches for the refurbished classrooms.

In June 2011, six (6) LDP partners commemorated the Global Action Week of Education in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture where issues of access to education by girls and adult women were highlighted. One highlight of the Global Week Programme is noted in Makoni where FACT Rusape held a sporting gala for children from eight (8) primary schools at Handina Primary school. The sporting Gala was dubbed the “Local world cup” as it attracted many children. The prizes for the winners included textbooks, balls for various sporting disciplines such as football, volleyball, netball.

A total of 15 000 pupils in primary schools were reached directly and indirectly through AAI Zimbabwe Education interventions.

## Right to Education story of change

### New classroom block bring ray of hope to rural school

Pupils from Mupururu Primary School in Chiendambuya in Makoni District in Manicaland Province are aiming high following the building of new classroom blocks at the school. “I am looking forward to doing very well in my Grade 7 examinations as we are going to be learning in well-built classrooms. Most of the school's classrooms were in a bad state,” Dorcas Chitiyo (11), who was the school head girl (2011) said. Dorcas said she wants to be a nurse when she completes school.

Another pupil, Shingirai Mudambo (12), who is head boy for the school said: “We were learning in classes with shuttered windows and our concentration was poor during winter as we felt the cold.” Shingirai, who wants to be a lawyer when he finishes school, expects to improve his class performance from 11 points he achieved at the end of 2010 to five points when he completes his grade seven at the end of 2011.

Two classrooms blocks were built at Mupururu Primary School with funding from AAI Zimbabwe and facilitation by AAI Zimbabwe partner in Chiendambuya, Adventist Development Rural Agency (ADRA) Zimbabwe. Makoni District

Assistant Administrator, Ms. Mary Shaibhu officially handed over the classroom blocks to AAI Zimbabwe Country Director (CD) Dr. Tsitsi Choruma on 29 March 2011 at the school. The construction of the classroom blocks has seen children achieving their right to education.

The two classroom blocks will benefit 90 children who have been learning in dilapidated classrooms. In addition to the block, four chalk boards and desks were supplied to the school and were placed in the new classrooms. The school has an enrolment of 510 children (289 boys and 221 girls).

“Pass rates at the school have been dwindling over the years as most of the classrooms are old, dilapidated with poor ventilation. Shortages of text books have also contributed to the poor grades. The construction of the two

new classroom blocks has relieved parents who will focus on other infrastructure such as toilets which need to be rebuilt,” Mupururu, School head, Mrs. Dzimano said.

Mrs. Dzimano however said, while the school appreciated AAI Zimbabwe's support, the school still needed more funds to renovate or overhaul most of its buildings which had exceeded their life spans. Most of the classrooms at the school were built in the 1950s.



Mupururu Primary School pupils celebrate in front of the new classroom block.



# Women's Rights

The Women's Rights (WR) programme implemented various activities through three partners namely Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ), Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ). A few activities were however implemented directly in communities. The year 2011 also saw the strengthening of the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA), whose aim is to ensure that the voices of rural women are heard. The areas covered were Gwanda, Bubi, Gweru, Chinhoyi, Nkayi, Wedza and Makoni. The total number of women who benefited from the programmes was over 2000.

Gender and Development (GAD) talks were held in 7 Districts namely Gwanda, Gweru, Bubi, Chinhoyi, Wedza, Makoni and Nkayi. A total of 1726 women and men (1526 women and 200 men) participated in the GAD talks which were organised by Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ), a partner to AAI Zimbabwe. The purpose of the talks was to create a platform for communities to discuss gender issues affecting women and men in rural areas and to lobby and advocate for these gender issues. Representatives from Government Ministries and Civil society participated in the talks. Validation of Gender talks were also held at national level to engage



Zimbabwe women who attended the international climate change COP 17 summit in Durban in December 2011 where they spoke about the effects of climate change on their farms and families.

women farmers, network members, women's organizations and representatives from relevant ministries in line with the outcomes of the discussions during the GAD talks.

There was greater appreciation of the rural women challenges by various stakeholders, including Chiefs during the GAD talks. The case of a woman in Chiundura, Midlands province whose husband had died and had a wrangle with her in laws who wanted to take over her home and send her back to her parents presented a milestone for the community. Chief Gambiza of Chiundura, who was then aware of the issue ruled in favour of the woman and she has since remained on her property and none of her inheritance was taken away from her. More women now hold decision making positions where GAD talks have taken place. The GAD talks in Chiundura for instance motivated the local Chief Gambiza to involve women in his court to deliberate on issues that affect women. Commitments were also

made to work on the improvements of women's livelihoods by addressing land ownership issues, access to markets, ownership of farming implements, conservation agriculture, gender based violence and cultural values which oppress women.

Two policy briefings which focused on reviewing the national land and gender policies were conducted and attended by representatives from different stakeholders including Government Ministries. A workshop on Gender Budgeting for Members of Parliament was also run by ZWRCN. The impact of the workshop was that stakeholders became more aware of issues affecting women. The workshop also created a platform for lobbying and advocating for policy change in favour of women. As parliamentarians participated, they showed that they appreciated the situation of women more and understand the real challenges from the affected women so as to take appropriate action when they go to parliament.

“ The impact of the workshop was that stakeholders became more aware of issues affecting women. ”

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# Rural Women's Assembly (RWA)

RWA, an assembly or umbrella body of all interested rural women was set up to ensure that the voices of rural women are heard and to further their interest continued to be strengthened. Rural women ran a lot of profitable projects under RWA, like "Pass on the Gift" goat and cash projects, poultry keeping, preparing and selling cool drinks, drying vegetables and value addition of food products. RWA also provided a forum to exchange ideas, share information and allow the voices of rural women to be heard. Livelihoods in the rural homes changed as the income level increased. Nutrition improved with proper diet from acquired livestock, flourishing chicken and gardening projects and knowledge of a well-balanced diet. Higher income levels enabled the women to send children to schools as they could afford the school fees. Hygiene improved in homes due to the knowledge acquired through community trainings. The families' social life also improved, they became happier and healthier as they enjoyed better living standards. Gender based violence began to decrease as the women exercised their rights. More women also occupied decision making positions in community.

## Women empowerment story of change

### Rural widows in thriving business venture

*Edna Makuwe, a 49-year old widow from Village 59 of Nyamazira Ward is a proud entrepreneur in her community. Nyamazira is situated in Chiendambuya in Makoni District of Manicaland Province. Faced with challenges of fending for her five children and three orphans whose custody she took over after the death of her daughter and son in law, Edna, along with 19 other widows started a cool drink project in January 2011. Armed with entrepreneur skills obtained from an AAI Zimbabwe RWA Programme in November 2010, the group of women started making the "fizzy" drink that has become a household name in Nyamazira. RWA is a brainchild of AAI Zimbabwe Empowering Women through Land Rights Project being funded by the European Commission (EC). It is a coalition of grassroots women farmers which is aimed at amplifying the voices of grassroots women farmers to speak with one voice to influence processes at local and international levels. This is also a space for information sharing, creating market linkages, advocacy, formation of commodity associations and networking. The group of women including 80 other women from Nyamazira received training on value addition, advocacy and entrepreneurship offered under the RWA. "We learnt that a woman should stand on her feet and run money making projects even if she is married and the husband is there," Edna said.*

*The participation of the women in the cool drink project has resulted in them realising their rights to information and knowledge through the trainings facilitated by AAI Zimbabwe and right to food as they now use the proceeds from the project to buy food for their families.*

*The group received a grant of US\$300 from AAI Zimbabwe distributed through its Chiendambuya partner, Adventist Development and Relief Agency in (ADRA) Zimbabwe in August 2011. In addition to the seed money they received from AAI Zimbabwe, group members each contributed \$50 to boost the project's capital at the beginning.*

*The drinks are made from concentrates and colorants and other raw materials the group obtains from wholesales in Harare. They use water from a nearby borehole which was rehabilitated by AAI Zimbabwe. The packaging is done at Edna's homestead. By October 2011 the women were producing an average of 1200 drinks packaged in 500ml bottles each per month and supplied five local supermarkets at Nyamazira Business Centre, and three schools within the area.*

*By October 2011 group members were realizing profits, which they shared. Each member earned an average of \$200 per month. Edna said: "I as the chairperson of the group can now confidently run the business and make money out of it. I can*



Community exhibitions saw women marketing their produce

now take good care of my orphaned grandchildren- I can send them to school, as well as provide nutritious food and good clothes." She believes sending the children to school was the best investment she could ever have made for them, and hoped to see them through to tertiary level.

Other members of the group said the project had improved their livelihoods in different forms by August 2011. Levi Chikatora said she had bought two goats while Mavis Makufa said she bought two (double and heavy) blankets popularly called "two in one" and very handy in Zimbabwe. Prisca Masende said she is using the cool drink project proceeds to run a "royco" (cooking relish) and was supplying locals in exchange for money, maize or groundnuts. Enia Faratina said she bought a set of cups and plates for her household.

Loice Makina, head at Nyamazira Primary School said: 'The children at the school love the drink. It is affordable, as well as tasty. It has become a favourite with most



Edna Makuwe (third from left) and her group members show off their products during a ward level agricultural exhibition held at Nyamazira Primary School in August 2011.

children here." The drink was being sold for US\$0.50 a bottle in August 2011.

Other stakeholders in the RWA programme include the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) which links rural women to agricultural input facilities, Ministry of

Agriculture extension officers which provide technical advice, Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development for advocacy work around rural women empowerment and local councillors and traditional leaders.

## Empowering women through land rights project story of change

### Rural women farming project poised for success

A rural women group which started a conservation farming project in 2010 in Chiendambuya in Makoni District of Manicaland Province have started counting their gains before they have even sold their produce to the markets available.

The group, named Tashinga Conservation Farming Project comprising mostly widowed women, in August 2010 became part of the AAI Zimbabwe Conservation Farming Project which seeks to increase poor women's access and control over land ownership

and improve the food security and generally livelihoods of their families.

The Conservation Farming Project is popularly known as "Dhigaudye", which literally means "dig and eat". It emphasizes the use of traditional farming methods such as the practice of applying manure only on the "dug hole" where a plant species is planted to conserve the soil and the manure and this is where "Dhigaudye" emanated from.

The group comprising 10 women and one man received seed from AAI Zimbabwe to plant various crops including open

pollinated maize, groundnuts, sunflower, cowpeas and rapoko. After lobbying the local village head, the Tashinga Group was allocated a portion of land at the end of 2010 to plant their produce. Traditionally in Zimbabwe, land is owned and controlled by men although the Constitution of Zimbabwe says land should be allocated to everyone regardless of gender and sex. However Section 23 C of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Currently being reviewed) contradicts the right for women to own and control land as it respects the Customary Law of Zimbabwe which says land should be owned and controlled by tribesmen.



To the Tashinga Group, owning a piece of land for the group comprising mainly women is a breakthrough in the Zimbabwe rural space. In addition, each member of the group will be allocated portions of land each to expand the project as individuals in the 2011 and 2012 farming season.

The group's Secretary Agnes Mberi said in an interview during a field day held at the group's project in March 2011: "We experienced a mid-season drought in the 2010-2011 farming season and most crops planted using conventional farming methods were written off but the crops planted using the conservation farming method produced average yields."

"We were trained on various techniques on the conservation farming methods including mulching. We put some mulch in our conservation farming field and as a result our crops did not suffer from moisture stress," Agnes said. Local Agricultural Extension Officers with facilitation from AAI Zimbabwe, provide the technical farming skills to women farmers in the AAI Zimbabwe operational areas.

In addition to the farming knowledge acquired by the group, Agnes said, group members were trained on business management, budgets development, importance of record keeping and advocacy and lobbying and these were facilitated by AAI Zimbabwe.

Agnes said the group planned to sell their produce and use the money for buying fertilizer for use in the next farming season. She said group members would not buy seed in the next season as they would recycle the seed they produced from their group project. The participation of the



Agnes Mberi (in white) gives an explanation to visitors during the field day on how the group fared in the 2010-2011 season.

women in the "dhigaudye" project has seen women realising their rights land rights, right to information, knowledge and food.

More than 200 women comprising married, widowed and single women between the ages of 25 and 60 own pieces land in Chiendambuya and have benefitted from the Dhigaudye Project.

## Right to Food and Trade Justice



The activities implemented under the Right to Food and Trade Justice Theme were aimed at empowering the communities with skills and tools so that they are able to demand services from government. These activities were derived from the communities through participatory methods.

The activities carried out during the year included participation of staff in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Non State Actors meetings, farmer trainings on Conservation agriculture, training of farmers on adaptation to climate change, working with cotton commodity farmer associations (cotton production and marketing), assessment of smallholder farmer associations in Zimbabwe and participation of farmers in food and agriculture related clusters. AAI Zimbabwe facilitated participation of farmers in World Food Day commemorations and Hunger free campaigns and promoted learning from others by carrying out farmer exchange visits. Farmers were also encouraged to participate in field days and also received training on value addition through facilitation by the Scientific Institute of Research, Development and Cooperation (SIRDC). Farmers participating in Conservation Agriculture also received inputs and tools.

Women encouraged to add value by drying their vegetables and sale them at a better price than sale as the raw produce.

The various activities implemented under this theme also aimed at ensuring that government was able to respond to the needs of farmers on production and marketing. The government was able to intervene in marketing by setting up the Agricultural Marketing Authority, price liberalisation and supporting farmer price negotiations. The government also provided inputs to support the poor rural farmers during the same period. Farmers doing conservation farming were able to get a better harvest although there were poor rains. It should also be noted that the CAADP enabled farmers to influence the formation of the Non State Actors platform that was to support government in ensuring the review and implementation of investment plans, farmer voices and concerns were also articulated and heard by duty bearers during hunger free campaigns and World Food day commemorations. By training farmers on value addition this ensured that farmers

got better value for their produce compared to returns of selling the raw product. It should be noted that this also economically empowered the farmers. The inputs distributed to farmers doing conservation agriculture also helped in ensuring that the farmers had a starter pack to rely on which also ensured that they were economically empowered.

The programme was able to reach out directly more than 50,000 farmers in the LDP and project areas. The indirect beneficiaries of these activities are over 300,000 farmers. The Food Rights and Trade Justice Team also participated internationally in a write shop (a process of writing a book through a workshop) on Food Security in Arusha culminating in the publishing of a chapter in a book that is still being finalised on the contribution of the cotton sector to Food Security.

The Food Rights and Trade Justice activities were however carried out under a number of challenges including climate change, market liberalisation, a decade of free handouts, absence of clear agricultural policy, low productivity by farmers, high production costs, limited access to finance and poor rural infrastructure (roads, bridges, irrigation etc). Climate change saw the country experiencing frequent droughts, while market liberalization at international level saw local commodity prices falling. The change over from handouts to production resulted in some lazy farmers not coping and there was no guidance on the direction agriculture in the country sector in the country. Low productivity meant costs were higher while the poor infrastructure resulted in high costs of transport and farmers failed to cope with disasters. It should also be noted that agriculture in Zimbabwe is the backbone of the country's economy.

## Right to food and trade justice story of change

### Rural women farmers linked to lucrative markets

*By Douglas Karoro, LDGA Programme Officer*

*Selina Mupeyama (59) is a small scale livestock farmer living in ward 4 of Mbire District, Mashonaland Central Province. She is a proud owner of 95 cattle. Despite such a big head of cattle, Selina said the income she used to get from the cattle sales were low until 2010 when AAI Zimbabwe through its implementing partner, Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) brought about the Trade Justice programme in August 2010. The programme advocates for fair trade markets and practices.*

*"For each school term in the past between 2000 to 2010, I would sell at least two beasts to raise about \$200.00 for my three children. We used to sell cattle at giveaway prices. A beast could be sold at \$100.00. If this programme had started some five years or more years back, I could have achieved more than I have to*

*date," said Selina.*

*She said through facilitation by LDGA, farmers in Mbire had formed the Commodity Associations for livestock, sorghum, cowpeas and cotton and livestock. This programme linked them to livestock markets in Harare. "I sold three of my beasts to Parma Meats in Harare at \$1 200 each. When I came back here, I told my colleagues about these exciting markets. People in this ward are now taking their cattle to abattoirs in Harare. If you want to buy a beast in this ward, it can take you months to find one to buy since people now prefer higher prices like those offered in Harare," said Selina, who is the chairperson for the livestock commodity association in her ward.*

*She said she took 10 of her beasts to Harare for sale in March this year (2011). "With the proceeds from the sale, I was able to import a truck from South Africa",*

*Selina said. Asked how she was benefiting from her truck, she said. "I take my own cattle for sale using my truck to Harare. I can be hired by my colleagues. I can even transport people from here (Gonono) to Mushumbi some 90 kilometers away. My eldest son drives the vehicle". Selina lives with her husband, Witkins Mupeyama (60) who is living with disability (has challenges walking).*

*About 5000 (3500 women and 1500 men) farmers have benefitted from the market linkage programme in Mbire. The participation of men and women in the market linkage programme has seen them realising their right to information and knowledge.*

*The majority of these farmers can now buy building materials to build brick houses and furniture for their households. The bulk of people in Mbire have sub-standard houses which are mainly thatched huts.*



*With farmers accessing more income through livestock sales, more farmers are set to build decent houses, thanks to the market linkages programme. "Livestock farming is a business. We should look after our livestock. Cattle for example need regular dipping and vaccination to prevent diseases that often compromise the quality of beef produced. All farmers should know and understand that healthy animals fetch good prices. As farmers under the livestock commodity, we need to be united so that we speak with one voice with our buyers to demand fair prices," Selina said.*



Selina Mupeyama, Granddaughter Adiola Koni and husband Wilkins Mupeyama.

## Right to Just and Democratic Governance



Community mobilisation

The Right to Just and Democratic Governance focused on four sub-areas namely Accountability, Women Empowerment, Youth Empowerment and Peace Building.

### Accountability

In 2011 AAI Zimbabwe worked with seven partners under the Accountability sub-theme which saw them facilitating dialogue between residents and local and central government officials on issues of service delivery and public budgets. The partners used different platforms to facilitate the dialogue in communities. The partners established a total of 93 community platforms in 13

Rural Wards and 10 urban wards. These platforms have contributed to the promotion of accountable local government as they have enabled rights holders to participate in local decision making structures thereby enhancing local democracy in communities. Community

Working Group on Health's (CWGH) community structures known as Health Centre Committees successfully lobbied for the construction of a Waiting Mother's Shelter block at Zhombe Mission Hospital. This project has contributed to the Millennium Development Goal 5 which seeks to promote maternal health. Rights holders influenced development plans, budgetary processes and access to health delivery systems. Community members are empowered enough to call the councilors, council officials and Members of Parliament to respond to service delivery issues. Through organizations such as Basilwizi Trust community lobby groups have successfully lobbied Binga Rural District Council to make budget consultations.

Overall, partners reached out to at least 6,111 people (including 3431 women and 2680 men) in 13 rural wards and 10 urban wards. Women constituted 56% of the participants in the partner activities.



Simba Musaringofa from Victoria Falls, shares a lighter moment with some school pupils. Simba is running a child rights watchdog aimed at advocating for the rights of children.

## Women Empowerment

Three partners implemented activities in at least 15 wards in 10 rural districts and reached out to about 3 478 marginalized women directly and 15 000 indirectly. Twenty three (23) platforms were set by partners and these have been useful in facilitating and monitoring the creation of gender responsive policies in councils for example rural women in Gutu Rural District were allocated 34 stands for their economic activities within the council area. There has been increased active participation by women in local decision making processes such as planning and budgeting processes, for example an increase from 450 women covered by partners in 2009 to about 3,478 in 2011. The year saw increased visibility of women in local decision making structures for example School Development Committees (SDCs), Village Development Committees (VIDCOs) and councils. Women are taking up positions of Village heads which previously were reserved for men only.

The challenge however in this sector has been the non-functionality of most development structures e.g. WADCOS which tended to limit the opportunities for

women in local decision making structures. There is low level participation of young women due to traditional practice of elderly people taking up most of the positions of leadership at different levels.

## Youth Empowerment

Two partners reached out to 2,820 youths (including 1126 young women and girls constituting 40% of them) in selected 65 wards. Youth councils were established and were used as platforms to demand their rights from local authorities and other service providers. Youths have lobbied that the local youth are to be offered employment by all corporates who work in their respective areas. The Youth Councils were engaged in 10 civic actions including the production of 6 position papers which saw the youths bringing both Members of Parliament and Councillors to attend youth meetings on key issues of service delivery. However, the unstable political environment in Zimbabwe perpetuated by heavy police interference in youth organisations is not conducive for the promotion of youth empowerment. There is still need for AAI Zimbabwe and partners to find ways of addressing the low levels of participation of young women in community projects and local decision making processes. Youths have also shunned community development

initiatives due to lack of youth specific incentives on the initiatives.

## Conflict Management and Peace Building

AAI Zimbabwe worked with four (4) partners reaching out to a total of 8 762 people including 3666 adult women, 1391 young women, 3057 men and 648 young men/boys in selected areas. A total of 60 Community Peace Building platforms were created in seven (7) targeted marginalised rural areas. Civic education training received by communities on conflict transformation skills has resulted in an increase in the number of women and youth actively participating in peace building and conflict management processes in their villages (1500 in 2010 to 5096 in 2011).

However, high political polarisation and poverty in the country continue to be the major root cause for most conflicts. There is need to come up with solutions for the root cause. Some of the community members whom we work with are vulnerable to politically motivated violence as they are left exposed and are victimised by police and politicians after attending meetings.

The following are some of the impact stories from the Right to Just and Democratic Governance theme to show the impact being made by the programme:

## Promotion of accountability Story of change (a)

### Tonga community in language breakthrough

*The Tonga community has scored a first for minority languages in Zimbabwe following the formalization of the Tonga language in schools in the Zambezi Valley basin that borders Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Tonga language was in October 2011 officially tested at Grade 7 level for the first time in the history of Zimbabwe, thanks to the facilitation by Basilwizi Trust, a partner to AAI Zimbabwe.*

*During construction of the Kariba Dam in the 1950s the Tonga community was displaced cutting cultural ties with the*

*other Tonga communities in Zambia. Successive governments have neglected development of these areas as reflected by poor quality education and health facilities resulting in cultural values and systems of the minority groups being eroded as children are groomed through alien languages. The introduction of the Tonga language in schools would help restore their cultural rights, pride and dignity of the Tonga community as equal citizens in Zimbabwe.*

*Tonga language is widely spoken in the Zambezi Valley covering Binga and*

*Hwange districts in Matabeleland North Province, Gokwe North and Nyaminyami districts in Mashonaland West Province. The Tonga language and culture has over the years been marginalized in Zimbabwe where two vernacular languages-Shona and Ndebele- were recognized as "national" and Tonga children have been taught in those languages.*

*"ChiTonga" was examined at Grade 7 in Nyaminyami and Binga districts in 2011. In Nyaminyami, 155 boys and 111 girls from 30 schools sat for "ChiTonga"*



examinations in 2011. In addition 10 127 children (5196 boys and 4931 girls) from Grade 1 to Grade 7 in Nyaminyami were exposed to Tonga teachings in 2011. At least 77% of pupils from 130 primary schools in Binga were tested for "ChiTonga" in 2011. A total of 20969 male and 20230 female pupils from Grade 1 to 7 primary schools in Binga were reported to be taking "Chitonga" lessons in 2011. A considerable number of girls have benefitted although there are more boys due to school enrolment status in the area. There are reports that a 74% pass rate was achieved in the two schools. Gokwe North and South Districts are also taking Tonga lessons while Hwange District schools intend to have Tonga lessons in near future.

AAI Zimbabwe partner in the Zambezi Valley, Basilwizi Trust, in conjunction with the Tonga Language and Culture Committee (TOLACCO), traditional chiefs, councils and Save the Children (UK) (which purchased Tonga text books), Rural District Councils and District Administration (DA) officers have since 2008 been working together in lobbying the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture to have the language officially recognized. Basilwizi has since 2008 supported TOLACCO with advocacy training. A total of 211 men and 205 women have benefitted from Basilwizi advocacy trainings in Binga and Nyaminyami. TOLACCO has facilitated the formation of a task force comprising traditional chiefs, local and district councils, school development committees, fishing cooperatives to have one-on-one meetings with Ministry at local, district, provincial and national levels.

One of the TOLACCO members Pinos Buligwamanu said in an interview: "Teaching of Tonga language and getting it examined at Grade 7 is like a dream come true for us the Tonga people after a long struggle that dates back to 1976 when the effort to get Tonga language taught in school began."

"Every Tonga person is happy about this achievement. As TOLACCO we are working hard to get the language taken up to University level. So far we are happy with the progress," said Pinos adding that there was now a Language Coordinator in Binga who coordinates the teaching of "ChiTonga"

and works closely with schools under the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, another score for the Tonga community. He however said the community had challenges procuring Tonga text books for secondary level. "Publishers want to be assured that the books will be bought at a profit but our communities cannot afford to buy the books. We also need to continue training more Tonga text book writers for use in future but we have financial constraints," Pinos said.

Pinos said TOLACCO and other stakeholders were working flat out to facilitate formalization of Tonga at secondary level. However their biggest challenge was to take lobby efforts outside Binga where "ChiTonga" is not taught and not recognized. "We have identified local authors to author Tonga secondary school text books and we are hoping by 2012 we will be having the Tonga secondary school syllabus in place. There however could be delays associated with printing of the books because of financial constraints," he said. In the neighbouring Zambia, where Tonga is also spoken, the language is studied at PHD level.

Annacletta Muleya, a Grade 6 pupil (for 2011) at Binga Primary School said: "At home we speak Tonga and I like it. However, I may not write the Tonga language at Grade 7 next year (2012) because I am afraid I won't find a Form 1 place outside Binga district where "ChiTonga" is not formalized."

The dilemma that is facing Annacletta is also being experienced by many other children from the Tonga community. This means that TOLACCO still has more work to do including raising awareness in schools in the community on the importance of using Tonga language. TOLACCO should also sensitize Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture district



All smiles as Annacletta Muleya, a pupil from Binga Primary School holds a "ChiTonga" Primary School text book.

officers and schools outside the Zambezi valley (countrywide) and the rest of the Zimbabwe community to recognize Tonga as one of the three optional languages (in addition to Shona and Ndebele) which can be used for one to be accepted at secondary school level. This also means that secondary schools in Zimbabwe should therefore start enrolling the pupils with Tonga language other than Ndebele or Shona in line with a Ministry of Education Sport and Culture directive in 2011.

TOLACCO has also been working with other marginalized languages- such as Nambya, Kalanga, Venda, Shangani and Sesotho to promote the recognition of their languages and together they have formed the Zimbabwe Indigenous Language Promotion Association (ZILPA) to lobby together for the effective teaching of their marginalized languages. AAI Zimbabwe has since 2007 build Basilwizi's capacity in accountability, citizen empowerment, information, advocacy and financial management.

## Promotion of accountability story of change (b)

### Community uses natural resources funds to build school

By Danisa Mudimba, Programme Officer, Basilwizi Trust

The Zambezi is the fourth-longest river in Africa and the largest flowing into the Indian Ocean from Africa. The 3,540-kilometre-long river has its source in Zambia and flows through Angola, along the borders of Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to Mozambique, where it empties into the Indian Ocean.

In Zimbabwe, the Zambezi's most spectacular feature is the beautiful Victoria Falls. There are two main sources of hydroelectric power on the river. These are the Kariba Dam, which provides power to Zambia and Zimbabwe and the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique which provides power to both Mozambique and South Africa. There is also a smaller power station at Victoria Falls. The Zambezi Valley, which surrounds the river, is also known for its large populations of many animals including elephants, crocodiles, buffalo, zebra, giraffes and fish. During construction of the Kariba Dam in the 1950s the Tonga community was displaced cutting cultural ties with the other Tonga communities in Zambia. Successive governments have neglected development of these areas as reflected by poor quality education and health facilities. The Zambezi Valley has attracted various business ventures including fishery, wildlife hunting and the hospitality industry. While many businesses have flourished in the Zambezi Valley over the years, local communities comprising mainly the Tonga community, say very little has been ploughed back to the community whose resources are being used resulting in the marginalization of the Tonga community.

Chief Timothy Matenda of Sinasengwe Ward in Binga District in the Zambezi Valley said although the Binga Rural

District Council (RDC) had facilitated the mainstreaming of the Community Areas Management Programmes for Indigenous Resources Association (CAMPFIRE) in the area, Sinasengwe community had not benefitted from the CAMPFIRE proceeds over the years. He said however a milestone was achieved in 2010, when for the first time the Binga RDC facilitated the allocation of CAMPFIRE funds to Sinasengwe Ward. CAMPFIRE proceeds are mainly obtained from Safari operations being run by external individuals who receive hunting concessions from Binga RDC. Chief Matenda attributed the success of the community to AAI Zimbabwe partner based in the Zambezi Valley, Basilwizi Trust for facilitating advocacy and lobby trainings in the community. The trainings empowered communities to tackle issues affecting them head on and resulted in them knowing the importance of engaging and lobbying local authorities to allocate them CAMPFIRE funds. A total of 211 men and 205 women have benefitted from Basilwizi advocacy trainings in Binga and Nyaminyami districts where it is operational since 2007. The trainings has seen communities realising their right to information and knowledge while children's right to education and learning in a safe and healthy environment was achieved through the construction of the classroom block. "According to new RDC regulations, the council is supposed to channel CAMPFIRE resources to the ward. The Sinasengwe community approached the Binga RDC in 2010 and US\$1 000 was released from CAMPFIRE funds," Chief Matenda said. He said the money was used to co-fund a classroom block for a satellite secondary school. The

new building comprises two classrooms which will accommodate about 90 children.

The satellite school whose other funds are coming from Matabeleland AIDS Council (MAC), a nongovernmental organisation and the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) will be the first secondary school in Sinasengwe Ward. Secondary school pupils from Sinasengwe travelled about 32km (return trip) to the nearest secondary school in another Ward called Nokusenga. Some of the pupils were resorting to staying at houses belonging to members of the community near the school as some form of boarding where they paid money as tenants because they could not travel back home every day. In 2011 the satellite school was established in Sinasengwe Ward but pupils were using Muchena Primary School premises as there were no classrooms built for the satellite school. The secondary school pupils are currently learning under shades as the Muchena Primary School which only has one functional classroom block used by the primary school pupils.

Elen Mumpande (16) a form 1 (2011) at Sinasengwe Secondary School said: "I am happy we will no longer travel long distances to go to school. We will no longer have stress of lodging in people's homes and travelling to and from school every weekend to collect food from our home areas. Sharing the class rooms with primary school pupils looks as if we are still attending primary school."

Lovemore Muzamba, Sinasengwe Satellite Secondary School Deputy head said the new block would start being used in January 2012. "We are hoping to carry out public examinations and have the satellite school registered as a wholly owned secondary school in 2012."



Elen Mumpande a school pupil (left) and the deputy head for Sinasengwe Satellite School, Lovemore Muzamba at the new classroom block site.



# Youth Empowerment story of change

## “Gambukambu” beacons Zimbabwe in Indonesia As more youths campaign for good environmental practices

By Royal Ndlovu, Environment Africa volunteer

Ever heard of the story of “Gambukambu?” a Zimbabwean boy who loved food so much that he would go to great lengths in search of it. “Gambukambu” is a derogatory meaning of someone who has a huge appetite for food. The story of “Gambukambu” is being retold through Frank Mandizvidza, a 21 year old man from Mkhosana Township in Victoria Falls in Matabeleland North Province in Zimbabwe. Frank, who has been nicknamed “Gambukambu” represented Zimbabwe when he participated in a climate change workshop held in Indonesia between 27 September and 5 October 2011. Environment Africa (E Africa), AAI Zimbabwe partner in Hwange District, facilitated “Gambukambu’s participation in the workshop. Frank is popularly known for his huge propensity for food.

“I used to come to workshops for food only. I never knew the workshops would transform me,” “Gambukambu” said. His engagement with E Africa through various youth empowerment workshops has resulted in him visiting the Asian country for the first time in his life. “Gambukambu” had never crossed any Zimbabwean border since birth. E Africa had to facilitate a passport for him as he had never processed one before. Gambukambu is a member of the Zimbabwe Youth Environment Network (ZIYEN), a youth empowerment organization which works with E Africa through various youth initiatives. ZIYEN members selected Gambukambu to participate in the Indonesia Climate Change Workshops, which was an International conference. He was chosen because of his public speaking skills and his commitment to environment issues affecting his community. The Indonesian workshop was attended by only three people from Zimbabwe, one of whom is Gambukambu and Nigel Chitombo another youth from Victoria Falls and an unnamed youth from Harare.

In an interview Gambukambu said he felt

honoured to represent Zimbabwe during the global conference which discussed various challenges facing nations including climate change. Gambukambu’s focus during the conference was on youth whom he said are usually left out on national or international issues. “The moment I walked up the stage to talk about how climate change had affected Zimbabwe, people started to shout “Zimbabwe! Zimbabwe! Zimbabwe! And this gave me confidence to stand in front of people,” Gambukambu said.

Gambukambu became interested in working in the environment sector since 2007 through inspiration from ZIYEN when he was still going to school. He completed his Advanced level in 2009 and joined ZIYEN as a member on voluntary basis. In addition Gambukambu attended various E Africa workshops between 2007 and 2011. Gambukambu has participated in various E Africa organized activities such as the Clean-up Victoria Falls campaign, world commemorations on youth and environment and educational talks in schools and human rights training workshops attended youths.

Gambukambu is the first child in a family of six. Gambukambu who attained 6 points at A level, could not proceed to do his tertiary education due to financial constraints. His Father, who works for a Victoria Falls restaurant, could not afford to send him to college. Like his father Gambukambu joined

the restaurant sector in 2010 to become a waiter, something he said he had no passion for. During his spare time, Gambukambu works on various environment activities supported by E Africa.

A total of 877 youths (484 female and 393 male) from Hwange District including Gambukambu have received various trainings from E Africa since 2008. The trainings were in climate change, behaviour change with respect to HIV and AIDS, leadership, local governance, lobby and advocacy, entrepreneurship and human rights. The participation of youths in the various trainings has seen them achieving their right to information and knowledge.

Other E Africa stakeholders are Victoria Falls Residents Association, Victoria Falls Agenda, Uluntu Trust, Hwange Development Association, Victoria Falls Municipality, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Youth Development Indigenisation and Empowerment, Hwange Rural District Council, schools, junior councillors, local councillors, village heads and traditional leaders. AAI Zimbabwe has provided capacity building to E Africa in the areas of advocacy, capacity in accountability, citizen empowerment, information and financial management.

Frank Mandizvidza (aka Gambukambu), (first right) with other youths from his home town during a clean-up exercise in Victoria Falls.



# Conflict management and peace building story of change

## The prodigal son returns home

Johnson Matuta (46) of Guruguru Ward in Zvishavane District in Midlands Provinces, an ex-jail bird cum peacemaker in his community, walks down memory lane as he recollects the hardships he went through during his teenage hood.

He was born in a family of 30 children.

"My father being a polygamist took great pride in siring many children and having three wives which to him were a sign of great wealth. My mother was the first wife and when he married a second wife my mother faced all forms of abuses as my father and stepmother unleashed all sorts of terror on her," Johnson said.

He said his mother was chased away from their home after having been struck with a hoe in one of their regular fights with the second wife. He was only aged five years old. "My father did not allow my mother to take me with her and I was restricted to pay her a visit. I went through hell because of my stepmother. Sometimes I went for days without food. My father spent most of his time with his other wives, at the beer hall and never took time to notice the abuse I was subjected to."

When his father sold his beast to educate his step brothers and sisters, Johnson said it triggered anger and resentment within him. "I stole money from my father, left my village and headed for the big city (Gweru in Midlands Province) to start a new life. The money that I had made me king for the moment in the group of youngsters who oriented me to the street life. The kingpins of the street made their protégée and forced me into committing deadly crimes like robbing and beating up people. I smoked marijuana, drank beer and never thought of returning home," he said.

One day Johnson's reign of terror ended abruptly when he was arrested for stock theft and various crimes committed and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment at Chikurubi Maximum Prison in Harare. Johnson was released from prison in 2009. 'I was shocked by the welcome I received from my community as an ex-

convict. They welcomed me with open arms and attributed my behaviour to the abuse I had experienced as a child." Johnson said he received a warm welcome from his community because of AAI Zimbabwe partner, Musasa Project which provided trainings on peace building and conflict management in Zvishavane.

Johnson said he married a woman from a nearby village who he said did not enjoy the marriage as she was subjected to abuse and torture from him. Despite reporting Johnson to the headman, he continued abusing her, he said. "Our headman and councillor invited me to attend some Musasa workshops. I was amazed by the information shared at the workshops as I now understood the basis for my behaviour and the abuse I was subjecting my wife to," Johnson, who was feeling remorseful, said.

He and his wife have since been enlisted as members of a peace club in Zvishavane after both of them have attended several workshops facilitated by Musasa. The role of peace club members is to mediate in community conflicts as they have knowledge on laws on inheritance, child custody, sexual abuse, which normally cause conflicts within communities. Musasa Project has facilitated the formation of peace clubs comprising 20 members (both male and female) in each of the villages they are working. Domestic violence affects mostly women who are usually on the receiving end during conflicts.

Johnson had the following words to say in form of a poem he presented to Musasa Project:

THANKS TO MUSASA  
I used to be a violent husband,  
But today I am not, thanks to  
Musasa  
Frustration was all I knew  
But today it's gone, thanks to  
Musasa  
Poor communication was the order of  
the day with my wife



But today it's not, thanks to  
Musasa  
Lack of respect was written on my  
forehead  
But today it has vanished, thanks to  
Musasa  
Musasa you are all I know of  
You are my today and my  
tomorrow  
You have enriched me with legal advice  
Musasa let your flag rise high  
Only the sky is the limit.

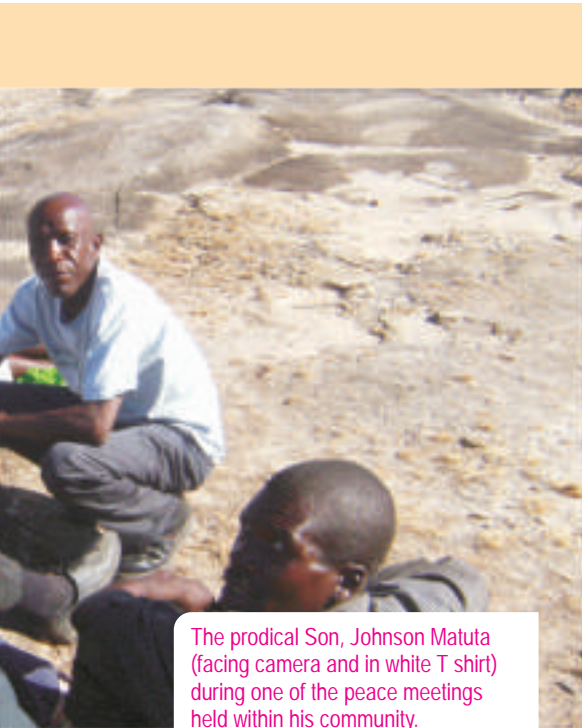
A total of 1617 people (1221 women and 396 men) in Midlands Province have received training on peace building and conflict management facilitated by Musasa Project in 2011. In addition 62 youth leaders in Zvishavane comprising 44 girls and 18 boys leaders were trained in the same courses. The training of the Midlands communities has seen them achieving their rights to information and knowledge. Musasa Project has been working with various stakeholders in its peace building initiatives including local councils, rural district councils, traditional chiefs, provincial local government officers and Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development who have also participated in the trainings. In 2011, for the



## Right to Human Securities in Conflicts and Emergencies

Interventions under the Right to Human Securities in Conflicts and Emergencies were aimed at supporting vulnerable groups to withstand emergencies and conflict. The major thrust was to build peoples resilience, and capacity to mitigate and reduce the impact of disasters in their areas. The main disasters occurring in Zimbabwe at the National level according to UNOCHA Contingency plan were Cholera / Typhoid, Political Violence, Droughts and Flooding. The CP carried out a number of activities targeting more than 50,000 families in the LDPs aimed at ensuring that the rights holders are able to cope and manage disasters at the local level before looking for help. Below are some of the activities implemented with the aim of preparedness, mitigation and managing disasters

- The CP participated in Humanitarian UN lead Clusters for coordination and technical support issues. These Clusters were for WASH, Health, Education, Protection and Agriculture.
- The CP developed a preparedness plan to use in the event that disasters occur. This plan was signed off by SMT and closely linked to the National Contingency Plan.
- Staff, Partners and E-FAST (Emergency First Action Team) received training on emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery. These trainings were carried out at National and International level
- The CP also carried out Women's Rights awareness meetings
- Since some emergencies in Zimbabwe are caused by drinking unsafe water. The CP also carried out WASH activities like toilet construction , rehabilitation of water points , drilling of boreholes , training of communities on Participatory Health and Hygiene Education and awareness meetings on good Health and Hygiene practices.



The prodical Son, Johnson Matuta (facing camera and in white T shirt) during one of the peace meetings held within his community.

first time in the area, Councillor for Guruguru, Mavis Mahuvava was elected chairperson for Runde Rural District Council for peace building initiatives. Although more women have participated in the peace building initiatives in Midlands Province more men slowly trickling in to participate in such programmes as men's negative attitudes towards such initiatives slowly change.

One of the recent community peaceful milestones as a result of the Musasa peace trainings has been the mobilization of communities to request for a second bus to ply the Zvishavane-Guruguru route, which only had one bus. The bus situation caused conflict within Zvishavane and affected mostly women travellers who were spending nights at Zvishavane Taxi ranks waiting for the only bus to ferry them to Guruguru, which is about 60km from Zvishavane.

AAI Zimbabwe has since 2008 provided Musasa Project staff capacity building in the areas of peace building, conflict management, accountability, citizen empowerment, information, advocacy and financial management.



Community capacity building



LDP communities are now able to detect and utilize early warning signs to predict the occurrence of emergencies in their areas following the implementation of the above interventions. This helps them in planning for any predictable emergencies. Staff and Partner staff are also able to provide support on emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery. This will help communities to respond on time and

reduce suffering and loss of life in the event that emergencies occur.

The rehabilitation and construction of boreholes and Participatory Health and hygiene education has helped communities to reduce time spent looking for water, develop nutrition gardens closer to water points, and to lead healthy lives with reduced incidences of water borne diseases. Some communities have also been able to work as teams as a result of

the support and realisation that there is need for communities' effort to development and rehabilitation of water points.

Gender issues during emergencies are now better appreciated. Men now realise that women and children are more vulnerable when emergencies occur and should therefore be protected from abuse of any sort.

## Right to Human Securities in Conflicts and Emergencies story of change

### Children go back to school as new toilets are built

For 13 year old girl Rumbidzai Kuwana of Goneso Hwedza District in Mashonaland East Province, hopes of ever fulfilling her dream job had been shuttered by perceived fears that her school would close following the collapse of toilets at the school.

A Grade 7 pupil (in 2011) at St Marys Makanda Primary School in Hwedza, Rumbidzai came to live with her grandmother in Goneso after the death of her mother in Gutu at the beginning of 2009. Her father died in 2001.

"We were contemplating closing the school following the collapse of a toilet block which accommodated all pupils in December 2009," says Head teacher for St Mary's Makanda, Kupurai Mutanhaurwa. The toilet block was built in the early 1950s and had reached its life span. "As if it was not enough for the school, there was an outbreak of cholera in Hwedza in 2009 and this pushed us close to shutting down the school," says the head teacher. She said while the school looked for funding, school children used two toilets meant for teachers and this was another time bomb as this meant that the toilets were operating at way above their capacity. Some parents withdrew their children from school resulting in them missing classes at the beginning of 2010.

"The school enrolment at the beginning of 2010 went down to 463 children but

later picked up to around 470 children which is our normal capacity. The reduction in children coming to school was due to parents fearing to send their children to the school where there were no toilets," Kupurai said.

AAI Zimbabwe, in partnership with Restless Development in Zimbabwe (RDZ) moved swiftly to fund the building of two toilet blocks at the school at the beginning of 2010. By May 2010, the new toilet blocks had been completed. While the Goneso community provided with labour and bricks, AAI Zimbabwe through Restless Development provided cement, roofing and reinforcement materials.

The new toilets, which are benefitting 249 boys and 223 girls, were officially



Rumbidzai Kuwana (above 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) with other school pupils at the girls new toilet block.

handed over to the school on 17 March 2011. Hwedza District Administrator Cephas Chihwetu officially opened the toilet blocks. Rumbidzai, who is a prefect and a class monitor at the school: "I am happy my studies will not be disturbed. I like being at the school where I spend most of my time with my friends. I want to be a bank teller when I finish school."

In a bid to promote children's right to a safe, education and healthy learning environment, AAI Zimbabwe in 2011 supported two schools St Marys Makanda and Manyere Primary School in Chiendambuya in Makoni District in Manicaland Province in building toilet blocks. Four other schools in Makoni and Nyanga Districts in Manicaland Province were supported with classroom blocks in 2011.

# Finance



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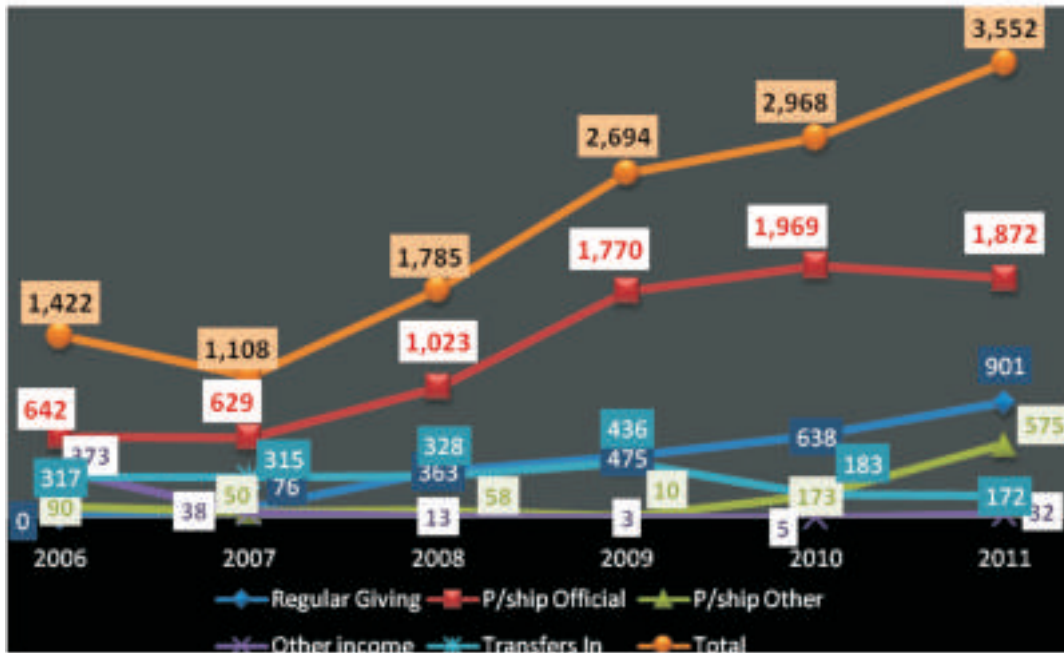
# Finance

## Movement in Income

### Movement in Income over the Years

Since 2007, the CPs' overall income has been on an increase. Compared to last year, overall, the CP received more income by 20% with a 41% increase in regular giving income and a 232% increase in 'Other Partnership Income'. The increase in regular giving income is a result of increased links particularly on the new Greece DA (Nkayi). On partnership income; it is a result of the merger with MS in July 2010 and new projects coming on board namely the FGG, IGT, STAR Lizard/OVC, EC/PRPII, ECHO/HRPII and WATSAN in Makoni. Other income increased by 540% due to interest earned on funds held by the Reserve Bank. Official Partnership income however dropped by 5% as a number of projects ended in 2010 and mid-2011. Transfers – In decreased by 6% as a result of cuts in transfers from the regional office, from an annual allocation of £175k in 2010 to £163k in 2011.

Figure 1: 2011 Actual Income Vs. Prior Years

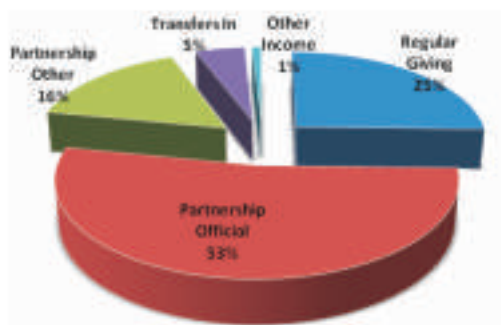


Note: Regular Giving income is net of Transfers Out

### Income by Category

Partnership income continues to constitute the bulk of the CP's income at 69% of total income. The Regular giving income portion increased, from 22% in 2010 to 25% mainly due to the increase sponsorship links and case history allocations.

Figure 2: Income by Category



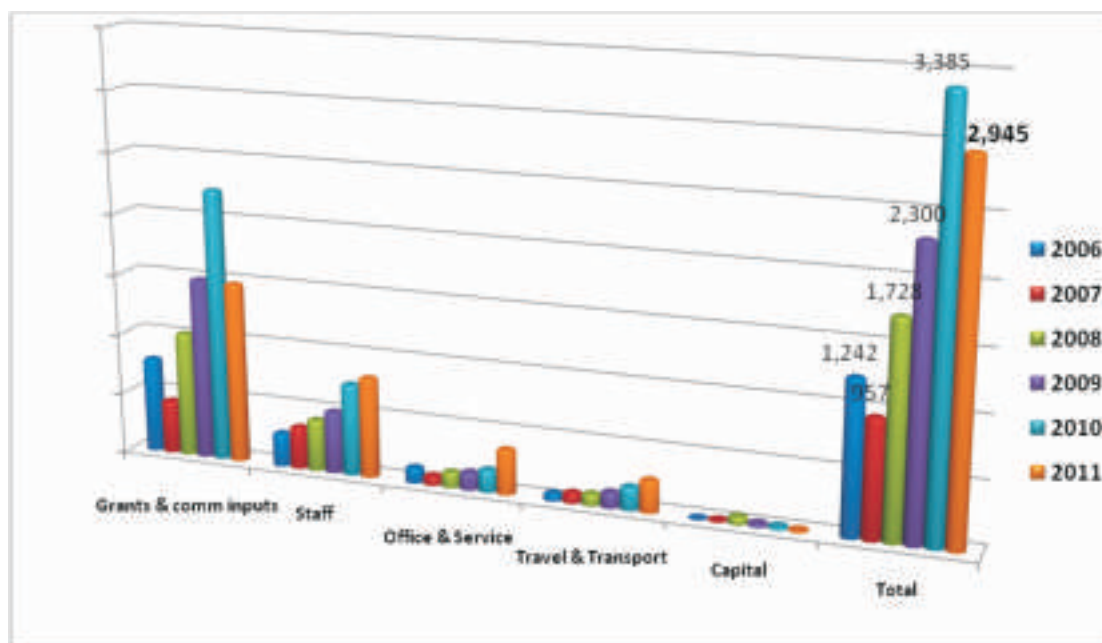


## Movement in Expenditure

Though there was a significant increase in income compared to the last year, there was no corresponding increase in expenditure which actually fell by 13%. The Year 2010 has recorded the highest expenditure so far. Figure 3 below shows a significant fall in expenditure particularly on grants and community inputs with a 34% fall and capital expenditure (46%). The major reasons for the fall in the two categories are:

- Low budget utilization** – Low absorption on grants and community inputs mainly due to delays in receipt of funds from some donors, delays in finalisation of the planning and budgeting process with Danida partners and terminated partnerships.
- Closed Projects** - There are a number of closed projects which were running in 2010 namely projects funded by CIDA, UNICEF, AUSAID and NIZA.
- Projects in Phased Out** – One of the major project (PRPII), funded by DFID was phased out hence there was a low level of programme activities as focus was more on winding up and exiting.
- A major capital expenditure was incurred in 2010 on construction and furnishing of a Partnership Centre funded from the Danida Frame.

**Figure 3: 2011 Actual Expenditure Vs. Prior Years by Natural Classification**



Contrary to the fall in grants and community inputs, there were significant increases in staff, office and travel costs compared to the same period last year with 18%, 23% and 53% increases respectively. The increase in staff costs is mainly a result of salary reviews made in 2011 and settlement of terminal benefits for staff on closed projects. Related to travel costs, the major reason is the increase in the number of trips in the current year as the CP had to take part in a number of regional and international workshops organised by the International Office. Per Diem rates were also reviewed upwards mid last year in line with increases in prices of goods and services. On office costs, the increase is due to the write off of funds held by the Reserve Bank, the cost of doing business and the additional audit requirement on Danida funded partners.



**Human Resources  
and Organisational  
Development  
(HROD)**

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# Human Resources and Organisational Development (HROD)

In line with most organisations, 2011 was a challenging year in terms of Human Resources Management as staff struggled to come to terms with rapidly decreasing disposable incomes due to increased cost of living expenses.

Staff movements were experienced throughout the organisation including at senior management level. The CD Dr. Tsitsi Choruma resigned and a new Head of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Administration was recruited.

## **Policy, Practices and Systems**

Organisational gains were made in terms of consolidating administration and human resources processes and policies crafted and implemented in 2010. The year ended with a library of Administration and HR related forms available for processes throughout the employee lifecycle. Increased understanding of the Belina payroll system resulted in timely and accurate processing of salaries monthly.

## **Employee Lifecycle Management**

*Recruitment and Remuneration:* Formal recruitment systems were further refined in 2011 resulting in a more transparent and formalised recruitment procedure with a reviewable paper trail in place. No cost of living salary adjustments were awarded in 2011. All staff received an incremental adjustment of between 2.225% (senior) and 3% (junior) staff on their anniversary date of joining ActionAid International Zimbabwe.

*Performance Management and Employee Development:* Two performance management appraisal exercises were carried out in June and December 2011 respectively. Concerted efforts were made on the part of Line Managers to ensure greater alignment of performance ratings to objectively set performance goals. This included identifying and addressing employee development areas. Greater focus is required in 2012 on further developing the review process so that it links to other HR related processes and decisions.

*Staff Safety and Security:* ActionAid International hosted the first ever Security Focal Persons Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Representatives from each country across the Federation including AAI Zimbabwe attended. The ActionAid International Security Plan was launched for roll- out across the Federation.



## AAI Zimbabwe Partners

### DANIDA Partners

Basilwizi Trust  
Habakkuk Trust  
MURRA  
CWGH  
NANGO  
WIPSU  
YWCA  
Women's Trust  
E Africa  
NYDT  
Zimrights  
ZPP  
CCMT  
Musasa Project  
FACHIG

ZIMCODD  
ZELA  
ZESN  
YAT  
BUIYSAP

### LDP Partners

FACT Nyanga  
FACT Rusape  
RDZ  
ADRA  
ZCC  
Batsiranayi  
FCTZ  
Seke Rural Development

### Women and Land Rights Partners

Women and Land in Zimbabwe  
ZWCRN  
WCoZ  
ZFU

### PRP Partners

Chiedza  
New Dawn of Hope  
Mavambo  
MAC  
MASO  
ACT  
Batsirai



Children supported through AAI Zimbabwe partner work.

## Geographic Spread of AAI Zimbabwe activities

Manicaland (Chiendambuya, Makoni, Nyanga)

Mashonaland East (Hwedza)

Mashonaland West (Chinhoyi, Makonde, Kariba)

Masvingo (Masvingo, Zaka)

Midlands (Gweru, Gokwe, Zhombe, Zvishavane, Shurugwi)

Bulawayo (Nketa, Pumula, Magwegwe)

Harare (Glen View, Mufakose, Mabvuku, Tafara, Highfield, Kambuzuma, Rugare, Budiro, Epworth)

Chitungwiza (St Mary's and Zengeza 4)

Matabeleland North and South (Bubi, Gwanda, Bulilima, Mangwe, Nkayi, Hwange, Binga and Victoria Falls)



In December 2011b civil society organizations in nine African countries joined forces on the Trans African Caravan of Hope, an initiative to document and amplify voices of citizens, to ensure that they are heard at the international deliberations. AAI Zimbabwe was part of civic society organisations that participated in the Caravan of Hope, whose representatives covered 10 countries (7000km) from Burundi to Durban South Africa to attend the the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP17) in Durban in December 2011.

## AAI Zimbabwe Staff 2011

Abraham Antonio	Administration Assistant
Adele Manuel	Head of HROD and Administration
Evyline Chingono	Head of Finance
Beauty Jonga	Internal Auditor
Charity Hodzi	Project Manager-Governance
Chipo Chimwanda	Child Sponsorship
Chipo Maruza	Child Sponsorship Officer
Ebenezer Tombo	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
Esau Mushunje	Office Assistant-Regional DA office
Enock Muzaka	Driver
Evans Gomera	Finance Officer (Projects)
Fanuel Mukono	WASH Assistant
Farirayi Gumbu	RDA Intern
Felistas Murungu	RDA Intern
Gladys Ngoro	Accountant- Projects
Gracious Madyira	P4C Facilitator
Joel Musarurwa	Theme Coordinator-Food Rights and Emergencies
Joyce Mapfumo	Office Assistant
Julia Penias	Finance Officer- Financial
Isobel Sinosi	Administration Officer- HROD
Lillian Matsika	Theme Coordinator- Governance
Lucina Machanzi	Women's Rights Theme Head
Mary Makuku	Administration Assistant
Maxwell Mudyariwa	Office Assistant
Nigel Kanengoni	IT Coordinator
Nsandula Sinchuke	Accountant-Financial
Jane Maponga	Project Manager- PRP
Nanganidzai Makoho	Officer- Women Land Rights Project
Patrick Dodzo	Finance Assistant
Peter Matimati	Regional DA Manager
Philemon M. Jazi	Deputy Country Director and Head of Programmes
Roselina Muzerengi	Officer-Women Land Rights Project
Rumbidzayi Tagwirei	Administration Officer-Logistics
Thandiwe Chidavarume	Manager- Women Land Rights Project
Takaitei Bote	Information Officer
Tsuro Bore	Child Sponsorship Coordinator
Victor Makovere	Project Officer- PRP-LIG
Wadzanayi Gwini	Personal Assistant to CD
Zvichapera Nyamuzhanje	Office Assistant
Zvisineyi Chimwere	WASH Assistant











## **Our Vision**

“A Zimbabwe without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity”

## **Our Mission**

“To work with poor and excluded people in Zimbabwe especially women, to eradicate poverty and injustices that cause it”

## **Our values**

AAIZ lives by the following values:

**Mutual Respect:** requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity

**Equity and Justice:** requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone, irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion

**Honesty and transparency:** being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgements and communications with others

**Solidarity:** with the poor powerless and excluded will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty and injustice

**Courage of conviction:** requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative— without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty.

**Independence:** from any religious or party political affiliation.

**Humility:** in our presentation and behaviour recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.