



## ZIMBABWE BULLETIN

### Highlights:

- *Call to end violence against Women and Girls in public transport*
- *Respect Women and Girls in public transport*
- *Define your struggle, ActionAid Country Director tells youths*
- *Volunteers the pioneers of change*
- *Mainstreaming gender in humanitarian aid volunteering work*



## Editor's Note

*“Team work is the ability to work together towards a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results” ~ Andrew Carnegie*

*I am delighted to bring you this newsletter. I am really encouraged by the feedback received from ActionAid staff members and various stakeholders in our last issue. Our newsletter is set for greater heights. Take an exciting adventure with the ActionAid Zimbabwe Bulletin as we report captivating developments in our social justice work. Spectacular photography and refreshing stories on complex subjects connects everyday people with the greatest ideas and minds in our humanitarian work.*



*ActionAid Zimbabwe team wishes you happy holidays and a prosperous 2019. Sincere thanks for your commitment. We wish you and your families a heart-warming relaxing fantastic holiday... **Happy Reading!!!***

*Editor: Takaitei Bote, Communications Focal Person, ActionAid Zimbabwe*

*Compiled by: Shamiso Saburi, Communications Intern, ActionAid Zimbabwe*



**Priority 1: Empower women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to challenge the structural causes of violence and secure economic justice**

**Call to end violence against Women and Girls in public transport**

By: Alfred Towo Zimbabwe Team Activista member



**Safe Cities Volunteer Faustina Chataika leading the discussions**

In pursuance of the creation, promotion of safe spaces for women and girls, ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) and the Passenger Association of Zimbabwe (PAZ) held a Safe Cities Dialogue platform on the 29th November 2018 in Harare. Community members met with public transport operators and other duty bearers to discuss the situation of public transport and the violence women experience on public transport and bus termini. The dialogue was aimed at preventing and responding to violence against women in public transport under the AAZ and PAZ Safe Cities Campaign in Chitungwiza entitled “Promoting safe, quality, reliable and accessible public transportation sensitive and responsive to women and girls’ needs”.

The Safe Cities dialogue platform was also held in line with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence theme for 2018 which is “End Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work: Creating a zero tolerance to sexual harassment in the workplace” The dialogue ran under the hashtag #safepublictransport with key messages to end Violence against women and girls in public transport because women and girls have the right to board any commuter omnibus of their choice without being heckled. In attendance were the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, the Chitungwiza Residents Association, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Chitungwiza Commuter Operators Association, and Youth Alliance for Safer Cities, Activista Zimbabwe Harare Provincial Chapter and the Dialogue on

**November-December 2018 Zimbabwe Issue**

Shelter (Safe and Inclusive Cities). In solidarity, members present shared, insights and experiences as they advocated for zero tolerance to violence against women in public transport.

Violence against women in public transport is rife in Zimbabwe and people have died at the hands of touts as they try to board public transport. Women and girls have been affected more. The Safe Cities Campaign seeks to empower women working in the informal sector, particularly doing vending who rely on public transport for their businesses. The most common types of violence noted in public transport include harassment in commuter omnibuses, name calling and passing on of derogatory and demeaning sexual comments such as “amai munodonhedza musika”. Other notable abuses include, touts forcing passengers, especially women and children into their commuter omnibuses while snatching their bags, pushing and shoving them in the process. Recently a Chitungwiza woman gave birth while in in moving commuter omnibus due to induced labour caused by over speeding while a girl was sexually assaulted while on board.

Betty Sithole the AAZ Programme and Policy Manager for Women’s rights said: “Women’s rights are at the center of ActionAid’s work as women are disproportionately affected by all social ills and violence against women is one of the issues ActionAid is working on.” In her solidarity speech, The Activista Harare Provincial Coordinator Sheryl Tendai Chigwedere re-affirmed the Activista youth movement’s unwavering commitment to actively engage in solidarity in the fight for safe public spaces for women. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission Chief Executive Officer Virginia Muwanigwa said gave a stern warning that name-calling, passing derogatory remarks to women especially young women, about their structure or dressing is harassment, illegal and must be reported to the responsible authorities. Mrs Muwanigwa said women should not normalize the abnormal but should find voice and speak against such abnormalities like accepting ‘uncomfortable sitting arrangement where male and female passengers sit facing each other with their legs intertwined, encroaching into the zones of intimate space as this is a form of sexual harassment that should not be normalized. She urged communities to embrace social media to help fight GBV, saying that citizen journalism can be harnessed to expose cases of GBV because the scourge thrives because of silence.

The Passenger Association President Tafadzwa Goliati bemoaned the disorder at commuter omnibuses termini and the chaos that perpetuates violence against women and girls. Moses Matimbe the Chitungwiza Commuter Operators Association representative and former tout who is now a commuter omnibus owner castigated commuters for preferring mushika shika (undesignated loading areas) because in most cases the commuter omnibuses loading at these mushikashikas are unlicensed and illegal.

Superintendent Enock Chishiri from the Zimbabwe Republic Police Public Relations Department said people always say the police do not do their work while people are not using the police to end violence against women. Superintendent Chishiri affirmed the police’s commitment to the promotion of safe spaces for women and girls in the public.

In a petition the communities of Chitungwiza made the following demands to duty bearers: Removal of all touts from all bus termini. The police must ensure that all commuter omnibuses are registered; no commuter omnibuses should be allowed to operate without proper registration papers. The Police should ensure that commuter operators stick to the stipulated

carrying capacity and stop overloading commuter omnibuses as this puts the life of commuters at risk in case of an accident. The police to ensure that commuter omnibuses do not over speed and government to serve stiff penalties on offenders.

## **Respect Women and Girls in public transport**



**Safe Cities Volunteers getting ready for the roadshow**

ActionAid Zimbabwe Safe Cities Campaign volunteers on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November conducted a road show in Chitungwiza, Harare sensitizing Chitungwiza residents on passenger rights and laws that protect women and girls when using public transport. The roadshow was aimed at raising awareness of the safe cities campaign, advocating to stop violence against women and girls in public transport. The volunteers distributed t-shirts to pull out crowds and encourage them to attend the road show. Information on who women and girls should contact in the event of experiencing violence in public transport was distributed in the form of fliers during the roadshow. Residents were educated to respect women and girls in public transport and to stop name calling in public transport.

**Priority 2: Ensure Increased Civic Participation and State Accountability for the Redistribution of Resources and Delivery of Quality, Gender-Responsive Public Services.**

**Define your struggle, ActionAid Country Director tells youths**

By: Sindiso Dube, Activista Zimbabwe member



**AAZ Country Director Joy Mabenge at the Annual Conference in Gweru**

ActionAid Zimbabwe director Joy Mabenge has challenged youths to shape their revolution if they want to change the country's political and economic environment. Speaking on the formation and consistency of movements at Activista Zimbabwe's annual conference in Gweru, Mabenge said youths' agenda usually fails because of lack of direction. [Read more here article published in the Newsday of 26 November 2018.](#)



## Volunteers the pioneers of change

By Alfred Towo, Activista Zimbabwe member



On Wednesday 05 December 2018, ActionAid Zimbabwe joined the rest of the world in commemorating The International Volunteers Day (IVD) in Chitungwiza. International Volunteers Day (IVD) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985 to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism. The day is now celebrated worldwide with thousands of volunteers involved in a range of voluntary initiatives including clean-up campaigns, community care work, poverty alleviation programs, edutainment, conferences, exhibitions and many other activities all aimed at highlighting the role of volunteers in their communities. Volunteerism has over the years become an epitome of social and community development.

ActionAid as an organization has a history of humanitarian assistance and this year was no exception as ActionAid Zimbabwe through the flagship Activista Zimbabwe youth movement Harare Chapter under the IDV 2018 theme “Volunteers Build Resilient Communities” voluntarily engaged in community clean-up campaign at Bumhudzo Old People’s Home in Zengeza Chitungwiza. This was to ensure that the old people housed there are spared from the Cholera epidemic and other diseases that may arise because of a dirty environment. ActionAid Zimbabwe partnered with NEMCHEM a cleaning company, V an W Engineering, Blue Gold, Securico, the Chitungwiza District Administration, the Chitungwiza Community Volunteers Association and the Zimbabwe Republic Police in the commemorations. Young people came together in solidarity to build and solidify resiliency in the Chitungwiza community. International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2018, “Volunteers build Resilient Communities”, sought to recognize volunteers worldwide – with a special focus on local community volunteers – who contribute to making their communities more resilient against natural disasters, economic stresses and political shocks.

Taking a leaf from the EU Aid Volunteers slogan: We care, We Act; Activista Volunteers took time to enhance human development by transforming individual lives of the elderly, including their own. Volunteers said they were motivated by values like justice, equality, freedom and the promotion of the well-being of communities because they care. Fischer Siabasimbi, the Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Aid Volunteering (GESHAVO) Inspirator at ActionAid Zimbabwe reiterated that volunteerism is a 365-days-a-year task and said the aim of this year’s event was

**November-December 2018 Zimbabwe Issue**

not only to recognize volunteerism but to celebrate that young people act as agents of change who volunteer to make the world a better place.

In a speech to commemorate the International Day of Volunteers, Takaitei Bote, Communications Focal Person for ActionAid Zimbabwe said since 1999 the organisation has been implementing different poverty alleviation and humanitarian programs in Nyanga, Makoni, Hwedza, Binga, Mbire, Buhera, Kariba and Nkayi districts. Among the projects that ActionAid Zimbabwe is implementing is a Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Volunteers Projects in partnership with the EUROPEAN Aid Volunteers which seeks to promote the spirit and values of Volunteerism among community members and the general citizenry. Since inception, ActionAid Zimbabwe has been working with volunteers conducting various social justice campaigns such as Activista and the safe cities campaign volunteer network which seeks to promote protection and safety of women and girls in public transportation spaces.

An elated Volunteer from Activista Future Karichi said she had a burning desire to contribute to the common good, out of free will, in the spirit of solidarity and without expectation of material reward. She felt so much honoured to take a lead role especially towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. ActionAid continues to mentor the youth and community volunteers for enhanced civility and public spiritedness through its various spaces ranging from rural women assemblies, women coalition, youth civic platforms and other networks.

It was a fun filled day in Chitungwiza as an awareness campaign in the form of a march and a road show was also held at Zengeza Shopping centre with music and dance. Young people donated time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community. Young Zimdancehall artists, Hwindi President and Dadza D took turns to wow the ever-swelling crowd meanwhile urging people to engage in volunteerism whose sense of involvement and free will engagement remains a major force to the development of our country.



## Mainstreaming gender in humanitarian aid volunteering work

By: Fischer Siasimbi, AAZ Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Aid Volunteering Inspirator



**Participants at the Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Aid Volunteering (GESHAVO) training**

In today's contemporary world gender mainstreaming has become the center stage of most of the civil society programming in a view to address the underlying social structures causing the disparities between men and women. The importance of a gender strategy in any well-functioning organization cannot be overemphasized as it is a cornerstone to address the cross-cutting issues affecting women and men as well as boys and girls in the communities.

For society to function well, it requires that the needs of the community are met and that the people themselves are adequately and accurately informed. The stereo types against women tend to worsen especially if the community is uniformed. Coupled with a status call of volunteerism, women volunteers suffer way too much stereo types as compared to the male counterparts.

ActionAid Zimbabwe is implementing a Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Aid Volunteers (GESHAVO) project which is also implemented by ActionAid Kenya and Zambia. The GESHAVO

**November-December 2018 Zimbabwe Issue**

project seeks to strengthen ActionAid partner organizations in the field of gender sensitive volunteer management during emergencies in compliance with the European union standards.

ActionAid Zimbabwe held a Gender sensitive volunteer training in Harare from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. The Training was facilitated by Dora Bakatselou Volunteer Project Management Officer ActionAid Hellas, Peter Clever Matimati Local Rights Programme Manager Emergency & Humanitarian Focal Person Zimbabwe and Fischer Siabasimbi-GESHAVO inspirator at ActionAid Zimbabwe. The team also outsourced a gender expert, Mary Gokova for enhanced highlights on gender frameworks and the challenges facing women volunteers in Zimbabwe.

The main objectives of the Training wereto explore how volunteering can be practically developed in a gender-sensitive way, including, to examine what gender-sensitive volunteering is and why it is necessary as an approach, to clarify what is understood by the term volunteering, including its benefits and challenges and helping attendees understand the spirit of volunteerism.

Among the topics covered were, ActionAid Humanitarian Principles and its humanitarian history, unpacking gender and linking it to the Gender Unicorn, EU Aid Volunteers Profile, Challenges facing women in Zimbabwe, Stereotypes associated with volunteerism with a special focus on Africa to mention but a few.

The training brought together 15 participants drown from ActionAid Staff and partners, and at the end of the three days, participants were able to link the GESHAVO project to the already existing programs being implemented by ActionAid Zimbabwe.

Next on the GESHAVO project trainings is a training on humanitarian standards and women-led emergency responses slated for January 2019.

## Mainstreaming Social Accountability in our Social Justice Work



**Community members from Manyau Village during bridge construction**

Work is in progress at Manyau Village, Nyanga District as community members are working to repair the Manyau footbridge to safeguard school children from falling. Children in the community have not been attending school especially during the rainy season as they were failing to cross the damaged bridge which was a hazard to their lives. ActionAid Zimbabwe provided them with community-based planning training and they are now able to engage their local authorities for provision of public services such as this bridge. The local Council provided the community with technical expertise (an engineer) and engaged private players to take part with providing material



**Priority 3: Strengthen resilient livelihoods and secure climate justice**

**Livelihood diversification key in resilience building**

By: Shamiso Saburi, AAZ Communications Intern



**Model farmers Bhazirio and Chenai Chagwatika**

Bhazirio and Chenai Chagwatika from Mashomba village, Ward 3, Mbire District have demonstrated hard work and commitment ever since they attained knowledge from the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) project. Bhazirio and Chenai are married with eight children and they have a homestead with diverse livelihood projects supporting the family. The couple is inspiring others in the community through their success story.

Their journey began in 2016 when the ZRBF project was introduced in Mbire district. The programme which focuses on promoting resilience building in the Zambezi Valley, encouraging communities to remain resilient in the face of shocks and stresses enlightened people in Mashomba village. Capacity building to engage in pen fattening, artificial insemination and farming was provided to the community. However, it only took dedicated and self-driven people like Chenai and Bhazirio to devote their time to practising what they learnt in order to step up to the next level.

Chenai and Bhazirio are venturing in pen fattening, livestock rearing and farming. “We started keeping our cattle professionally after we acquired knowledge of pen fattening, artificial insemination and rotating bulls from Zambezi Valley Alliance. We were also taught conservative farming and how to properly keep livestock. Now we consider our farming as a business,” said Bhazirio.



Bhazirio specialises in pen fattening and keeping cattle. For pen fattening he is giving his cattle a combination of urea treatment and commercial feed for 3 months before selling. He is also breeding his cattle and rotating bulls after breeding about three generations to avoid inbreeding and promote cross breeding which produces good breeds. Bhazirio also de-horns his cattle a few months after birth so that his cows can gain weight faster without cow horns having to compete for calcium with the bones. He also dehorn his cattle so that his wife Chenai can help him with managing and feeding without fear of being attacked. Before the programme he had 86 cows and sold 24 in February 2018, currently he has 62 cows.

Chenai specialises in keeping goats and sheep. She does artificial insemination to improve the breeds of both the goats and sheep. She also fattens the goats when she wants to sell. Previously, before the project she had 60 goats and 30 sheep. Chenai is also capable of treating her livestock in the event of illness. Currently, she has 66 goats and 42 sheep.

In farming, the couple works together. They farm maize and cotton for sell and consumption. In the 2017 farming season, they harvested 40 bags of maize, six bells of cotton, six bags of groundnuts and 10 bags of beans.

Chenai and Bhazirio have been awarded the title Community Champions in Mbire for the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund project under the Zambezi Valley consortium. Their home is now regarded as a mini Crop and Livestock Innovation Centre for community members where they can go and learn from.

“This programme has helped us a lot. We can now treat our cattle without having to look for animal doctors, we are now breeding our livestock professionally and this has helped us in gaining more profits. In February this year (2018) we purchased a 4x4 Nissan car and a pulverizer after selling 24 cows. Also, we are managing to send our children to school without difficulties of paying school fees or buying them uniforms and books,” said Chenai.



**November-December 2018 Zimbabwe Issue**

“However, we are facing challenges of space. The space we have for our projects is very limited such that we are forced to sell our livestock before we voluntarily decide to sell. Rainy patterns in our area are very much unpredictable and this makes farming challenging as the outcome is not guaranteed,” added Chenai.

Although the couple is facing minor challenges, their well-kept home and homestead clearly demonstrate their attention to detail and pride in their work.

**Pen fattening for resilience**

**Natalia Perez (ZRBF head) & Lydia Ndete Banda (Binga DA) during a ZRBF steering committee**

Pen fattening & artificial insemination enhancing resilience building in Lusulu Binga supported by Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) Zambezi Valley Alliance with African Breeders Services Total Cattle Management providing technical guidance. Pen fattening is done for 3 months when a farmer decides to sell to improve quality and yield of cattle to attain more profits after selling as we promote resilience building in communities.