### act:onaid <sub>Zimbabwe</sub>

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

AAZ	Action Aid Zimbabwe
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
LRPs	Local Rights Programmes
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
SIF3	Strategy Implementation Framework 3
PWD	People with Disabilities
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ISALs	Internal Savings and Lending Schemes
SASA	Start, Awareness, Support, and Action
GGTZ	Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe
FPC	Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre
ВТ	Basilwizi Trust
GP	Global Platform
SADC	Southern African Development Community
GRPS	Gender Responsive Public Services
HEFO	Health Education Food Security
JPV	Jekesa Pfungwa Vulungqondo
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ZIMSOFF	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum
FAWEZI	Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe
LCDZ	Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe
TORCHES	Towards Resilient with Health, Equality and Safety for All
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

### **OUR IDENTITY**

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) is a locally registered Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO 8/2003) that has been operational since 2003. Rooted in the communities it serves, AAZ draws its mandate from these constituencies, with a strong geographic presence primarily in rural areas through its Local Rights Programme (LRP) sites. In recent years, the organisation has also extended its footprint into urban spaces, responding to the growing challenge of urban poverty. AAZ operates as an independent entity committed to standing in solidarity with people living in poverty and marginalisation. The organisation works collaboratively with Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), national and international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), various levels of government, and other like-minded partners within and beyond Zimbabwe

### VISION

A just, equitable and sustainable Zimbabwe in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

### MISSION

To work with people living in poverty and exclusion in Zimbabwe to achieve social justice, poverty eradication and gender equality.



### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



#### **Dear Friends and Partners,**

Welcome to AAZ 2024 Annual Report. As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and inspired by the resilience and determination of the communities we serve.

In 2024, we witnessed significant strides in our work in the communities that we work. We continued our pursuit for social justice, climate justice, gender equality and feminist alternatives, and the eradication of poverty. Our anchor on a systems change approach was significantly strengthened by our interventions that gave life to our flagship global climate justice campaign "fund our future", which aims at redirecting financing from harmful practices such as fossil fuels and industrial agriculture to green alternatives that will help save the planet and humanity.

Through our exciting, youth targeted interventions, the Hopley Youth Hub, 3,600 young people were directly impacted, with access to essential services and opportunities. Through Pachoto sessions, we facilitated crucial conversations around Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), leading to increased awareness and health-seeking behavior, resulting in 521 referrals to services.

Our work extended beyond the hub, with community volunteers playing a vital role in addressing the cholera outbreak, educating residents, and promoting public health. We also witnessed the transformative power of skills development, with 20 young people completing vocational training at Young Africa Zimbabwe, equipping them with skills to improve their livelihoods. Also, through Strategic Partnership Agreement 2, we are proud to report an overwhelming meaningful participation of young people in influencing spaces such as community meetings, conferences, policy making dialogues, budget making consultation platforms at local, national and regional level including having young people being elected to influential positions. Young leaders are now shaping community development, advocating for inclusive governance, and demanding accountability.

Moreover, our continued efforts in humanitarian programming yielded substantial results. The Learning and Evaluative Research conducted in Chipinge district provided valuable insights into our interventions following Cyclone Freddy, sharing findings with various stakeholders, including district officials and United Nations agencies. This collaborative approach promotes a culture of learning and adaptation, ensuring that we continuously improve our response to future crises. We are proud to share that we supported the Department of Civil Protection with the drafting of a new Disaster Risk Management Bill, which will enhance the country's disaster preparedness framework and ultimately benefit the entire population, particularly those mostly hit by disasters.

As we celebrate these achievements, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose unwavering commitment and hard work have made all this possible. I also want to express our appreciation to our partners, including governmental bodies, NGOs, and community organizations. Your support, collaboration, and shared vision for a better future have been instrumental in creating lasting change in the lives of the young people we serve.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we are building a brighter future for the youth of Zimbabwe.

Comradely, Joy Mabenge Country Director

### OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

In 2024, AAZ, like many in the civil society sector, faced a challenging operating environment characterized by the compounded effects of El Niño-induced droughts, persistent economic challenges, and shrinking funding for humanitarian and development initiatives. The El Niño phenomenon significantly impacted agricultural production and food security across Zimbabwe. The prolonged drought conditions resulted in below-average rainfall, severely affecting crop yields and livestock productivity. As a result, many communities experienced acute food shortages, leading to increased vulnerability among already marginalized populations. In response, AAZ mobilized resources to implement emergency interventions, including the School Feeding Programme. These efforts aimed to mitigate the effects of food insecurity on children and ensure their continued access to education.

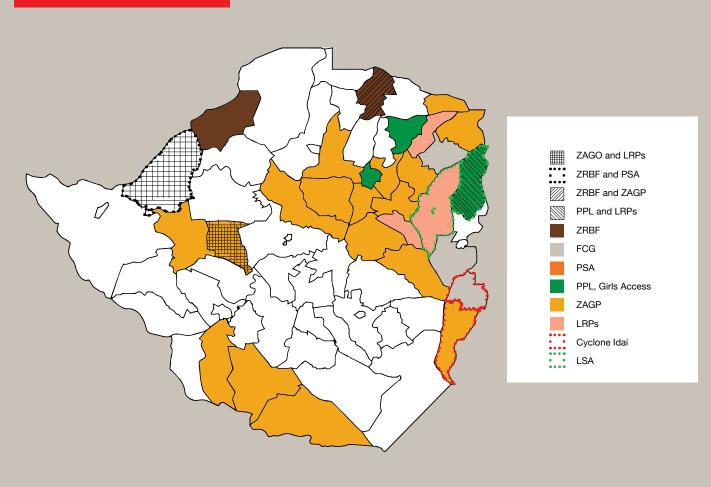
Economic challenges in Zimbabwe further exacerbated the situation, with inflation rates remaining high and the cost of living rising steeply. Families struggled to meet basic needs, including food, health services, and education, creating an environment of increasing hardship and uncertainty. The country's economic climate, marked by high unemployment rates and limited opportunities for income generation, posed significant barriers to community resilience. Many households resorted to negative coping strategies, such as reducing meal portions or withdrawing children from school to contribute to household income. These conditions underscored the urgent need for sustainable solutions to bolster livelihoods and improve community resilience.

Additionally, the shrinking availability of funds for humanitarian and development programs remained a critical concern. Donor fatigue, coupled with a challenging global economic landscape, resulted in decreased financial support for many initiatives. This funding shift necessitated a strategic reevaluation of program priorities, pushing AAZ to focus on maximizing impact with limited resources. The organization actively sought to diversify funding sources and explore innovative partnerships to sustain its ongoing programs and interventions.

Despite these challenges, AAZ remains committed to addressing the pressing needs of vulnerable communities. The organization continues to advocate for policy reforms, enhance community engagement, and foster resilience among affected populations. By leveraging local knowledge and promoting collaborative approaches, AAZ aims to navigate the complexities of the operating environment while striving to improve the lives of those it serves. The dedication of staff and partnerships with community organizations, government bodies, and international agencies remain vital components in efforts to overcome these challenges and build a more sustainable future for Zimbabwean communities.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) continued to operate in a complex and demanding environment. The economic landscape remained fragile, with inflationary pressures, currency instability, and limited fiscal space placing strain on both citizens and institutions. Access to basic services such as healthcare, water, and energy remained constrained, particularly in underserved communities, while high taxation and the costof-living deepened poverty and vulnerability. These conditions highlighted the urgent need for coordinated, inclusive responses to ensure social protection and resilience. CSOs also faced a narrowing civic space, with growing constraints on freedom of expression and association. Nevertheless, the sector remained engaged and responsive working alongside communities to strengthen service delivery, promote social cohesion, and support national development priorities. In this context, collaboration between government and civil society remains essential to advancing inclusive, rights-based, and sustainable development outcomes.





### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) II PROJECT



### DANISH TELEVISION (DTV) PROJECT









### **GLOBAL PLATFORM ACTIVITIES**



### PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (PSA) PROJECT





### **TORCHES PROJECT**



### ZIMACE PROJECT





### FAIR GREEN GLOBAL (FGG) AND RVO PROJECTS



**HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS** 



LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMS



### NATIONAL EVENTS



#### In response to a cholera outbreak,

### 15 community volunteers

(10 women, 5 men) partnered with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the local Health Centre Committee to lead a cleanup campaign and public health education drive

### SYSTEM CHANGE FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) 2

AAZ, in partnership with ActionAid Denmark (AADK) is implementing the *Strategic Partnership Agreement II (SPA II)*, a DANIDA-funded initiative that began in 2022. The overarching goal of SPA II is that by 2025, young people—particularly young women, who comprise at least 60% of beneficiaries—in Binga, Chimanimani, Chipinge, and Mbire districts will understand their roles and actively engage in shaping an enabling environment for feminist and green economic alternatives. These efforts are intended to improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience to climate-induced shocks and stresses, contributing directly to SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 13 (Climate Action).

SPA II is anchored in three interlinked strategic objectives:

**SO1:** Young people, especially young women and those facing marginalization or fragility, enjoy their rights to an open and enabling democratic space and access to well- resourced programs and public services

**SO2:** Young people, especially young women and those facing marginalisation or fragility, enjoy a just transition and their right to climate resilient livelihoods.

**SO3:** Young people, especially young women and those facing marginalization, are resilient to shocks and enjoy their right to protection in fragile contexts, disasters, and protracted crises.

In 2024, the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) 2 program made substantial advancements in fostering inclusive governance and accountability, enhancing involvement significantly youth in community decision-making structures. A noteworthy achievement was the remarkable overachievement in the number of young people accessing influencing spaces, underscoring a substantial mobilization effort. 2024 saw 12 young women and 4 young men elected to various community development positions, including Ward Development Coordinators and Village Development Committees. Additionally, three youths (2 females and 1 male), engaged in capacitybuilding initiatives, secured decision-making roles within broader social movements. However, while the overall target for accessing influencing spaces was surpassed, it is important to acknowledge that the specific annual target for youth elected to decision-making positions was not fully met.

Youth advocacy efforts focused on critical public service issues, particularly in the Binga district, where young people passionately addressed the just relocation of the Gwayi and Shangani communities, the rehabilitation of boreholes for improved water access, and the decentralization of district registry offices. Some young advocates also challenged practices that limited youth participation in local budget-making processes, demonstrating their commitment to influence local governance.

The program's impactful policy-related work was evident following training provided by Global Platform Zimbabwe, which empowered young people to exercise their right to access information. This advocacy effort compelled the **Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development** 

and Vocational Training to release procedural documents concerning the procurement of 17 vehicles and a \$9 million investment in a fruit and vegetable company. This disclosure not only corroborated findings from the 2023 Auditor General's reports but also set a precedent for youth-led government oversight. Following this, young people trained by the Global Platforms initiated discussions on state accountability, demanding the release of the 2023 Auditor General's Reports, which led to governmental engagement with accountability conversations and formal responses to related inquiries, indicating a positive shift in public discourse. The program successfully met its overall target for collective actions, recording **10 campaigns** in 2024 focused on public resource management and climate justice.

An innovative highlight of the SPA 2 program was the solarization of a borehole in **Chipinge Ward 3**, which served as a critical intervention for strategic service delivery. In addition to its primary function supporting an agroecological center set up with AAZ support, the initiative significantly reduced the unpaid care work burden on women from surrounding communities, who historically shouldered the responsibility of fetching water. This demonstrates the tangible improvements in the lives of women due to the program's efforts.

The program incorporated several innovative approaches that yielded impressive outcomes. One significant strategy was the implementation of **social accountability training models**, which effectively empowered young people to organize and mobilize, resulting in duty bearers becoming more responsive to youth demands. This innovation directly contributed to an increase in collective actions undertaken by young people. The effectiveness of convening spaces and platforms was also notable. By facilitating active participation in decision-making processes, the program enabled young people to voice their concerns and influence policy discussions. Their engagement in parliamentary budget processes and **UNWomen Youth Symposia**, facilitated by Global Platform, exemplified this approach's success.

The program's policy-related efforts exemplified its focus on empowering young people as effective advocates. Key advocacy initiatives included organizing three distinct groups of young people who launched significant collective action campaigns in 2024. One notable group concentrated on holding duty-bearers accountable for public resource management by advocating for the release and utilization of the Auditor General's reports. Engagements with duty bearers yielded tangible outcomes, including the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training's provision of procedural documents in response to youth advocacy. This illustrates the direct impact these engagements have had on promoting youth inclusion.

> Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training to release procedural documents concerning the procurement of 17 vehicles and a

investment in a fruit and vegetable company.

### DANISH TELEVISION PROJECT (DTV)

AAZ is implementing the "Youth Hub in Hopley -Dignified Lives and Decent Livelihoods for Young People" project, a transformative initiative aimed at addressing the complex challenges confronting youth in one of Harare's most marginalized communities. Hopley is marked by severe poverty, social exclusion, limited access to education, and scarce livelihood opportunities-factors that have pushed many young people, particularly young women, into harmful survival strategies such as sex work, drug use, and illicit trade. The Youth Hub initiative seeks to reverse these trends by equipping young people with practical skills, knowledge, and advocacy platforms. The project focuses on enhancing employability, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening youth agency in advancing rights and social justice. By April 2026, the project aims to reach at least 3,000 young people (2,500 females and 500 males), empowering them to make informed life choices, access decent work, and contribute to building a more inclusive and equitable community.

#### **Project Outcomes and Strategic Focus**

The project is structured around four Immediate Outcomes (IOs):

**IO1**: Empowered young people with dignified lives and a strong sense of solidarity.

**IO2**: Diversified, sustainable, and safe livelihoods for youth in Hopley.

**IO3**: Improved uptake of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and education.

**IO4**: Enhanced access to essential public services, including education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and social protection.

Key activities at the Youth Hub include life skills and technical training, entrepreneurship support, access to information services, wellness spaces such as the "Chill Spot" and "Chill Wednesday Corners" for young women, as well as cultural and social events that foster community building.

During the reporting period, the *Danish Television– Youth Hub in Hopley* project achieved significant milestones, directly benefiting 3,600 young people-2,880 females and 720 males-through diverse empowerment and support activities.

A cornerstone of the project was the facilitation of **98 youth-led "Pachoto" sessions** focused on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and SRHR. These sessions reached 1,045 additional youths (782 females, 263 males) and were facilitated by trained community volunteers. As a result, **521 referrals** were made to health and justice services, including 326 for STI and reproductive health screenings and 174 for SGBVrelated support. Follow-up assessments revealed high levels of client satisfaction, underscoring the effectiveness of the sessions in promoting healthseeking behavior and the need to strengthen local protection systems.

In response to a cholera outbreak, **15 community volunteers** (10 women, 5 men) partnered with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the local Health Centre Committee to lead a clean-up campaign and public health education drive. This initiative mobilized community action and reinforced proper hygiene practices, contributing to improved public health awareness.

Further advancing economic empowerment, **20 youth** (12 females, 8 males) were enrolled in vocational training through Young Africa Zimbabwe. The blended approach of classroom instruction and industrial attachment equipped trainees with in-demand skills in areas such as solar technology, mechanics, and beauty therapy-laying a strong foundation for future employment.

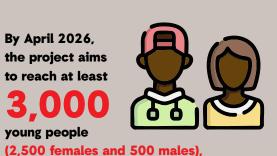
The project also experienced a 24% increase in youth footfall at the hub compared to the previous year. A total of 562 young people (483 males, 79 females) participated in vocational training, wellness activities, and internship placement support, illustrating growing trust and engagement among youth.

A cohort of **five young women** received training on Gender-Transformative Public Services, enhancing their capacity to advocate for improved youthresponsive services and to engage meaningfully with local authorities. This training led to community dialogues aimed at increasing youth participation in public decision-making.

The project also championed youth-led research on drug and substance abuse in Hopley. In collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Development, a research report was launched in August 2024. The findings informed local advocacy efforts, including the production of a youth-led podcast to amplify voices and call for improved services at the Tariro Clinic.

To enhance service delivery and impact, the project embraced several innovative approaches. The merger of the Waterfalls and Milton Park Youth Hubs has positioned the initiative as a stronger. more integrated youth platform. The adoption of the SASA! and Join-In-Circuit models has improved community-based SGBV response systems and strengthened SRHR advocacy efforts.

Digital storytelling emerged as a powerful advocacy tool. A youth-produced podcast on drug and substance abuse successfully engaged policymakers and catalyzed advocacy for better health services. Additionally, collaboration with Young Africa Zimbabwe's franchise model facilitated vital linkages between vocational training and employment, ensuring that skills development leads to tangible livelihood outcomes





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### SYSTEM CHANGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



In 2024, AAZ climate justice programme continued to work closely with frontline communities particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups—through participatory and empowering approaches. These efforts supported communities in asserting their rights and developing solutions for climate adaptation, resilience, agroecology, land and territorial defense, commons protection, and disaster risk reduction.

The year marked a pivotal period in advancing a feminist and just green transition in agriculture and energy. Significant progress was achieved through collective action across initiatives such as the Local Rights Programmes, SPA2, Danish Television (DTV), Zimbabwe Citizen Accountability and Engagement (ZIMACE), RVO, and Global Platforms Zimbabwe. These collaborative efforts, particularly under the "Fund Our Future" campaign, advocated for climate financing and policy reforms, promoting accountability in the governance of critical mineral resources and championing agroecology and energy justice.

As part of our capacity-strengthening initiatives, the System Change for Climate Justice programme empowered approximately 150 youth leaders in Mbire District. This was achieved through collaboration with the Global Platform and Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC), a key implementing partner under SPA2. The training focused on equipping young leaders with knowledge and advocacy skills to effectively champion climate justice and rights.

Our policy engagement work also made significant strides. Notably, we partnered with Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe (GGTZ) in a validation workshop that analyzed gaps in the country's Disaster Risk Management policies. The insights gathered contributed to a more comprehensive and responsive disaster management framework in Zimbabwe.

Further fostering regional collaboration and learning, AAZ facilitated a cross-country exchange visit hosted by the Nexus and Climate Justice Advisor, SPA2 team, and Global Platform. Delegates from ActionAid Kenya and ActionAid Uganda explored agroecology practices and climate justice programming in Zimbabwe. This initiative strengthened regional solidarity and knowledge-sharing in climate advocacy. In August 2024, AAZ hosted the Global Climate Justice Working Group Conference in Harare, convening 20 participants from Africa, Asia, and Europe representing SPA2 project countries. The conference emphasized knowledge exchange and strategic planning, culminating in a collective strategy to increase visibility for SPA2, elevate citizen voices in climate action, and lay the groundwork for the upcoming SPA3 initiative.







Α key outcome of these efforts was increased youth participation in climate discourse at both local and national levels. AAZ's presence in public and digital media significantly contributed to national conversations on climate change, advocating for stronger government commitments to finance climate adaptation and mitigation.

In a creative and impactful initiative, AAZ supported the "Climate Funeral" event during the Global Week of Action for Climate Justice. Held at the Youth Hub in Waterfalls, Harare, the event engaged over 100 youth leaders in voicing their experiences and calling for greater accountability from government and global partners. Participants articulated the challenges faced by youth due to climatic shocks and advocated for enhanced

governmental commitment to support climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, particularly in collaboration with the global north.

On the policy front, AAZ remained engaged in post-COP28 dialogues and renewable energy policy forums. Collaborating with partners such as the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), Reynah Trust, and FES-Zimbabwe, these engagements informed our advocacy agenda. A major research report analyzing the intersection of industrial agribusiness and Zimbabwe's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) was finalized and prepared for publication, providing critical evidence for future advocacy. AAZ also actively participated in the 44th Southern African Development Community (SADC) People's Summit, held in Harare in August 2024 under the theme "Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustained Economic Growth and Development." This provided an opportunity to engage on regional development issues and advocate for climate-resilient economic policies. Additional participation in the Regional Agroecology Conference and the National Good Food Festival further reinforced our commitment to sustainable and equitable food systems.

### ZIMBABWE ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT (ZIMACE)

AAZ is implementing the Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement (ZIMACE) project, titled Fostering Effective Local Environmental Governance and Management in Zimbabwe's Lithium Sector for Global Impact, targeting Bikita, Mberengwa, and Goromonzi districts. The project aims to drive policy, practice, and systemic changes to ensure sustainable resource use, community empowerment, and environmental rights protection by increasing accountability of authorities and companies, improving government buy-in for environmental compliance, and enhancing coordination among stakeholders for more effective governance. Key interventions include collaborative alliances for accountability, advocacy for policy and legal reforms, and strengthening community capacity for environmental monitoring. AAZ will also generate evidence for CSOs to engage in data-driven policy advocacy on ESG issues using tools such as a value chain tracker and a policy package on economic, fiscal, and social incentives for sustainable practices. Longterm, the project seeks to strengthen partnerships among government stakeholders, communities, and corporates to influence positive policy reforms and promote sustainable environmental practices in Zimbabwe's lithium sector.

#### Specific objectives on the project are as follows:

- **O1:** To establish sustainable multi-stakeholder engagements with stakeholders, authorities, companies, and local communities to foster environmental transparency and accountability.
- **O2:** To develop evidence-based methods and tools for holding authorities and companies accountable in the utilization and management of natural resources.
  - **O3:** To promote evidence-based policy influencing and decision-making for institutional reforms aimed at fostering responsible stewardship of the environment and water resources in the lithium sector.



**O4:** To establish systems for compliance monitoring of environmental management at both local and national levels

The project operates within the context of Zimbabwe's substantial lithium researves – the largest in Africa and among the top globally. AAZ, under the ZIMACE project, has made notable progress in advancing evidence-based policy advocacy, particularly concerning environmental governance in the lithium sector. Two critical research papers produced by AAZ have been instrumental in shaping its advocacy efforts and influencing policy decisions. These studies provide robust evidence supporting the implementation of sustainable practices in lithium mining, emphasizing the principles of transparency, accountability, and environmental justice.

Research Paper on Transparency and Accountability in the Lithium Mining SectorAAZ conducted a comprehensive study focusing on identifying transparency and accountability gaps in Zimbabwe's lithium value chain. This research paper identified key opportunities for

### LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMS (LRPS)

In the ongoing AAZ's commitment to promoting sustainable farming practices, Makoni and Hwedza successfully facilitated the participation of six smallholder women farmers, while Nyanga engaged 124 participants (108 women and 16 men) in critical discussions on agroecology at national

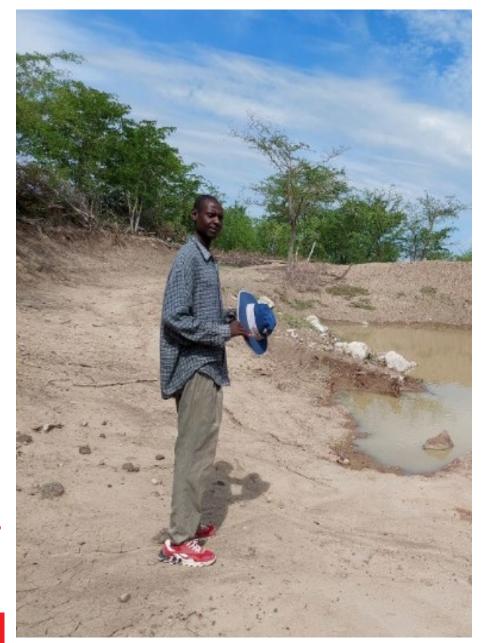
improving ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) performance within the sector, laying the groundwork for greater civil society engagement and providing actionable insights for policy change. This research's findings formed the basis for developing a value chain tracker tool, which is a critical component in AAZ's approach to monitoring and promoting transparency within the sector. The study's outcomes have directly contributed to increased civil society awareness and have been used to advocate for more robust regulatory frameworks that ensure responsible and sustainable lithium mining practices that also contribute to climate change mitigation. By highlighting the intersection of the lithium sector with national climate goals, the research has emphasized the need for mining practices that reduce environmental degradation, promote energy efficiency, and support Zimbabwe's commitments to climate resilience and sustainability.

events, including the National Good Food Festival and International Women's Day. These platforms showcased the remarkable work of women in agroecology and fostered essential dialogues around policy issues impacting food systems.



"I am happy with the advocacy initiatives for our climate, we are practicing agroecology in our fields, and we have seen good results in the face of climate change. Opportunities to share our experiences with duty bearers and other farmers are very important in spreading information on climate justice. Shuwiso Vangisai (Mai Chapu) with the Chief Director for Women's Affairs Mrs. L. Matsika- Takaendesa at the International Rural Women's Day in Mutoko 2024."

Agroecological principles gained momentum among irrigation farmers in Tyunga-Luunga ward, with 68 participants (39 women and 29 men) adopting practices such as mulching and crop rotation. Additionally, women in Nyanga spearheaded the "Fund Our Future" campaign, effectively advocating for sustainable farming practices and engaging local leadership in recognizing the vital importance of agroecology. The Rural Women Assembly in ward 21 also received training in apiculture, equipping them with valuable skills in beekeeping that enhance local economic opportunities. A significant outcome of community training initiatives was the construction of a weir dam in Sonkwa Village, Binga, which now provides water to over 20 households. This project alleviated the domestic workload for women, highlighting the tangible benefits of climate-responsive training in agroecology and disaster management.



**Francis Machimbirike constructed** a weir dam for water harvesting after receiving training on Agro ecological principles at Sonkwa business center which was facilitated by an Agritex Officer supported by Basilwizi Trust. He was pushed by the water crisis in the village as they could travel more than 5 km to fetch water from the river. Francis Machimbirike averred that "I thank Basilwizi trust and ActionAid Zimbabwe to bring training workshop on Agroecology which gave me impetus force to build my own small dam closer to my home. I am now able to fetch water for goats and cattle as well as to water fruit trees which I planted at home ". He constructed the weir dam with family members using a scotch cart to collect the materials needed to pile the dam wall. He added that "the dam has collected water from the first rains which were received on the third week of December 2024. I am now able to water vegetables and maize which I planted in the garden."

AAZ environmental awareness initiatives in Nyanga reached 328 individuals, leading to the establishment of environmental committees and the identification of woodlots for conservation. Collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, AAZ engaged 283 participants across three wards, focusing on coping with mechanisms for climate-related challenges. Women in Nyanga actively engaged duty bearers to advocate for increased investment in agroecology and the defunding of industrial agriculture. This groundwork facilitated advocacy efforts that empower women and youth to participate in climate justice dialogues at the district level, culminating in a successful climate justice march that brought together 82 community members.

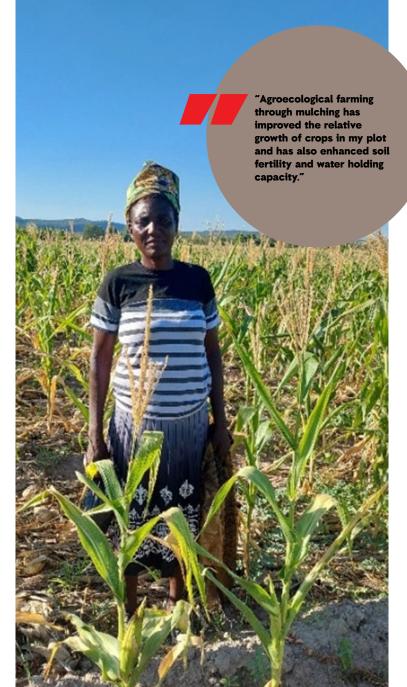
Furthermore, AAZ supported 93 smallholder farmers (71 women and 22 men) and 65 participants in Nyazura with agroecology refresher workshops, providing critical inputs and resources for sustainable farming. Learning exchange visits for 98 participants (77 women and 21 men) further promoted the adoption of agroecological practices. In Nyazura, Agroecology Field Days attracted over 180 participants, showcasing organic produce, and reinforcing community learning.

### IMPACT STORY

### TRANSFORMATION THROUGH AGROECOLOGY AT TYABA IRRIGATION

Tyaba irrigation, located in Tyunga-Luunga ward one of Binga district, is home to fiftyfour resolute farmers thirty-six females and eighteen males. Traditionally known for low yields primarily for family consumption, these farmers have experienced a remarkable transformation thanks to Agroecology training provided by Basilwizi Trust in partnership with Action Aid Zimbabwe (AAZ).

The aim of the training was to enhance farming practices and improve crop yields. With the knowledge gained, farmers began to produce more, allowing them to meet not only their family needs but also to cater to other community demands. This shift has been crucial in a region where food insecurity was prevalent.



Basilwizi Trust and AAZ mobilized resources to implement agroecology principles and promote the adoption of neglected and underutilised species. This initiative has raised community awareness on local risks and how to manage them effectively. Farmers now utilize locally available resources, reducing reliance on expensive fertilizers and other inputs. Such practices contribute significantly to combating the effects of climate change impacting rural communities.

Farmers have even constructed a fishpond within the irrigation area to diversify their diets, highlighting a commitment to sustainable practices that enhance their livelihoods. The introduction of agroecology has led to healthier, more robust crops, transforming the landscape of Tyaba irrigation.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) 2

The SPA 2 program has made significant strides in fostering climate justice outcomes that empower young people to achieve a just transition and build climate-resilient livelihoods. Throughout the year, the program influenced six key policy and practice outcomes, including contributions to the Agroecology Policy and the Seed Act. Notably, seven innovative solutions, covering food security, alternatives to agri-business, and energy sectors, were scaled up in 2024, building on the four successful interventions from the previous year, such as income-generating projects and traditional food festivals centered around agroecology. The program significantly enhanced the capacities of young people through training in leadership, social accountability, and climate justice. This skillbuilding empowered youth to develop actionable climate plans and strengthen local community structures, evidence of which can be seen in their active engagement with local authorities in integrating youth-developed climate action plans into annual work plans.

Despite facing challenges, such as the severe El Niño-induced drought, participants in the program demonstrated remarkable resilience. Betina Mudenda, an irrigation farmer, shared her experience: "Agroecological farming through mulching has improved the relative growth of crops in my plot and has also enhanced soil fertility and water holding capacity." Farmers are now harvesting more produce from smaller plots, which has contributed to a decline in food shortages which were causing early marriages, theft, school dropouts, gender-based violence, poverty, and prostitution.

Overall, agroecology has proven to be a valuable agricultural principle that has transformed the lives of irrigation farmers in Tyaba. It has equipped them to respond effectively to climate challenges, ensuring a more sustainable future for themselves and their community.

Young smallholder farmers, particularly those supported by FPC, displayed their climate adaptation strategies through successful sesame production, averaging 56kg per farmer. This achievement secured household food security and generated much-needed income during environmental stress. The program's significant advocacy efforts led to the direct involvement of 10 youths, including women from rural communities, in shaping the Agroecology policy framework, marking a substantial step towards inclusive policy formulation and community empowerment.

Innovative approaches emerged within the SPA 2 program, significantly contributing to climate justice in several ways. A strategic drought response was implemented through the rapid distribution of drought-tolerant seeds, such as sesame and cowpeas, which proved effective during the El Niño crisis. The program also promoted the diversification of livelihoods by guiding communities in exploring alternative economic activities, including small livestock husbandry and food processing ventures. Grassroots innovations, exemplified by the invention of clean energy stoves, reflect the resourcefulness of young people addressing local energy needs sustainably. Additionally, community gardens established as demonstration sites have become vital for learning and showcasing climateresilient agricultural practices, further fostering environmental stewardship in schools and neighborhoods.

The SPA 2 Program also engaged in extensive policy-related work, notably during international advocacy initiatives like COP29, where a youthled campaign called for the defunding of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. Local advocacy efforts focused on securing budget allocations for essential community infrastructure. Furthermore, active engagement with duty bearers yielded significant shifts in local governance, evidenced by the incorporation of Climate Action Teams' plans into annual work plans of local authorities. The approval of the Agroecology policy by the Ministry of Agriculture stands as a testament to the

### IMPACT STORY

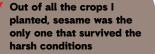
### SEEDS OF RESILIENCE: 'SMALL' SESAME BRINGS 'BIG' SMILES TO MBIRE FARMERS

In the Mbire district, farmers supported by the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC) have shown remarkable resilience despite extreme drought conditions caused by El Niño. This season, while many farmers nationwide faced complete crop failures, those who focused on small especially sesame, grains. managed to adapt and thrive. On average, these farmers achieved a harvest of 56 kg of sesame each, totaling an impressive 17,600 kg, even though this was less than what they harvested in the previous season.

The success of these farmers demonstrates their increased ability to handle difficult

program's successful advocacy and collaborative efforts.

Two poignant testimonials from rights holders illustrate the profound impact of the program on their lives. Mr. Brian Kamunda, a youth farmer from Ward 9 in Mbire, shared, "Out of all these seeds, sesame is the only crop that I managed to harvest as it proved to be resistant to the harsh conditions that we experienced this past farming season." This statement highlights the success of the drought-resilient seed distribution and adaptation strategies promoted by the program. His wife added, "This harvest has helped us so much. As a woman and a mother, I will be able to take care of my family using the income that we're going to get after selling the pulse." This underscores the economic empowerment that results from climateresilient agriculture, particularly for women who typically shoulder household responsibilities.



M

conditions and adapt to changing climates. They have successfully implemented food security solutions, changed public perceptions of agroecological practices, and expanded livelihood options to support their families through the year.

After the harvest, many farmers exchanged their sesame for livestock like goats, further enhancing their resilience. For example, Mr. Brian Kamunda,

#### a young farmer from Ward 9, received just 2 kg of sesame seeds from FPC and planted them on his half-acre plot. He harvested 675 kg, or fifteen bags of sesame, which he credited to early planting and the training he received from FPC. "Out of all the crops I planted, sesame was the only one that survived the harsh conditions," Brian shared. This success has brought financial relief and security to his family.



Similarly, Thomas Kasara, another youth farmer, also harvested over 600 kg of sesame, leading to improved livelihoods for him and his family.

In addition to sesame, FPC also introduced sorghum cultivation. Faith Chigombe, a smallholder farmer from Karai in Ward 8, cultivated sorghum even in challenging weather. She successfully harvested over 800 kg. Many farmers in her area struggled due to low rainfall, but her harvest provided food for her family and boosted her financial stability. Mr. Majaira, the Development Coordinator for Ward 8, noted, "For those who planted early, sorghum did very well, bringing income and healthy meals." Despite the harsh conditions this farming season, the FPC's interventions have led to significant changes. While many of the over 300 youths who received seeds struggled, those who engaged with drought-resistant crops like sesame and sorghum have seen hope and opportunity.

Before FPC's involvement, sesame was not widely cultivated; only 43% of beneficiaries engaged in its production. Now, 61% are participating in the sesame value chain, learning sustainable farming practices, and increasing their harvests for both food security and market sales.

### SYSTEM CHANGE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

#### LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMS

AAZ initiatives have significantly strengthened community engagement under Women's rights and feminist alternatives as well as Economic justice and public services in gender responsive public services (GRPS) and empowered vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth.

In Makoni, 4 women and 5 youth participated in the National Budget Consultation in Rusape, advocating for GRPS and ensuring their voices were recorded for national consideration. Through the Girl Supporter Project, 8 young girls from Makoni submitted key demands to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Education, emphasizing the need for enhanced support for sanitary wear and the protection of the girl child. This project has empowered over 100 girls, building their confidence to advocate for their rights.

To further support girls' well-being, 20 teachers were trained in Guidance and Counselling, equipping them to address the challenges faced by female students. Material support was provided to 20 schools for the establishment of Guidance and Counselling rooms. Additionally, 52 females including schoolgirls received training on making reusable pads, effectively addressing period poverty, and ensuring sustainable access to sanitary products.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE

In Nyazura, the International Rural Women's Day celebration highlighted the theme "Women Challenging the Cost-of-Living Crisis," attracting 109 participants who advocated for services to alleviate the burden of unpaid care work. Meanwhile, in Binga, community members constructed a garden supported by a small weir

Joint commemorations of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV engaged 200 women and girls, featuring storytelling sessions that allowed survivors and former perpetrators to share their experiences.

The SASA model was recognized by the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, earning ActionAid an Award of Recognition. This initiative, led by gender champions, has successfully reduced the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in communities, fostering positive changes in attitudes and behaviours. Joint commemorations of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV engaged 200 women and girls, featuring storytelling sessions that allowed survivors and former perpetrators to share their experiences. Participants reported feeling more informed and motivated to take action against GBV.

The SASA model is good in that it is led by the community members themselves, it encourages communities to be part of the change they want to see through dialogue and communication, Tarisai Kandiyado (43) SASA Champion.

dam, benefiting 27 households and improving food security through local vegetable production. The Income Saving and Lending Schemes (ISALS) concept gained momentum, with 11 thriving groups enabling women to invest in essentials and engage in life skills projects, including carpentry. Tusungwale ISAL group was formed in 2020 after they were trained by Basilwizi Trust. The group is made up of 13 people (9 females and 3 males) and they managed to raise 15 cattle for the group. In December 2024 they shared kitchen utensils 4 basins & 10 plates each) and this energized women in Luunga to value the concept of ISALs as they empower women economically. Maria Mutale, chairperson of the group ceremoniously "thanked Basilwizi Trust and ActionAid Zimbabwe to bring in the concepts of ISALS in the rural communities as they have transformed and transfigured the lives of women in the rural communities. As women we are now able to buy sugar, salt, soap and plates in shops with the money which we realize from ISALS group. Can I say we now have small banks in our rural areas where we deposit and withdraw later at our own time when needed".

"As women we are grateful to ActionAid for all the empowerment activities they have done for us, now we can stand up for ourselves and our lives have improved for the better. I am happy to have been given the opportunity to speak to Ministry of Women Affairs and told them the issues that affect us as women. We are not going to keep quiet until all our challenges have been solved. Emma from Nyazura "ActionAid is our all-weather partner friend; we thank them for their support. As the Ministry we understand that it is our duty to provide services to women and we are going to ensure that the public services we provide are gender responsive."

Coordination engagements in Saunyamabroughttogethercommunity ward development structures, youth leaders, and stakeholders to advocate and engage in discussions around gender responsive public service delivery issues. In Nyanga, dialogues



involving 310 community members (234 females and 76 males) led to the submission of motion papers for a new clinic in Nyamatsa, which received approval from the local council.

Budget consultations further empowered 245 participants (132 females and 113 males) to

advocate for increased resource allocation, addressing concerns such as the El Niñoinduced drought and access to health services. Research in Binga highlighted unclear national park boundaries, prompting local advocacy with the Binga Rural District Council and Carbon Green Africa for equitable resource management.

### TOWARDS RESILIENT WITH HEALTH, EQUALITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL (TORCHES)

AAZ works with partners in Zimbabwe namely Family Aids Caring Trust (FACT), Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZI) and Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and with support from ActionAid UK (AAUK) and funding from People's Postcode Lottery (PPL), to create communities where women and girls, including people with disabilities, are free from violence, have amplified voices and agency. TORCHES Project aims to prevent violence against women and girls and addresses power imbalances between men and women as the root cause of violence.

The TORCHES project uses the: SASA! Together model, a community mobilization approach based on the analysis and understanding of power imbalances as the root cause of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The TUSEME model contributes to raising the academic performance of students through boosting their confidence and motivation levels at school.

In 2024, the TORCHES Project made significant strides in combating gender-based violence (GBV) and empowering communities through SASA! Together methodology. A total of 47,359 individuals (30,195 females and 17,164 males) engaged in SASA! Together activities, with 883 participants being people with disabilities. This outreach not only raised awareness about GBV but also fostered a culture of support and action within

communities, demonstrating the vital role of both men and women in challenging harmful norms and promoting gender equality.

The TUSEME Action Plans strategy implemented in schools has yielded positive results in addressing challenges identified by learners, contributing to academic improvement and child protection. The project provided 210 textbooks to Sanhani and Kanyimo primary schools, resulting in an increase in the grade 7 pass rate at Sanhani from 48% in 2023 to 56.7% in 2024. Additionally, the Kick Out Child Marriages, Kick Start Education Campaign at Madziwa Mine Secondary School successfully raised awareness about child marriages through a soccer cup, while Seke Mhuriimwe High School produced reusable sanitary wear for vulnerable learners.

The project also facilitated access to GBV essential services, assisting 210 survivors (207 females and 3 males), primarily in cases of sexual abuse. Services provided included transport, medical assistance, and safe shelters, ensuring that survivors could access the necessary support. Coordination meetings with local stakeholders and the Zimbabwe Republic Police focused on strengthening referral pathways and improving service provision for survivors, enhancing community-led initiatives to prevent violence against women.

"Violence against women is a harsh reality. Thanks SASA Together, to we have built robust support systems for survivors, while ensuring accountability for perpetrators through our dedicated committees, which are designed to sustain the progress achieved in our district," Village Head, Nomatter Kusema, Mupfeki Village, Shamva



The project also assisted (207 females and 3 males), primarily in cases of sexual abuse. Services provided included transport, medical assistance, and safe shelters, ensuring that survivors could access the necessary support. Coordination meetings with local stakeholders and the Zimbabwe Republic Police focused on strengthening referral pathways and improving service provision for survivors, enhancing community-led initiatives to prevent violence against women.

Furthermore, the TORCHES Project engaged in policy-related work by collaborating with national

officials to address the challenges faced by GBV survivors in accessing essential services. This engagement involved 101 duty bearers, leading to recommendations for addressing medical fees and enhancing the capacity of local government structures. The project also included innovative initiatives, such as training community champions in wheelchair repair and utilizing soccer rules to raise awareness about child marriage, thereby promoting sustainability and community involvement.



"SASA! Together has brought joy and unity to our home. For the first time, our children truly enjoy being around us. We have become the go-to couple for others in the village looking to transform their relationships. The sessions positively changed our marriage."

### IMPACT STORY

### HOMEGROWN HERO: EPHILDA FIGHTS VIOLENCE WITH

Living in the belief that we can end violence through our solutions has driven me every day. We know our community, we know the hotspots and home-grown solutions are also required.



### **COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

Chitungwiza - One woman's determination is changing the fight against violence against women and girls. Ephilda Magwaza, a SASA! Together champion is inspiring her community to take a stand against gender-based violence.

Ephilda's journey began with a simple yet profound belief: that home-grown solutions are the key to addressing the deep-seated issues within her community. "Living in the belief that we can end violence through our solutions has driven me every day. We know our community, we know the hotspots and home-grown solutions are also required," says Ephilda Recognizing the critical need for proactive measures,

Ephilda spearheaded the creation of community groups focused on safeguarding women and girls,

particularly during vulnerable times such as afterschool hours. "We've set up groups that follow girls when they are coming from extra lessons," she explains. "These groups are strategically placed in areas where we know they are most vulnerable." These community groups are not working in isolation. Ephilda has lobbied for a collaborative relationship with the Zimbabwe Republic Police's victim-friendly unit. This partnership has been instrumental in providing training for the multiage volunteers who are the backbone of these community efforts.

"Our volunteers are being trained on key issues such as safeguarding," she notes. "This training, provided by the police departments, ensures there is no further harm and that our efforts are effective and informed." Ephilda's passion for ending violence against women and girls is not just about prevention; it is about creating a culture of accountability and support. By engaging various segments of the community, she has managed to rally a diverse group of volunteers, all united by a common cause.

"We are gathering volunteers from all age groups. Everyone has a role to play, and together we can make a difference."

For Ephilda, this work is personal. Her experience as a SASA! Together champion has given her invaluable insights into the dynamics of violence and the most effective ways to combat it. "Being a SASA! Together champion has equipped me with the skills to identify and address the hotspots in my ward," she shares.

As Ephilda continues her mission, she remains hopeful about the future. "We are not just fighting

### HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM CHANGE

ActionAid, is working with communities, youth-led and women-led organisations and movements, is effectively contributing to sustained humanitarian system change, resilience building for crisisaffected people and efficiently supporting humanitarian, recovery and peace-building efforts. In 2024, AAZ conducted a comprehensive Learning and Evaluative Research initiative in Chipinge district, focusing on the humanitarian intervention implemented in response to Cyclone Freddy in 2023. This evaluative research yielded valuable insights that will enhance future humanitarian programming. The findings were widely shared with district stakeholders, fellow NGOs operating in Chipinge, and UN agencies, promoting

violence; we are building a culture of respect and safety. Every small step we take brings us closer to a community where women and girls can thrive without fear."

The story of Ephilda Magwaza is an example of how communities working together to address their problems can create a safer environment for everyone.

collaborative learning and knowledge exchange among all involved parties.

In strengthening its internal capacity, AAZ, in collaboration with IHART, successfully trained 25 staff members in Protection Mechanisms in Emergencies, ensuring that both male and female staff are equipped with essential skills to respond to humanitarian crises effectively. Additionally, the program trained 20 youths in Youth Leadership and Humanitarian Actions, fostering a new generation of leaders equipped to engage in humanitarian efforts. Among the trainees, there were 12 females and 8 males, highlighting the program's commitment to gender inclusivity.



The program also focused on enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities within local authorities. A significant training session was conducted for the Makoni District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC), where 31 stakeholders comprised of 23 females and 8 males—gained knowledge in formulating disaster preparedness plans, understanding core humanitarian standards, and implementing humanitarian signatures.

Furthermore, in response to the El Niño-induced drought affecting the Makoni and Wedza Local

Resource Points (LRPs), the program implemented a School Feeding Programme that successfully reached over 1,253 primary school children across eight schools—comprising 675 females and 578 males. This initiative not only addressed immediate food insecurity but also promoted educational attendance and retention during challenging times. Additionally, the program responded to a Cholera outbreak in Hopley, Harare, reaching out to 1,200 households and providing crucial support to prevent the spread of the disease in affected communities.



In the realm of resilience programming, AAZ, through its implementing partner Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo (JPV) under the Alborada Project, empowered 150 women from wards 10, 11, and 13 in Chimanimani district by equipping them with technical skills to diversify their livelihoods in the face of recurring drought conditions The training focused on practical skills such as making dishwashing liquid, perfume, floor polish, petroleum jelly, and concentrated syrup drinks,

enabling these women to enhance their incomegenerating capabilities.

Community leadership, particularly village heads, also benefitted from a refresher training course on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) operations. A total of 150 local leaders were trained in DRR skills and emergency preparedness planning, reinforcing community resilience and response mechanisms. Moreover, existing DRR committee members and newly formed committees in the target wards received training on community-level DRR operations, with 60 members - including 30 women - participating. This training resulted in the development of action plans for each ward to produce ward-based Emergency Preparedness Plans, further solidifying local capacity to manage disaster risks.

On the advocacy front, AAZ has actively engaged with the Zimbabwean government to facilitate the establishment of a new disaster risk management law. The advocacy efforts surrounding the enactment of the Disaster Risk Management Bill culminated in the production of a draft bill in November 2024, marking a significant achievement in the country's legislative AAZ landscape. Additionally, successfully collaborated with the Department of Civil Protection to formally accept and integrate the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into the national Multi Hazard Early Warning System framework. This incorporation is a remarkable accomplishment that encourages communities to revitalize traditional





knowledge in disaster management, thereby enhancing local resilience and preparedness.

Through these multifaceted humanitarian and resilience programming efforts, AAZ continues to make strides in strengthening community capacity, promoting disaster preparedness, and advocating for essential policy changes that support vulnerable populations in the face of climate-induced challenges. The collective impact of these initiatives underscores the commitment to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the resilience of communities across Zimbabwe.



### LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMS (LRPS)

AAZ supported the reviewing and updating of the Makoni District Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans in response to climate-induced emergencies. Collaborating closely with the District Civil Protection Committee, over 26 stakeholders participated in this essential initiative. One significant outcome was the launch of a school feeding program that provided meals to 1,583 children from October 2024 to March 2025, ensuring food security amid the challenges posed by El Niño. The school feeding program, benefited 23 primary schools across multiple regions, emphasized nutritional value by providing essential food supplies.

Launch of a school feeding program that provided meals to

children from October 2024 to March 2025



"The SFP has truly been a blessing for the children at our school. It has allowed children to have at least one hot nutritious meal a day. We expect attendance participation and to improve in class. We greatly appreciate the child sponsorship program for this initiative, and we hope it can be availed to other affected schools." Sr **Chinamasa Mugoti Primary** 

In Binga, immediate action was taken to address storm damage, resulting in the construction of 10 toilets at Nakaluba Primary School, benefiting 653 learners and eliminating the need for bush toilets. Additionally, a classroom block at Tyunga Secondary School was swiftly roofed after storm destruction. The Luunga community constructed a weir dam for water conservation, while AAZ partner HEFO provided a solarized borehole for Dakamela Primary School and neighboring villages, serving approximately 500 people. Saunyama also responded to local emergencies by supplying materials to complete ablution facilities at primary schools, ensuring safety for learners during the cholera outbreak season. "Basilwizi Trust and ActionAid did a wonderful job to provide us with cement for building toilets and as a school we were not going to raise funds to procure materials given that our schools had no money due to non-payments of school children". Nakaluba Headmaster Mr. Mapope

The adoption of emergency preparedness plans in Nyatate, Mapako, and Nyautare wards engaged 267 participants and contributed to a comprehensive district

plan. Local resilience initiatives empowered 277 community members to develop actionable plans, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Throughout 2024, Nyanga LRPs supported guarterly Civil Protection Committee meetings to enhance district response plans, ensuring alignment with government priorities. Saunyama further promoted Core Humanitarian Standards, 307 participants in discussions engaging that improved accountability and community humanitarian awareness of aid processes. Additionally, disaster management training in

#### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) 2

The SPA 2 program has made significant strides in enhancing the resilience of young people, particularly young women and marginalized groups, in the face of challenges such as disasters and protracted crises. A notable campaign, the #ActonDRMBill, has successfully progressed from agenda-setting to actual policy change, demonstrating the program's impact on the legislative landscape. Through strategic financial support, a legal consultant was engaged to draft a new Disaster Risk Management Bill, which has since undergone stakeholder reviews and is poised Hwedza utilized indigenous knowledge for effective response strategies, reaching 337 participants and significantly enhancing community resilience.

'Through our commitment to Disaster Risk Management inclusive training, I have witnessed significant improvements in community resilience and participation. The active involvement of women and youth has not only enriched our disaster response strategies but has also created a culture of ownership, responsibility and empowerment, setting a strong foundation for sustainable disaster preparedness at local level'. District Civil Protection Chairman.

for submission to the Attorney General's Office. Currently, two out of the targeted three policies are in the policy change stage, indicating a promising trajectory towards comprehensive disaster risk management.

At the community level, youth-led accountability groups in Mbire have emerged as key players in mobilizing responses to climate justice issues. Their effective advocacy led to the successful repair of boreholes in Chimanimani and Chipinge,



facilitating essential water access for affected communities. In Binga, young leaders are actively demanding relocation measures for populations impacted by the impending floodgates closure of the Gwayi-Shangani dam. These achievements can be attributed to a variety of strategies employed by youth, including the submission of petitions and position papers that compel duty bearers to incorporate community priorities into local and national plans.

Youth participants have gained invaluable skills in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and are now actively involved in national platforms and decision-making structures related to DRR. Their participation in drafting climate action plans and engagement in disaster risk reduction committees signals a marked increase in their capacity to manage shocks and advocate for their communities. In alignment with these efforts, the Department of Civil Protection, with support from the Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB-DRR), has established a pioneering National Youth Desk on Disaster Risk Reduction-first of its kind in Africa-to enhance youth representation in disaster management. The launch of the National Youth Desk was celebrated during the first Zimbabwe Youth Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in November 2024, marking a significant milestone for youth engagement in the sector.

In terms of humanitarian response, the SPA 2 program succeeded in providing critical support, reaching 1,340 individuals out of a target of 5,550. This included essential food hampers for 272 people affected by severe winds in Mbire and comprehensive training for 1,068 individuals—largely women—on protection, preparedness, response, and accountability. Notably, the program also contributed to borehole rehabilitation in Hopley, outside the targeted districts, addressing the urgent need for safe drinking water in response to a Cholera outbreak.

Two powerful testimonials encapsulate the profound impact of the program on individual lives. A youth leader stated, "The establishment of the National Youth Desk has allowed us to express our concerns directly to decision-makers. It feels empowering to know our voices are heard in the fight against climate injustice."

Another young advocate expressed, "Participating in the Zimbabwe Youth Symposium was a lifechanging experience. It opened doors for us to collaborate not just within our country but also with regional peers to tackle shared challenges." These quotes highlight the transformative effects of the program on youth engagement and empowerment.

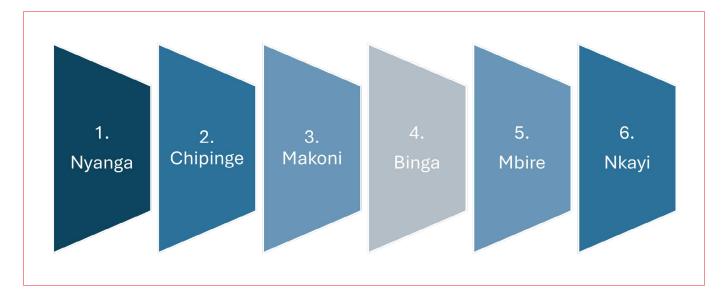
# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The concept of Child Sponsorship is that of a link between an individual donor supporter (usually in the north) and a child in the south. For AAI, there is accountability at each end of the link. In the community where the child lives, AAI makes certain commitments in how the child and community will be partners in the process of their empowerment, how this process will be carried out, what rights will be ensured for children and the community, what funds are being raised and how they are spent and what changes the programme will seek to bring about in their lives. At the supporter end of the link, AAI makes commitments as to how the supporters' contributions will be spent, the expected outcomes as a result of this partnership, how they can engage with the child and community, how they can influence in their own country and what communications they will receive.

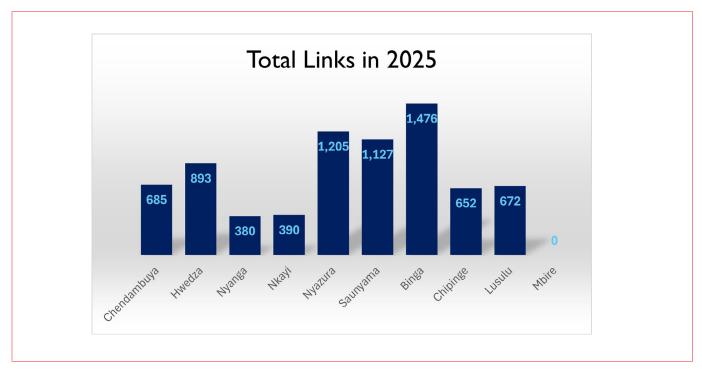
AAZ in 2024 saw three Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) namely Hwedza, Nyanga and Nkayi, entering their 2nd year of phasing out while Chendambuya

and Saunyama entered their first year. One new LRP (Mbire) was established in 2024, added to the two (Chipinge and Lusulu) which were established

in 2023. This brings to ten (10) the total number of LRPs in Zimbabwe. The LRPs are in the following districts:



Name of LRP	Funding Affiliate	Status as at 31/12/2024	Total Links
Chendambuya	UK	1st Year of Phasing Out	685
Hwedza	Italy	2nd Year of Phasing Out	893
Nyanga	Greece	2nd Year of Phasing Out	380
Nkayi	Greece	2nd Year of Phasing Out	390
Nyazura	Italy	Starting to Phase Out in 2025	1 205
Saunyama	Italy	1st Year of Phasing Out	1 127
Binga	Italy	Starting Phasing Out in 2026	1 476
Chipinge	Dual Funded (Greece/ Italy)	Established in 2023	652
Lusulu	Italy	Established in 2023	672
Mbire	Dual Funded (UK/Italy)	Established in 2024	0
Totals			7 651

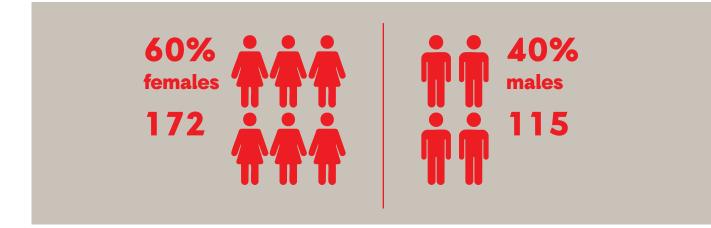


Program Quality Learning and Accountability

AAZ is a member of the ActionAid Federation and is committed to fight for a world free of poverty and injustice. To ensure relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, positive impact and sustainability in its projects and programs, AAZ conducts annually PRRPs. Participatory Review and Reflection Processes (PRRPs) are part of ActionAid's methodology for ongoing participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning. The PRRP is an important process, which provides space for the communities, partners, and AAZ to review and reflect on the programme interventions, processes and generate new learning and insights for improved actions.

AAZ conducted PRRPs from 2nd of September to the 6th of September 2024 across projects and at the Local Rights Programming level jointly with the communities, partners, and stakeholders. The PRRPs were conducted in Bikita, Binga, Chitungwiza, Nyanga and Saunyama. PRRPs as a programme quality, learning and accountability exercise and focused on reviewing the organization's performance, capturing the impacts of AAZ work, and informing 2025 annual planning and budgeting.

#### 2024 PRRP's Reach dissagregated by sex





**Binga** males 33 females 37 total 70



### Chitungwiza males 14 females 29 total 43



# Nyanga males 20 females 24 total 44



# Saunyama males 48

females 82 total 130

TOTAL males 115 females 172 total 287



Participants in Binga District during the community Participatory Review and Reflection Process dialogue

AAZ conducted key informant interviews, reaching out 34 Key information in Binga, Chitungwiza, Bikita, Nyanga and Saunyama. The key informants included the District Development Coordinators, Rural District Council Representatives, local leadership the chiefs, village headman, Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC); Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Settlement; Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Ministry of Youth Empowerment Development and Vocational Training; Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and government departments such as (Agritex-Vet), District Development Fund (DDF), Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services, Zimbabwe National Parks, Zimbabwe National Army, CBOs, CSOs and the business community.

During the PRRPs, beneficiaries and stakeholders expressed a major concern regarding persistent poverty in their communities. As a result, they proposed several critical interventions to be prioritized in 2025 to address these challenges and promote sustainable development. The proposed activities include:

#### **Key Informant interviews**

18 Females			16 males
Water (Boreholes, WASH trainings,	Education infrastructural support (School blocks, Toilets)	Increase nutritional gardens	Pregnant Mothers waiting shelters and establishing emergency shelter for survivors of GBV
Construction of crossing bridge or footbridge	Drug and substance abuse interventions (establishment of youth friendly corner)	School feeding programs	Disability-friendly infrastructure in schools, communities and public institutions
Continue with awareness raising on GBV	Capacitate different stakeholders to be effective in tackling Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) Issues- how to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts, Training of stakeholders- new councilors and environment sub committees, there is an information gap.		Address health and safety issues in the mining sector Address health and safety issues in the mining sector
Human wildlife conflict interventions		Communication, roads and mobile networks	

# PSA PROJECT CLOSE OUT PROCESS 2024

The Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance, a consortium led by ActionAid International and comprising the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), and SAfAIDS, implemented the project titled Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa. This initiative, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), aimed to enhance accountability and gender responsiveness in public resource management across five countries, including Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, the PSA Alliance focused its efforts at both national and district levels, specifically in Binga and Mutoko districts. The project's activities were centred on monitoring and advocacy in the agriculture and health sectors, with the following objectives:



# AGRICULTURE

- Increased allocation towards water harvesting innovations by SHFs
- Increased financial resources and investment on agroecology and community seed systems – disaster risk prepared plans, education to farmers through extension services.



### HEALTH

- National health budget allocation increased to 15%, allocation to family planning programme to be increased to 3% of national budget by 2023
- Government conducts thorough consultations with adolescent girls and young women in SRH service planning processes.

# THE PSA PROJECT CONCLUDED IN DECEMBER 2024.

# **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Significant strides were made in increasing allocations towards water harvesting innovations by smallholder farmers, and in boosting financial resources and investments in agroecology and community seed systems.
- Empowerment of young women through training programs enabled them to generate income through activities such as beadwork, keyholder and handbag making, soap production, and Vaseline manufacturing.
- The national health budget allocation reached 15%, with the allocation to the family planning programme increased to 3% of the national budget by 2023.
- The government conducted thorough consultations with adolescent girls and young women in the planning processes of SRH services.

# PARTNERS ANNUAL REFLECTION, LEARNING AND REVIEW MEETING 2024

In November 2024 AAZ conducted an annual partners reflection, learning and review meeting. The meeting was held in Nyanga at Month Claire Hotel. The partners meeting sought to engage partners in the partner planning and budgeting process for 2025 using AZZ Bridging Strategy and SIF3 strategy to inform 2025 plans and budgets. This reflection meeting enabled AAZ and

its partners to unpack the value AAZ is bringing to the partners, identify bottlenecks and proffer recommendations as to how AAZ can add value to its partners as it drives towards localization. This process also allowed partners and AAZ to identify areas of collaboration and joint resource mobilization.

Name of Project	Name of Partner	Area of Implementation
Local Rights Programs	Basilizwi	Binga
		Lusulu
	FACT	
	Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo	Chipinge
	Simukai Child Protection Programme	Chipinge
TORCHES	Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZI)	Chitungwiza
	Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ)	Masvingo
	FACT Zimbabwe	Nyanga
SPA II	Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust	Chimanimani
	Basilizwi	Binga
	Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre	Mbire
PSA	DEMT	Mutoko
	Basilizwi	Binga
	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF)	Mutoko

#### **OUR PARTNERS IN 2024**

#### END OF SIF2 AND ROAD TO SIF3

ActionAid has evolved the way we fight poverty and injustice ever since our foundation, getting closer to the people and communities we work with and moving power to the countries where we operate. This journey continues with our new tenyear strategy - Action for Global Justice. Over the next ten years, ActionAid will build international momentum for social, economic and environmental justice, driven by people living in poverty and

exclusion. ActionAid has become even closer to the people we work with, involving them more in what we do. We work closely with other groups that share our values and vision for a just world. Building on our history of successful and groundbreaking local programmes, ActionAid connects the people, partners and communities with whom we work with broader people's organisations and social movements. ActionAid is achieving greater agility through a 10-year high level strategy backed by adaptive operational planning processes at country and secretariat level. ActionAid's global strategy, Action for Global Justice, runs from 2018-2028, and within these ten years we have three 'strategy implementation frameworks:

Since its inception, ActionAid has continuously evolved its approach to combating poverty and injustice. Central to this evolution is a commitment to decentralizing power and fostering deeper engagement with the communities it serves. This commitment is encapsulated in ActionAid's tenyear global strategy, Action for Global Justice (2018-2028), which aims to build international momentum for social, economic, and environmental justice, driven by people living in poverty and exclusion. The strategy emphasizes a human rightsbased approach, focusing on challenging and redistributing power and resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and movements, and fulfilling the rights of marginalized populations. Women living in poverty and exclusion are central to ActionAid's work, with efforts directed towards ensuring they can claim and enjoy their human rights. Young people are also recognized as vital drivers of change, and their active participation is encouraged in all aspects of ActionAid's initiatives. To operationalize this strategy, ActionAid has implemented a series of Strategy Implementation Frameworks (SIFs). The third and final framework,

SIF3 (2025–2028), was developed through a participatory process involving thematic and functional anchors across the federation. SIF3 aims to align the entire federation—across all countries, themes, and functions—towards a united and coherent approach to achieving the goals set out in the Action for Global Justice strategy.

- SIF 1 From January 2018 to December 2020.
- SIF 2 From January 2021 to December 2023
- SIF 3 From January 2025 to December 2028

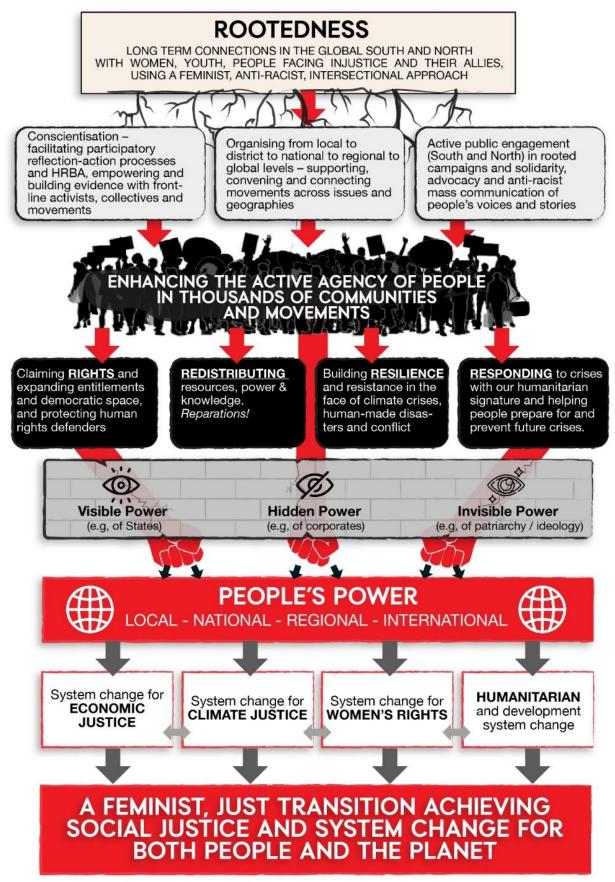
Action for Global Justice represents the next step in our evolution, rooting us more deeply where we work, and with the people whose rights and visions we work to achieve.

SIF comes with a new Program Signature which will enhance our efforts in reaching out to our target groups

### **PROGRAM SIGNATURE**

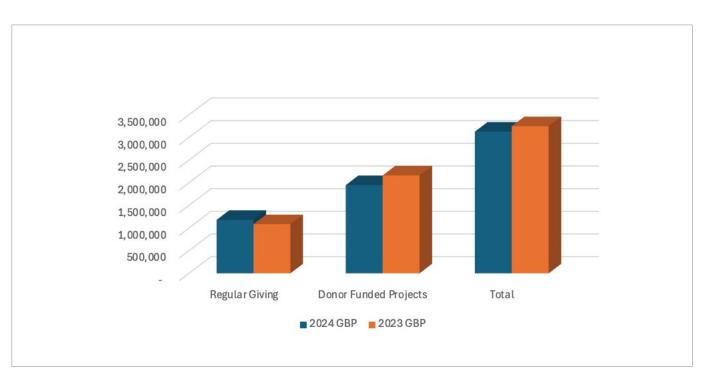
SIF 3 brings with it a refreshed and comprehensive program signature that reflects ActionAid's core values. It is grounded in a rights-based approach aimed at promoting social justice, advancing gender equality, and ending poverty. The new program signature prioritizes community empowerment and strategic policy advocacy to drive meaningful and lasting change.

# act:onaid's PROGRAMME SIGNATURE



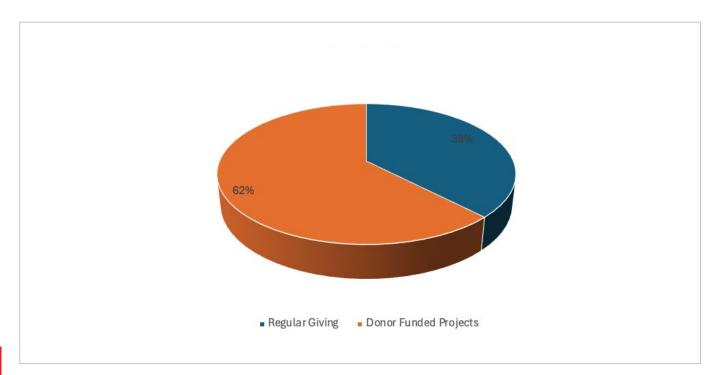
# ACTION AID ZIMBABWE FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER

# AAZ STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



### **INCOME COMPARISON 2024 VS 2025**

FUNDING MIX



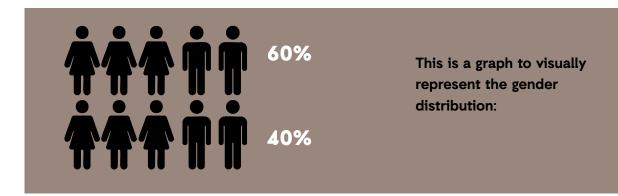
# HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources at AAZ play a vital role in both our strategic direction and day-to-day operations. Our team is composed of individuals from diverse

backgrounds, reflecting a strong commitment to inclusivity and a broad range of perspectives.

# ACTION AID STAFF COMPLEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

In 2024, AAZ employed a total of 45 staff members, with a gender distribution as follows:



# **COUNTRY LEADERSHIP**

In 2024 Action Aid Zimbabwe, country management team comprised of 6 members namely:

Name	Designation
Joy Mabenge	Country Director
Xanthe Chikarara	HROD and Admin Manager
Peter Matimati	Interim Programs Lead and LRP & Partnerships Manager
Ruvimbo Nhunhama	Programs and Projects Manager: Women's Rights and Economic Justice
Patience Ndavambi	Finance Manager
Wonder Phiri	Resource Mobilization Lead

#### ActionAid Zimbabwe National Office

26 Divine Road, Milton Park, Harare Tel: +263-242-788123/5, 776127, Mobile: +263-772164449 Email Address: zimbabwe.actionaid.org Website Address: www.actionaid.org/zimbabwe

### ActionAid Zimbabwe Regional Office

281 Chimurenga Street, Rusape Tel: +263-25-3537, Mobile: +263-772395967