



ActionAid Zimbabwe

July – August 2023 Newsletter

Youth Empowerment
**ActionAid Zimbabwe Empowering Youth
to Transform Local Communities.**





ActionAid Zimbabwe's Country Director, Joy Mabenge

THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S WELCOME NOTE

Greetings! It is my pleasure to welcome you to the July- August 2023 edition of our newsletter. In this issue, we focus on youth empowerment interventions from communities we are working in. The key highlights in this issue, cover our experiences of strong commitment to social justice and to working alongside young people to create positive change in their communities guided by our Country Strategy Paper (2021 to 2023). Our goal is to inspire, inform, and engage young people and provide them with the tools and resources they need to thrive.

It is my deep conviction that the fight towards a just and equitable society must have young people at the centre driving innovation and policy influencing. In the run-up to the 2023 general elections, we relaunched the Social Justice Manifesto – a reflection of key demands by citizens including youth demands on meaningful and equitable representation in political, social, economic spheres. In the context of the ongoing climate crisis, evidenced by cyclones and droughts that have affected Zimbabwe in the past 10 years and the world at large, the country needs to recognise the potential of feminist economic alternatives in driving the climate justice agenda in the country for a more sustainable future for all. The feminist alternatives include promoting and scaling up agroecology in the face of climate change.

Furthermore, feminist alternatives for youth empowerment recognize the importance of economic empowerment for young people. This involves addressing the gender pay gap, promoting equal access to employment opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship among young women, and advocating for policies that ensure fair working conditions and benefits for all young workers.

I look at the future with hope and optimism at the realisation that AAZ places young people at the centre of our work as we endeavour to support them to realise their full potential and to build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and valuable. Together, we can build a brighter future for all. Happy reading!

Activista Zimbabwe Launches a Youth Manifesto on the International Youth Day Virtual Workshop.



On the 12th of August 2023, Activista Zimbabwe organized a virtual workshop to commemorate the International Youth Day. The workshop was held in line with the global theme: **Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World**. The virtual event was attended by fifty-five youths from across 10 provinces of Zimbabwe.

The key focus of the workshop was the launch of the **Youth Manifesto** for the 2023 General Elections. The manifesto outlines the demands and aspirations of the young people of Zimbabwe in six key areas: Youth Empowerment, Economic Transformation, Social Justice and Human Rights, Political Reforms, Technology and Innovation, and Climate Justice. The manifesto also serves as a tool to hold the government accountable for delivering on these issues.



During discussions prior to the launch of the manifesto, young people emphasized the need for the government to create more jobs, invest in education and skills training, and provide access to affordable housing and healthcare. In light of the new ten seats youth quota system introduced to create space for young people in parliament, young people reiterated

a call for further reforms to the political system to make it more inclusive and representative of the youth who constitute 67.7% of the national population according to a study on youth and human rights by Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC).

Another highlight of the launch of the manifesto was the screening of a documentary on **Women in Climate Crisis**,



Vongai Mudzingwa explaining how she is utilising her farm seed bank.

which showcased how women-led Indigenous knowledge systems can contribute to climate mitigation. The documentary featured stories of women from Binga who are using traditional practices and innovations to adapt to and combat the effects of the climate crisis. One of such practice is the traditional preservation of drought resistant seeds which cannot be found in the wider seed market. This practise lessens the burden of buying expensive and harmful seeds during the farming season.



Reiterating the call for climate justice in the Youth Manifesto, after watching the documentary young people further called for the government to support locally led climate adaptation measures. Furthermore, they called on the government to take urgent action to mitigate climate change, including investing in renewable energy, promoting sustainable agriculture, and invest in the development of green skills for young people.

Youth in Binga demand the provision of water in Lubimbi community

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By promoting agroecology and community-based seed systems, we help to empower communities and promote sustainable farming practices.

**Mamamino
Simonzyo**

Goat Farmer: Binga



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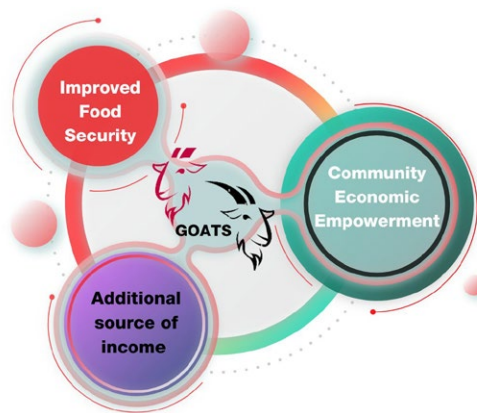
#IYD2023

Mamamino Simonzyo, a 20-year-old young woman from Simatelele Ward 8 in Binga district is contributing to the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance’s goal of ensuring food security in Southern Africa. Mamamino joined the PSA project in 2020 and she has managed to empower herself and the local community through goat rearing.

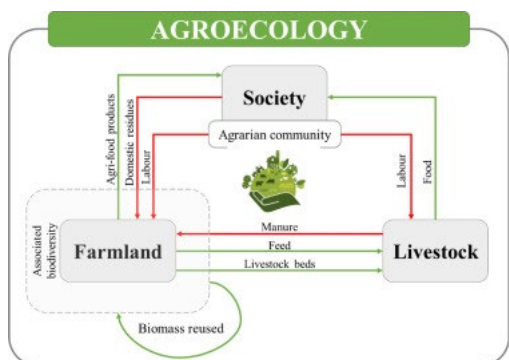
Mamamino is one of the five ward mentees who is in a peer learning group of twenty -five young people. Mamamino's involvement with the PSA project has opened new opportunities for her to make a difference in her community. In 2022, she had the chance to travel to Mutoko for an exchange visit, where she interacted with other young people involved in the project. Using the knowledge and learnings from the exchange visit, Mamamino started a goat rearing project with the intention of improving food security for her family and the community.

Since then, her herd has grown from five to seven, in a space of seven months. She is now looking forward to expanding into growing drought resistant crops such as sorghum, millet and rapoko, and she plans to utilise the manure from goats as a natural fertilizer.

With its eighteen-month extension period, the PSA project has recently introduced an agriculture component into its programming in Binga. Binga has been facing food insecurity because of the low rainfall received in the region. Therefore, this new initiative aims to provide climate-resilient and gender-responsive agricultural public services, including input and extension services that benefit smallholder farmers. This includes introducing feminist alternatives such as agroecology and community-based seed systems which will empower communities to become food secure.



Benefits of Mamamino's goat rearing project.



The introduction of the agriculture component in the PSA project has become a great opportunity for Mamamino to fulfill her goal, she said “I am very excited with the introduction of the agriculture component, and it is going to help me transition from old ways of farming to new ways which are compatible with the climate in Binga. I plan to expand my goat project and get into gardening and grow tomatoes and vegetables, and I am looking forward to learning how to effectively use manure from goat’s waste in my nutrition garden.”



Zondiwe Mudenda watering their mushrooms before the dry spell.



Emmaculate Ncube watering the mushrooms during the 19 days of limited water.

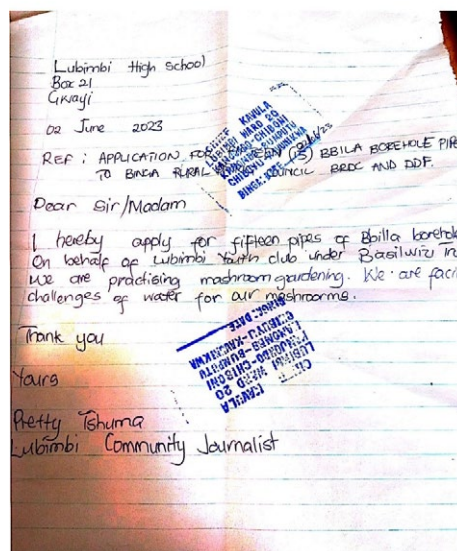
As the water crisis continues to deepen in Binga district due to climate change-induced droughts, young people in Lubimbi Ward 20 are demanding that the Binga Rural District Council improves on the supply of clean and portable water for their day to day use. The water crisis has affected their farming activities, and everyday lives. Binga district is one of ActionAid Zimbabwe's (AAZ) Local Rights Program (LRP) areas with Lubimbi Ward 20 falling under the AAZ's Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) 2 implementing wards. The area falls within the agroecological zone 5 which receives low rainfall making it more susceptible to the impacts of climate change particularly the lack of water.

The SPA 2 project, which seeks to empower young people to hold the government accountable in their communities, partnered with Basiliwizi Trust and, trained 33 young people in Lubimbi in April 2023 on Gender Responsive Public Service (GRPS). The training stressed on the importance of demanding accountability on public service delivery, organizing for collective action and engaging the duty bearers on issues affecting them and their communities. The training enabled the young people to demand for water provision in Binga which was exacerbated by the drying up of the weir dam constructed by the Chibuyu villagers.

Under the same project, young people have been capacitated to implement Income Generating Projects and among these is a mushroom farming project that the youths are undertaking. The drying up of the weir dam, beginning of May 2023 heavily impacted the youth's livelihood project, forcing them to walk

3km to get water from Lubimbi High School for their mushroom, but on the 22nd of May, the Lubimbi High borehole pipes burst, negatively affecting the project . The nearest borehole that they rely on is 6 km away which increases the burden for the Lubimbi Youth Hub to access water for their mushroom farming. The mushrooms went for 19 days with a limited water supply, which resulted in wilting- negatively impacting their livelihood source.

To voice their concern, Pretty Tshuma who is part of the Lubimbi Youth Hub, on 2 June 2023, wrote a letter, addressed to Binga Rural District Council (BRDC) and District Development Fund (DDF) to fix the Lubimbi borehole pipes. The letter was handed over to the ward Councillor, Luyando Muleya who, each Thursday travels to Binga Rural District Council to present their community development issues. The Lubimbi High School borehole was fixed on the 10 of June solving the water crisis in the community



Picture of the Letter petitioning the Binga Rural District Council (BRDC) and District Development Fund (DDF) to fix the Lubimbi borehole pipes.

ActionAid Zimbabwe and Katswe Sistahood: Empowering Young People to Succeed



ActionAid Zimbabwe and Katswe Sistahood. During the event, Faith learned about business and entrepreneurship and was inspired by the story of a successful single parent entrepreneur who started with only USD30.



Business and Entrepreneurship attended by Faith at AAZ Youth Hub in Waterfalls.

With newfound hope and resilience, she began her business by buying a pack of sweets, cigarettes, and airtime at a shopping centre. Despite facing challenges, Faith found inspiration in the stories of other entrepreneurs.

Faith Maguju, a single mother living in Zone 2 of Hopley, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Harare, has overcome numerous challenges to achieve her goals. After the passing of her father in January 2022, Faith found herself living with her brother. Although he tried his best to provide for her and her child's basic needs, life was becoming increasingly difficult. Recognizing the strain on her brother, Faith resolved not to rely solely on him for financial support.

"I couldn't keep asking my brother for money when he was already paying for my child's school fees," said Faith.

Faith was determined to improve her life and began exploring ways to generate income. She faced an obstacle in raising capital but was motivated by a seminar organized by

After the seminar, Faith had renewed hopes and proceeded to borrow some working capital from colleagues which she then used as a steppingstone to establish her vending table. Her efforts are paying off and she is now able to provide for her child, with her aim being able to pay for his fees as her business grows.



Faith standing beside her newly established vending table.

Youth events in 2023.



DTV youth during a business management training in Waterfalls



Youth under the PSA project receiving bicycles in Binga.



AAZ Youth picking litter in Harare during the World Environment Day Commemorations

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other

G V L L Y H O L N A M U H A R
 K B B O X T A T S I V I T C A
 H K U Y M L F J S G P H U C D
 G T T Z B A F P N E L O G O M
 H U H S V E R I Y H F J A U I
 D A I I J H M G G A E I T N E
 Z T N E M R E W O P M E N T A
 C L I M A T E C L R L S E A C
 J I V F I P W O O A P T I B M
 W U M B U H G U C K Y H L I D
 A A S O X E F N E I V G I L Z
 W L M T N H W T O L R I S I H
 T X M D I O A R R L N R E T P
 G R E E N C C Y G S X U R Y O
 R R O K Z B E E A S O C I A L

accountability
 climate
 economic
 gender
 hub
 manifesto
 rights
 youth

activista
 country
 empowerment
 green
 human
 program
 skills

agroecology
 duty
 farming
 health
 justice
 resilient
 social

Update section- AAZ @20 celebrations



ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) is celebrating 20 years of community rootedness programming, strategic partnerships and taking sides with people living in poverty, exclusion and the vulnerable groups, women, youth, and children included. Since its establishment in 2003, the organisation remains grounded in communities from which it derives its mandate, with a geographic footprint embedded in Local Rights Programmes (LRPs). We are celebrating together with communities, social movements, partners by sharing positives in the sector and solidarity actions. Stay tuned!

COVER PICTURE: Danish Television Project Youths.

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