



ANNUAL REPORT  
2025

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ZIMBABWE

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAZ</b>	ActionAid Zimbabwe	<b>NDCs</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>AAI</b>	ActionAid International	<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>ABAOs</b>	Agricultural Business Advisory Officers (Formerly Agricultural Extension Officers)	<b>PRRP</b>	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
<b>AKICIA</b>	Stiftelsen Akicia International	<b>PVO</b>	Private Voluntary Organisation
<b>BT</b>	Basilwizi Trust	<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>C4C</b>	Charter for Change	<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>CBOs</b>	Community-Based Organisations	<b>SASA! Together</b>	Start, Awareness, Support and Action (community mobilisation model)
<b>CHS</b>	Core Humanitarian Standard	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>CSPs</b>	Country Strategy Papers	<b>SHEA</b>	Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>SIF3</b>	Strategy Implementation Framework 3 (2025–2028)
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>SPA II</b>	Strategic Partnership Agreement II
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>FAWEZI</b>	Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe	<b>TORCHES</b>	Towards Resilience with Health, Equality and Safety for All
<b>FGG</b>	Fair, Green and Global Alliance	<b>UCW</b>	Unpaid Care Work
<b>FHN</b>	Feminist Humanitarian Network	<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>FPC</b>	Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre	<b>ZIMACE</b>	Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement
<b>GGZT</b>	Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust	<b>ZIMCODD</b>	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development
<b>GP</b>	Global Platform	<b>ZIMSOFF</b>	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum
<b>GRPS</b>	Gender Responsive Public Services	<b>ZHRC</b>	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
<b>HEFO</b>	Health Education Food Security Organisation		
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights-Based Approach		
<b>IHART</b>	International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team		
<b>ISALs</b>	Internal Savings and Lending Schemes		
<b>JPV</b>	Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo		
<b>LCDZ</b>	Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe		
<b>LRPs</b>	Local Rights Programmes		

## MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

**Dr. Selina Pasirayi,**  
**Country Director, ActionAid Zimbabwe**

The year 2025 unfolded within a context of deepening structural fragility in Zimbabwe, characterised by intersecting economic pressures, climatic volatility, and an increasingly constrained civic space. These dynamics continue to expose and reinforce entrenched inequalities, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls. Yet, they also sharpen the imperative for transformative, systems-oriented responses that go beyond immediate service delivery to address the root causes of injustice.

During the year, ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) also experienced a leadership transition, with the departure of the Country Director, Joy Mabenge, in June after seven years of service. In line with organisational continuity and governance processes, interim leadership was appointed for the remainder of the reporting period, ensuring stability, strategic focus, and sustained implementation of the Country Strategic Paper. This transition was managed within a framework of institutional resilience, allowing AAZ to maintain momentum across all programme areas while reinforcing internal systems and collective leadership.



Against this backdrop, AAZ consolidated its strategic shift towards systems change, anchored in the strengthening of agency, redistribution of power, and advancement of feminist and rights-based alternatives. This orientation reflects an intentional departure from fragmented interventions towards more coherent, long-term pathways of structural transformation.

During the reporting period, our work directly reached over 110,000 people, the majority being women and girls, while influencing policy and systems level change affecting more than 563,000 people.. These figures reflect not only scale, but the growing depth of influence across community, policy, and movement spaces. Our advocacy and communications platforms further extended this reach, amplifying marginalised voices and strengthening public discourse on justice and equality.

A defining feature of the year has been the strengthening of locally led development models that prioritise ownership, sustainability, and structural change. Transition outcomes observed within the Youth Hub demonstrate potential of integrated, youth-centred approaches to shift trajectories from precarious survival strategies towards dignified and sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, the closure of long-term Local Rights Programmes in Nyanga, Nkayi, and Hwedza provides important evidence that sustained, rights-based investment can catalyse durable community systems capable of self-organisation and continued advocacy beyond direct programme support. Our work on climate and economic justice further reinforced the interconnected nature of vulnerability and structural inequality. Community-based financial mechanisms have evolved into more resilient, women-led systems of economic empowerment, strengthening

adaptive capacity in the face of persistent shocks. At the same time, environmental governance and accountability initiatives have contributed to strengthening community voice in the management of natural resources, particularly in contexts shaped by extractive pressures. Complementary investments in feminist programming have continued to challenge entrenched social norms, contributing to shifts in attitudes and practices that underpin gender inequality.

The year also underscored the importance of strategic agility in a rapidly evolving operating environment. Shifts in the international funding landscape required thoughtful recalibration of programme design and resource allocation. Rather than detracting from our mission, this moment reinforced the necessity of adaptive, resilient organisational systems capable of sustaining long-term commitments to justice amid external volatility.

 **TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS.**  
AMPLIFYING VOICES.  
**ADVANCING JUSTICE.** 



# OUR IDENTITY

AAZ is a locally registered Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO). Since the establishment of its programmes in 2003, the organisation remains grounded in the communities from which it derives its mandate, with a geographical footprint embedded in its Local Rights Programme (LRP) areas. AAZ has expanded its footprint into urban settings to respond to rising urban poverty. In line with ActionAid

International's partnership policy, AAZ is an independent organisation that identifies with people living in poverty and exclusion. We work in partnership with local Community Based Organisations (CBOs), national and international NGOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and various tiers of government to achieve social justice.



## OUR 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.



## OUR MISSION

To work with people living in poverty, exclusion, and marginalisation in Zimbabwe to advance social justice, eradicate poverty, and promote gender equality.

## OUR VALUES



Mutual Respect



Equity and Justice



Integrity



Solidarity with People Living in Poverty



Courage of Conviction



Independence



Humility

Our work is grounded in a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), underpinned by a Feminist Leadership Framework that places the voices, agency, and power of women, youth, and marginalised communities at the centre. We believe that poverty and injustice are not accidental but the result of unequal power relations at individual, community, institutional, and structural levels. Our identity is therefore defined by our commitment to shifting power: from elites to citizens, from men to women, from the privileged to the excluded, and from top-down development models to community-led action.

AAZ's programming signature is defined by a rights-based approach that aims to shift power, fight injustice, and eradicate poverty by focusing on feminist, just, and green alternatives. This approach prioritises women and young people, utilising local-first, and community-led initiatives to challenge structural causes of poverty and inequality.



# 1.0

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Zimbabwe's operating environment in 2025 continued to be shaped by complex and interrelated political, economic, and governance dynamics. The post-election context has been characterised by policy continuity alongside ongoing debates around governance, accountability, and the role of state and non-state actors in development. While institutional frameworks remain in place, concerns persist regarding the breadth of civic space, the pace of reforms, and the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms at both national and subnational levels. Regulatory developments affecting civil society, public assembly, and digital engagement continue to influence the operating environment, underscoring the importance of sustained dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders. These dynamics intersect with an economy that remains under strain, despite ongoing efforts toward stabilisation. Structural challenges—including high levels of informality, constrained fiscal space, and limited access to affordable finance—continue to affect livelihoods, service delivery, and broader development outcomes.

These macro-level pressures are closely linked to evolving socio-demographic realities. Zimbabwe's youthful and increasingly urban population presents significant potential, yet also highlights persistent gaps in employment, service provision, and social protection. Poverty and inequality remain widespread across both rural and urban contexts, with women and young people disproportionately affected by limited economic opportunities and social vulnerabilities. Access to essential services including health, education, and water and sanitation, continues to face resource and infrastructure constraints, particularly in underserved communities. At the same time, community structures, including traditional and faith-based leadership, remain important in shaping local governance and social cohesion. Emerging dynamics, such as the expansion of extractive industries and the growth of digital technologies, present both opportunities and risks, particularly in relation to equity, inclusion, and accountability. In this context, strengthening inclusive, resilient, and locally grounded systems remains critical to advancing sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

## 2025: YEAR IN BRIEF

# THE HUMAN FOOT PRINT POWER IN PEOPLE



# 110,000+

## LIVES IMPACTED DIRECTLY

From Binga to Chipinge, our 2025 interventions centred on dignity and resilience



# 3,1 MILLION

Public Reach

People engaged through media, advocacy, and digital platforms to shift national discourse



# 14 DISTRICTS

Active Presence

Sustained operations in our Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) and specialised project sites



# 65%

WOMEN &  
GIRLS

Direct programme participants reached through climate justice, SRHR, livelihoods, and humanitarian response initiatives.



# 43,800

CHILDREN  
REACHED

Children empowered through inclusive education, humanitarian response, and locally led community initiatives.

**WE DON'T JUST DELIVER AID;  
WE SHIFT POWER**

SCAN TO VIEW  
THE FULL DIGITAL  
REPORT ON  
OUR WEBSITE





## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

During the reporting period, AAZ focused on three strategic priorities aimed at advancing long-term systems transformation:

- **Systems Change for Climate Justice**  
Promoted agroecology as a climate-resilient survival strategy, reaching thousands of smallholder farmers. Through the ZIMACE project, AAZ also bridged the gap between national lithium mining policies and the rights of local communities in Bikita and Goromonzi.
- **Systems Change for Women's Rights and Economic Justice** The DTV Youth Hub achieved a landmark 82% success rate in supporting young women to transition from high-risk sex work into dignified employment and vocational skills pathways. Through the SPA II programme, youth were empowered to engage in national fiscal policy and budget consultations, ensuring marginalized voices influenced economic decision-making processes.
- **Humanitarian Systems Change** Strengthened community resilience through locally led humanitarian responses integrating food security, psychosocial support, protection services, and disaster preparedness interventions for vulnerable communities.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Our work is built on the power of the collective work. We collaborated with a diverse network of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), civil society organisations, the academia, private sector, social movements and community groups. Internationally, our progress was sustained by the solidarity of 8,936 global supporters and key institutional donors who share our vision for a just, equitable and sustainable Zimbabwe.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2025 fiscal year saw a strategic shift in our funding mix. While traditional sponsorship remained a stable pillar, we increased our focus on institutional grants to support large-scale climate and economic justice interventions. We maintained a lean operational structure, ensuring that the vast majority of resources were directed toward community-led programs.

## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

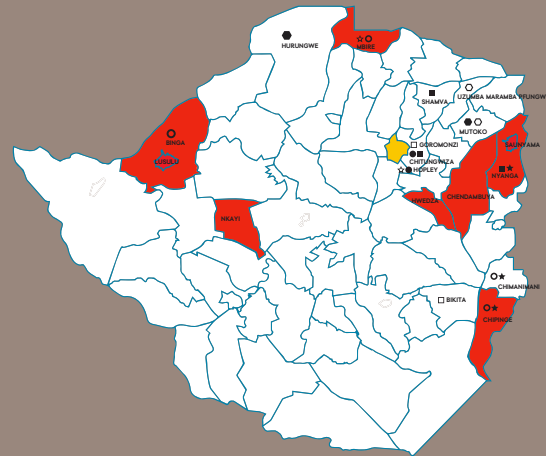
The 2025 implementation period was shaped by a complex and evolving operating environment. A constrained civic space continued to influence approaches to advocacy and community engagement, requiring adaptive strategies to sustain meaningful participation while safeguarding programme integrity. At the same time, economic volatility, including currency instability and inflationary pressures, affected planning, budgeting, and implementation, underscoring the need for flexible and responsive operational systems. Shifts in the funding landscape further required recalibration of programme priorities and reinforced the importance of diversified resource mobilisation.

At community level, entrenched inequalities, particularly affecting women and young people, continued to limit the pace of change, while climate variability and recurrent shocks compounded vulnerabilities. These dynamics highlighted the need for more integrated approaches that link immediate support with longer-term resilience and systems strengthening. Key lessons emerging from this period include the critical importance of locally led development, with community ownership proving central to sustainability and impact. A systems approach—connecting grassroots interventions with policy engagement and movement building—remains essential for driving transformative change. The year also underscored the value of organisational agility, including adaptive programming and scenario-based planning in response to shifting contexts. Finally, strong partnerships continue to be a cornerstone of effectiveness, enhancing reach, legitimacy, and collective impact in a constrained environment.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

In the year ahead, AAZ will focus on consolidating programme quality, strengthening delivery, and deepening impact across priority areas. A key priority will be the effective implementation of the Country Strategic Paper, with emphasis on integrated programming that links livelihoods, civic engagement, climate resilience, and women's rights. Particular attention will be placed on scaling proven models—such as youth employment initiatives and locally led governance approaches—to enhance sustainability and reach. Operationally, AAZ will prioritise strengthening internal systems and programme management, including improved planning, monitoring, and adaptive learning processes. Resource mobilisation will be a central focus, with efforts directed toward diversifying funding sources and strengthening donor engagement to ensure programme continuity and growth. AAZ will continue to invest in strategic partnerships with local organisations, government institutions, and other stakeholders to enhance coordination, leverage expertise, and maximise impact. At community and policy levels, the organisation will sustain its focus on promoting accountability, supporting inclusive participation, and advancing gender equality, particularly in contexts where vulnerabilities remain high. Greater emphasis will also be placed on climate-resilient livelihoods, youth empowerment, and strengthening social protection.





AAZ's work was spread across the country and anchored in nine Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) deeply rooted in community-led initiatives in rural areas, along side Project Areas in both rural and urban areas, as illustrated in the map above and below:

### Local Rights Programmes

- Binga,
- Chiendambuya,
- Chipinge,
- Hwedza,
- Lusulu,
- Mbire,
- Nkayi,
- Nyanga
- Saunyanama.

### Project Areas

- SPA II: Chimanimani, Chipinge, Mbire, Binga
- DTV: Hopley, Chitungwiza
- ZIMACE: Goromonzi, Bikita
- TORCHES: Nyanga, Shamva, Chitungwiza
- FGG: Mutoko, Hurungwe
- RVO: Mutoko, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe
- Humanitarian – Alborado: Chimanimani, Chipinge, Nyanga
- Girl Supporter: Hopley, Mbire
- National Level Campaign Activities: Harare



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

## SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

### IMPACT DASHBOARD



**12,500+**

Women Farmers  
Transitioned to  
Agroecology



**9,200**

Direct Reach



**456**

Youth trained in  
renewable energy  
& agroecology



**144**

Fuel-efficient  
cookstoves  
constructed



**60**

Solar lighting  
households  
reached



**130**

Youth accessed  
influencing  
platforms



**33**

Youth elected  
into governance  
structures



**20**

Carbon  
investments  
to communities

## 2.0

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

### 2.1. GLOBAL CAMPAIGN: “FUND OUR FUTURE”

The “Fund Our Future” campaign is ActionAid’s global climate justice initiative designed to strengthen public accountability and amplify the voices of communities most affected by the climate crisis. The campaign responds to widening climate inequalities by advocating for increased public investment in climate action, stronger regulation of corporate pollution, and a just transition towards sustainable and inclusive development pathways. A central focus of the campaign is the promotion of agroecology as a practical and evidence-

based alternative to industrial food systems, particularly in contexts where climate shocks are undermining agricultural productivity and food security. The campaign also prioritises youth engagement, recognising their critical role in shaping climate solutions. Through a combination of advocacy, creative expression, and public mobilisation, the campaign seeks to make climate discourse more accessible, participatory, and grounded in lived experience.





”  
 Winning the Green Cities Poetry Slam was a highlight in my journey as a poet and as someone passionate about our physical environment. It strengthened my belief in the power of my voice as a tool for activism and inspiring change, and opened doors for me to perform at other environmental-themed events. I am deeply grateful to Shoko Festival and ActionAid Zimbabwe for the opportunity to bring two of my passions together in the fight for change.”

Tadana Nakai

### Key Achievements

In 2025, AAZ, in partnership with Magamba Network and Global Platform Zimbabwe, implemented a series of campaign activities during the **Shoko Festival** in Harare aimed at translating global climate justice objectives into local action. These activities focused on strengthening youth participation in climate advocacy and creating platforms for creative engagement with climate issues. The campaign recorded strong participation and engagement outcomes.

A total of 78 young people applied to participate in the “Eulogy for a Burning World” Poetry Slam, with 10 finalists selected, including five young women. The final event attracted 100 participants, while overall Expo attendance reached 240 people. The strong participation of young women, including finalist and overall winner Tadana Nakai, reflected the campaign’s commitment to inclusive

leadership and equitable participation in climate advocacy spaces. The event deepened public engagement with climate justice by translating complex policy debates into accessible, emotionally resonant narratives. Participants reported increased confidence in engaging in climate advocacy and public dialogue.

The campaign demonstrated the effectiveness of arts-based and creative platforms in strengthening climate communication and civic engagement. It enabled young people to connect personal experiences with broader climate policy issues, thereby enhancing understanding and advocacy capacity.

AAZ participated in the **Alternative Mining Indaba** 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, under the theme “Energy Transition for Who? The Critical Question of Our Times!”.

AAZ amplified community and gendered voices in just transition debates, co-convended an Ideas Fare to share findings on fiscal policies in the extractives sector, and contributed to AMI Declarations linking mining governance to climate justice. This strengthened regional advocacy and advanced systems change for equitable, people-

centred energy transitions in Zimbabwe's extractives sector.

AAZ engaged in the SADC People's Summit held in Antananarivo, Madagascar in August 2025, convened alongside the **45th SADC Ordinary Summit** of Heads of



Part of the AAI delegation to the Second Africa Climate Summit held in Addis Ababa.



Tafadzwa Muropa (centre), Climate Justice Advisor for Zimbabwe and Zambia and other delegates during the Africa Social Movements Baraza held in Accra, Ghana in April 2025.

State and Government. Within this civil society platform, AAZ supported youth participation in shaping the SADC People's Summit communiqué, which consolidated shared advocacy priorities for onward consideration in regional policy processes linked to the Summit. This engagement contributed, among other actors, to strengthening the visibility of climate and debt justice priorities within regional dialogue spaces. The Heads of State Summit subsequently reflected related themes

through decisions including amendments to the Protocol on Finance and Investment on illicit financial flows, renewed emphasis on financing for Gender-Based Violence services, and commitments towards a just transition. The engagement further advanced AAZ's Fund Our Future advocacy from national to regional level, reinforcing linkages between community-led climate justice mobilisation and the SADC finance and just transition policy architecture.

AAZ participated in the **African Social Movements Baraza** hosted by TrustAfrica in Accra, Ghana. AAZ participated in the African Social Movements Baraza hosted by TrustAfrica in Accra. Through this engagement, AAZ deepened its learning and exchange on movement building approaches while strengthening relationships with African social movements and regional actors. The Baraza created space for shared reflection, cross-country solidarity, and collective strategising.

AAZ's 2025 climate justice campaign in Harare with Magamba Network and Global Platform Zimbabwe, featuring the "Eulogy for a Burning World" Poetry Slam, showed that creative methodologies are highly effective for engaging youth and marginalised groups in climate advocacy. Early planning, clear communication, and strong coordination among implementing partners are critical, and enhancing interactivity and deepening collaboration are key to improving future campaign delivery and impact.

The AMI 2025 showed that inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms and adaptable, gendered approaches are critical for advancing climate justice. Linking extractives accountability to broader climate action increases relevance and impact, while centering women, youth, and mining-affected communities ensures energy transitions address rights and are just.

Inclusive, early engagement of all stakeholders — government, civil society, youth, and private sector — is essential to develop a robust, nationally-owned position for COP 30 and to translate global agreements on climate finance, Just Transition, and Loss and Damage into effective local action.

Amplifying African social movements through collective spaces like the Baraza is essential — shared learning and joint strategizing across countries strengthens the power, reach, and effectiveness of locally led climate justice advocacy.

Finance Ministers are the critical gatekeepers for climate justice — lasting systems change requires engaging them directly to ensure revenue generation and budget allocation are climate-responsive and accountable.

## 2.2. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2 (SPA II)

The Strategic Partnership Agreement II (SPA II) project implemented in Chipinge, Chimanimani Mbire and Binga Zimbabwe, running from 2022 to 2026 and aims



to to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities vulnerable to climate-induced shocks by creating inclusive democratic spaces for climate discourse, promoting resilient livelihoods through agroecology and renewable energy, and fostering youth leadership in humanitarian action. The programme focused on enhancing adaptive capacity through climate-responsive livelihoods, expanding access to renewable energy, and promoting inclusive, youth-led engagement in climate governance. The project was implemented through partners namely: Basilwizi Trust (Binga), Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust (Chimanimani and Chipinge) and Fambidzanayi Permaculture Centre (Mbire).

## What Changed in Communities

The programme delivered measurable results at community, systems, and policy levels:

### Enhanced youth capacity for climate action

A total of 456 young people (319 female, 137 male) acquired practical skills in renewable energy, solar installation, agroecology, and climate-resilient practices. As a result, trained youth are increasingly participating in local green enterprises, community initiatives, and climate advocacy processes, strengthening local capacity for sustainable development.

### Increased access to climate-resilient livelihoods

Climate-adaptive livelihood models were successfully established and replicated. In Mutema Ward (Chipinge), a community-led fish farming initiative provided an alternative, drought-resilient source of food and income. In Mbire, ten locally appropriate agroecological solutions integrating aquaculture, livestock, and agroforestry were scaled, demonstrating viable pathways for diversified and resilient household production systems.



ActionAid Zimbabwe and ActionAid Denmark teams during a SPALL monitoring visit, November 2025.

### Improved access to clean and affordable energy

The programme supported 144 households to construct fuel-efficient cookstoves, contributing to reduced reliance on firewood and associated environmental degradation. In addition, 60 households gained access to solar lighting, improving household safety, reducing energy poverty, and enhancing quality of life.

### Strengthened policy influence and civic engagement

Through sustained advocacy by the Youth Accountability Initiative, a partner under SPA II, AAZ contributed to policy dialogue processes informing the 2025 Climate Change Management Bill. Notably, this engagement supported provisions advocating for increased allocation of climate finance to local communities, reinforcing the principle of locally led adaptation.

### Integrated Approach Drives Community Replication

The programme demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated approaches that combine capacity development in productive assets and infrastructure. The PAMUSHA model in Mbire showed that strengthening individual and household-level resilience can catalyse wider community uptake and replication of climate-smart practices. The PAMUSHA household model was adopted by 21 of 25 targeted households, with sesame productivity increasing by 57% despite the El Niño drought, and one champion farmer independently recruited seven new households, demonstrating organic replication.



**Community fish farming initiative in Mutema Ward, Chipinge, supported by Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe and ActionAid, promotes resilient livelihoods in the face of drought and climate shocks.**



**Young people participate in a Public Finance Indaba, engaging Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Youth, Public Accounts, and Budget processes under SPA II in December 2025.**

### **Agroecology Exchange Sparks Inclusive Action in Zimbabwe**

AAZ, together with SPA II partners Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre and Basilwizi Trust, as well as Activista Zimbabwe youth, participated in the Agroecology Learning Exchange (ALEX) hosted by ActionAid Kenya. The exchange provided an opportunity for participants to observe agroecology practices in different contexts, share experiences, and reflect on approaches relevant to their own programming. Lessons from the exchange informed ongoing efforts to strengthen agroecology interventions and community-based resilience initiatives.

### **Global Recognition of Youth Climate Leadership**

Zimbabwean youth climate advocates amplified local experiences onto the global stage through the Canvas of Resilience initiative, which was presented at the

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva. The engagement created space for young people from Zimbabwe to share lived experiences and community-led approaches to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction within global policy discussions, with contributions informing the Global Children and Youth Declaration acknowledged in the final declaration processes of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Building on this global visibility and learning, the momentum was further domesticated through national advocacy and engagement processes in Zimbabwe, contributing to the institutionalisation of the National Youth Desk on Disaster Risk Reduction within the Department of Civil Protection, strengthening formal recognition of youth participation in climate resilience and disaster governance spaces.

### Youth Advocacy Contributes to Stronger Recognition of Climate Loss and Damage

Young people from Mbire and Harare participated in Climate Change Management Bill consultations. Through project-supported advocacy and engagement with policy processes, the young people strengthened their capacity to hold duty-bearers accountable on climate financing and resource allocation. Their contributions helped elevate youth and community perspectives within the consultation process, including discussions around provisions for addressing climate-related loss and damage within the proposed legislation.

### From Tax to Transformation: Youth-Led Wins Secure National Climate Fund in Zimbabwe

With dedicated DANIDA funding through ActionAid Denmark, SPA II equipped AAZ and partners to tackle the climate financing gap by shifting youth advocacy from general awareness to technical, evidence-based campaigns on domestic resource mobilisation. Despite extractives contributing - 13% of GDP, only 0.27% of the national budget went to environmental protection between 2020–2023.



Young engagement with Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Public Accounts, Youth, and Budget during the Public Finance Indaba, December 2025.

### **Strengthening Youth Movement Building through the Gold Modality**

130 young people (81 women and 49 men) accessed high-level influencing platforms, with 33 appointed to leadership roles in local governance structures. This included 16 in Binga, 14 women elected to Village Development Committees, School Development Committees, and Water Point Committees.

Youth Win Climate Fund Inclusion in National Legislation  
309 young people actively held duty-bearers accountable for resource allocation, and youth successfully influenced the inclusion of the National Climate Fund in the pending Bill.

### **Youth Secure Oversight Role in Public Finance Accountability**

Youth-led advocacy led to a formal commitment from the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee to allow youth to monitor internal committee processes regarding the misuse of public funds.

## **Movement Building through the GOLD Modality**

Through the GOLD (Global Organising and Leadership Development) modality, SPA II invested in strengthening youth leadership, organising, and movement-building

capacities to support sustained advocacy and collective action. The GOLD Organising and Leadership Trainings held in March and June 2025, together with the Skill Share convened by MOVE, equipped young people with practical skills in advocacy, alliance building, petition drafting, and engagement with formal governance processes. The trainings also created opportunities for peer learning and cross-sector collaboration, helping young activists translate community concerns into more coordinated civic action.

The modality contributed to the emergence of new youth-led organising structures and strengthened existing movements. In Mbire Ward 6, a young woman participant mobilised 35 peers to establish the Mbire Youth Network following GOLD training. The group elected a seven-member committee and formally petitioned Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) on human-wildlife conflict, creating one of the first formal administrative records of these community concerns. GOLD capacity strengthening also supported the Youth Accountability Initiative (YAI) in advancing advocacy on domestic resource mobilisation for climate action. In addition, the TCDC Skill Share enabled leaders from the Zimbabwe Diamond and Allied Minerals Workers Union (ZIDAMWU) to formalise collaboration with IndustriALL Global Union to strengthen protection mechanisms for artisanal miners, with three trained leaders later appointed into national trade union structures.



A networking meeting with local media practitioners on strengthening domestic resource mobilisation for climate action, organised by the YAI with support from AAZ.

## 2.3. LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION TEAMS (CATS)

The Climate Action Teams (CATs), supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe in partnership with Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe in Chimanimani and Chipinge, strengthened youth participation in climate governance and advanced community-led climate resilience initiatives during the reporting period. The initiative prioritised the engagement of young people, particularly young women, in local decision-making processes, climate justice advocacy, and practical environmental restoration activities within their communities. Support was also directed towards

the restoration of degraded landscapes in areas affected by Cyclone Idai through youth-led reforestation and agroecological interventions aimed at strengthening ecosystem recovery and community resilience to climate-related shocks.

### What Changed in Communities

The CATs recorded significant progress in strengthening community-led environmental restoration, youth empowerment, and local governance systems:



Ranold Taruvinga of Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe and Sekai Chimero from Chimanimani at the Youth Hub and Agroecology Demonstration Centre nursery, supporting community-led restoration efforts in areas affected by Cyclone Idai.

### Restoration of degraded ecosystems

CAT members took proactive steps to advance reforestation efforts. Ten members formally submitted a request to access communal land for tree planting, while 16 members planted 80 indigenous trees along the Nyahode River. These activities contributed to ongoing riverbank restoration and ecosystem recovery.

### Establishment of sustainable nursery systems

A community-managed nursery producing over 1,500 indigenous tree seedlings was established. This created a sustainable foundation for continued reforestation activities and ensured the availability of locally adapted planting material for future restoration efforts.

### Youth-led climate action and planning

Youth Climate Action Plans were developed and adopted by local authorities, marking an important shift towards formal recognition of youth-led environmental planning. This represents progress in integrating youth priorities into local governance and, in some cases, influencing customary land-use decision-making processes.

### Strengthened local ownership and governance structures

Hybrid Green Village Committees were established to support coordination between youth groups, traditional leaders, and local institutions. These structures strengthened local ownership, accountability, and collaboration in implementing climate resilience activities.

### Increased legitimacy and influence of youth actors

Through structured communication strategies and engagement with formal governance systems, youth participants gained greater legitimacy within traditionally elder-dominated decision-making spaces. This improved their ability to influence local environmental actions and strengthened intergenerational collaboration.

The CATs approach demonstrated the effectiveness of combining practical environmental action with structured youth participation in governance processes. By aligning youth initiatives with formal administrative procedures, the intervention strengthened recognition of youth leadership and improved engagement with traditional and local authority structures. A key innovation has been the evolution from youth-only groupings towards intergenerational governance platforms, which has enhanced collaboration, sustainability, and local ownership of climate action initiatives.

A central lesson from implementation is that aligning youth advocacy with formal administrative and governance protocols significantly enhances legitimacy and influence within local decision-making systems. This approach has proven effective in enabling youth to be taken seriously within established governance structures. The intervention also demonstrates that intergenerational collaboration is essential for sustaining climate action over time, particularly in contexts where customary governance systems play a central role in land and resource management. Overall, the CATs model presents a promising best-practice approach for youth-led climate governance and offers strong potential for replication and scaling in other climate-vulnerable regions.



From left to right, Cecilia Sadowera, Abigel Pfumidza and Sabina Nyabadzapa from Tarangarirwa Garden in Saunyama LRP, Nyanga where they grow tomatoes using agroecology demonstrating the tangible outcomes of community-led sustainable agriculture.



Women from Tarangarirwa Garden in Mapako Ward, Nyanga District, demonstrating thermal composting techniques as part of community-led agroecology practices supported through the Saunyama LRP.

## 2.4. AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES

The Agroecology and Sustainable Livelihoods programmes, implemented by AAZ and its partners in Chipinge, Binga, Makoni, Mbire, and Nyanga districts, aimed to advance a feminist green just transition in the national agricultural landscape. The programme's objective was to replace the traditional industrial agricultural model with sustainable agroecological alternatives, strengthening community resilience and promoting climate justice through indigenous, ecologically sound farming strategies.

### What Changed in Communities

In 2025, the programme reached **1,247** smallholder farmers, with women **constituting 51%** of this total. Outreach was achieved through exchange visits, field days, and refresher training sessions focusing on agroecological applications. The project demonstrated growth in interest and trust in agroecology as a viable livelihood pathway, with notable participation rates among women, signalling progress toward a feminist transformation within food systems.

Key outcomes included the adoption of new practices such as mulching, organic fertilizers, and water harvesting techniques, leading to improved dietary diversity and

better overall nutrition. The project also empowered women smallholder farmers, who took on more prominent roles in community decision-making. Notable successes included the training of **56 participants**, including **29 women and 27 men, at the Mahuwe Community Local Improvement Center (CLIC)** nutrition garden in Mbire, and the establishment of viable nutrition gardens in schools, improving School Feeding Programmes and embedding the principles of a green and just transition in the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Lessons learned from the project highlighted the importance of community-led solutions, participatory training methods, and the prioritisation of local knowledge and gender equality in fostering climate resilience. The programme's success stories demonstrate that agroecology can effectively promote climate adaptation and mitigation, and that investing in women's empowerment and community-led initiatives can drive meaningful change in Zimbabwe's agricultural sector.

## Agroecology Activities & Reach by District

The primary aim of the Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Programmes was to foster a feminist green just transition in agriculture, directly aligning with AAZ's strategic mission.



## 2.5. LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

The Local Rights Programme (LRP) is AAZ's primary vehicle for long-term community development, addressing poverty and marginalisation through a feminist and rights-based approach. Funded through child sponsorship, AAZ and its partners implemented six active LRPs in Makoni, Nyanga, Mbire, Chipinge, Saunyama, and Binga districts. The programme targeted these areas due to high vulnerability, particularly among women and young people, to promote inclusive and equitable development.

Under the broader Systems Change for Climate Justice agenda, the LRPs supported rural communities to transition from climate vulnerability towards environmental agency. Interventions focused on strengthening agroecology systems, enhancing locally led disaster risk management (DRM), and deepening environmental governance and rights-based dialogue at community level. The overall objective was to promote agroecology as a viable alternative to industrial agriculture, strengthen community resilience to climate shocks, while improving access to environmental governance and natural resource rights.

The LRP resilience initiatives recorded meaningful progress in strengthening household resilience, community organisation, and local governance systems:

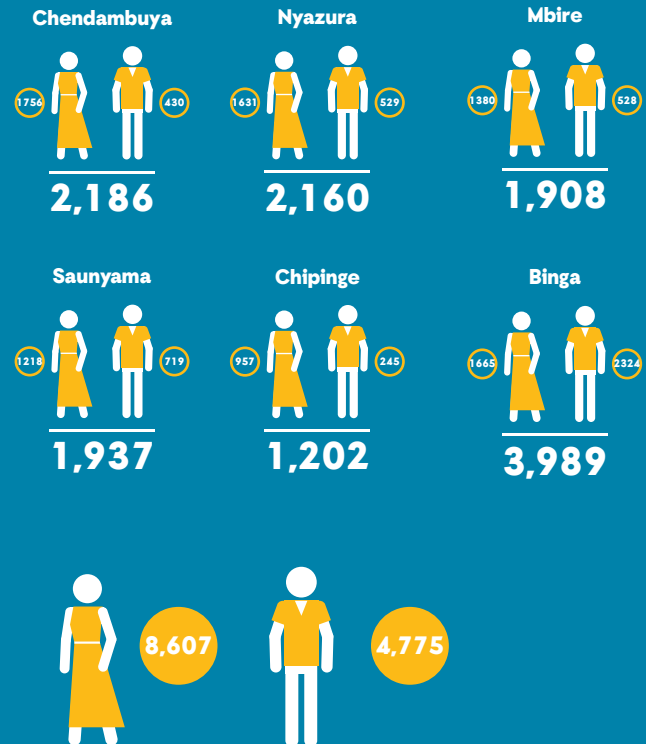
### Broad Community Reach Centred on Women and Girls

13,382 individuals reached through LRP interventions, including 8,607 women and girls (74%) and 4,775 men (26%), with the highest reach in Chiendambuya and Nyazura.

## LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP)

ADVANCING ECONOMIC JUSTICE & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Guided by a Feminist Framework, the Local Rights Programme (LRP) prioritises women's rights, economic justice, and climate resilience.



**TOTAL 13,382**

**BUILDING FEMINIST SYSTEMS THAT EMPOWER VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.**

### Strengthened agroecological production and household resilience

In Nyazura, 329 community members adopted agroecological farming practices, resulting in improved soil health, diversified production, and increased household resilience to climate variability. These participants represent an estimated 1,645 indirect beneficiaries at household level (based on an average household size of five). The cohort demonstrated balanced gender participation, with approximately 855 women (52%) and 790 men (48%), reflecting inclusive uptake of climate-resilient practices.

### Locally led climate adaptation planning

In Chipinge, 170 community members participated in the development of localised climate adaptation action plans. This participatory process strengthened community ownership of climate resilience strategies and improved alignment between local priorities and adaptation planning frameworks.

### Improved community–authority engagement and natural resource governance

Structured dialogue between communities and local authorities led to practical improvements in natural resource management. In Saunyama, these engagements contributed to the regularisation of water supply schemes and interventions to mitigate land degradation, demonstrating the value of sustained community–duty bearer engagement in addressing local environmental challenges.

### Advancing Gender Equality Through Feminist, Rights-Based Action

Strong alignment with feminist and rights-based approaches, prioritising women while engaging men and traditional leaders as allies to transform social norms and advance gender equality.

Implementation of the LRPs highlighted several important lessons for future programming:

- Implementation showed that long-term, child-sponsorship-funded interventions are essential for sustainable community transformation.
- Peer-to-peer learning among women accelerated uptake of agroecological practices. Integrating indigenous knowledge with scientific DRM approaches improved the relevance of climate adaptation.
- Women remain central agents of change in climate resilience, making women’s leadership a priority for climate justice.
- Overall, the LRPs demonstrated that sustained, community-led systems — grounded in local knowledge, inclusive participation, and constructive duty-bearer engagement — are critical to achieving long-term, scalable climate resilience and gender transformation.

#### 5.6.1 Closing 3 LRPs with an impact:

AAZ marked a significant milestone in 2025 by successfully phasing out three long-standing Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) in Nyanga, Nkayi, and Hwedza, which operated for 13–16 years, reaching over 75,000 people, mostly women and girls. The programmes aimed to empower communities through agroecology, climate resilience, and gender-based violence response, laying the groundwork



**Tsitsi Gotekote from Nyanga proudly displays her produce harvested through using agroecology practices supported by FACT Zimbabwe, an LRP Partner.**

for sustainable resilience. The closure allows ActionAid to shift resources to emerging areas, specifically new LRPs in Chipinge and Lusulu (Binga).

## What Changed in Communities

- Nyanga LRP (2010-2025): Empowered 25,000 people across 10 wards, focusing on agroecology, climate resilience, and gender-based violence response.
- Nkayi LRP (2012-2025): Reached 22,600 people, securing advancements in climate and economic justice.
- Hwedza LRP (2009-2025): Reached 27,400 people, addressing emergency response and social protection.
- Women-led agroecology clusters and community savings groups established in Saunyama and Chiendambuya.
- Visible reduction in acceptance of gender-based violence within project areas.
- Community leaders and traditional authorities becoming allies in fighting child marriage and unequal distribution of unpaid care work.

The programme demonstrated that long-term, child-sponsorship-funded interventions are essential for sustainable community transformation, and that engaging traditional leaders and men as allies is crucial for gender equality. The LRP model effectively links local economic empowerment with broader systemic change, ensuring communities are more resilient to climate shocks and more just and equitable.

## 2.6. ZIMBABWE ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT (ZIMACE) PROJECT

The Zimbabwe Accountability and Citizen Engagement (ZIMACE) project, implemented from 2024 to 2026 in Goromonzi and Bikita districts, seeks to strengthen environmental governance and accountability within Zimbabwe's lithium mining sector. In 2025, the project deepened its focus on enabling communities to engage more effectively with government and private sector actors, while promoting responsible resource governance and the protection of human rights. Throughout the year, the programme continued to bring together communities, local authorities, and corporate actors to improve transparency, participation, and accountability in decision-making processes.

## What Changed in Communities

### Reaching citizens at scale and strengthening participation

In 2025, the project reached 563,038 people through district planning processes, community outreach, and environmental governance platforms. This broad engagement helped strengthen citizen participation in local governance and supported more inclusive district-level planning in the mining-affected communities of Goromonzi and Bikita.

### Making accountability platforms work for communities

Social accountability platforms at ward and district levels continued to provide practical spaces for dialogue between communities, local authorities, and corporate actors. These platforms enabled communities to raise concerns,



**Victoria Mtomba, Public Relations Officer for Bikita Sinomine, engages communities and local authorities during a ward-level dialogue on responsible mining, community accountability, and people-centred corporate social responsibility convened by AAZ.**

engage duty bearers, and contribute to more responsive decision-making processes in the mining sector.

### **Building local capacity that translates into action**

A total of 789 participants (489 women, 276 men) were trained in environmental governance and accountability. This strengthened local knowledge and confidence to engage in governance processes. In addition, 58 ward-based monitors were trained and supported to track environmental and human rights issues, reinforcing community-level oversight and early identification of risks.

### **Improving access to justice in mining-affected areas**

In partnership with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), and with support from AAZ, Mobile Human Rights Clinics continued to serve as a vital entry point for communities seeking information, advice, and redress. In 2025, the clinics reached 5,408 people (2,816 female; 2,592 male). They identified 43 cases of rights violations, of which 12 progressed to detailed investigation. This strengthened access to justice and marked an important step towards more responsive and community-centred grievance mechanisms in mining-affected areas.

### **Turning data into accountability**

Working in partnership with Parliament—particularly the Portfolio Committees on Public Accounts (PAC), Budget and Finance, and Mines and Minerals—the project translated complex audit findings into clear, actionable accountability briefs. This helped surface governance gaps within state-owned mining enterprises and made

technical information more accessible for oversight actors. As a result, parliamentary discussions became more informed and focused, with increased attention to accountability and transparency in the extractive sector.

### **Influencing corporate practices and improving community outcomes**

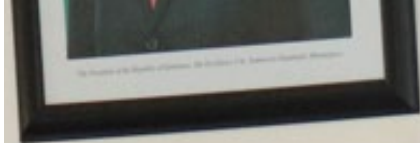
Engagement with private sector actors contributed to gradual but meaningful changes in practice. In Bikita, Sinomine Bikita Minerals revised elements of its relocation and compensation approach, reflecting increased responsiveness to community concerns and human rights considerations. In addition, a corporate-supported school transport initiative enabled 20 children (55% girls) to safely access education, addressing barriers created by mining expansion.

## **STRENGTHENING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND COORDINATION**

A total of 397 stakeholders (184 female, 213 male) participated in national and multi-stakeholder platforms. These engagements improved coordination among government, civil society, and private sector actors, and strengthened dialogue on environmental governance and accountability in the extractive sector.

### **Promoting community-led inclusive planning processes**

Local authorities advanced community-led planning approaches that better align corporate social investment with community priorities. This contributed to more participatory, transparent, and responsive development planning in mining-affected areas.



To be an effective, efficient and transparent local authority to facilitate sustainable development in the district so as to improve the quality of life of the people/residents.

**VISION**

To upgrade the lives of our people through social, economic, political, cultural and sustainable people initiated development.

**CORE VALUES**

- Service Excellence
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Sustainability
- Consistency
- Empowerment
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Quality



A programme trained community environmental monitor addresses multi-stakeholders (corporates, government ministries, and local authorities) at an AAZ meeting discussing accountability and transparency in Zimbabwe's mining sector.

## 2.7 FAIR, GREEN AND GLOBAL (FGG) ALLIANCE III PROJECT

The Fair, Green and Global (FGG) Alliance III project was implemented by AAZ in partnership with the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Organisation (ZELO) in Hurungwe and Mutoko districts. The project was implemented over multiple years and formally concluded in December 2025.

Hurungwe and Mutoko are districts with significant artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) activity, where women play an important but often constrained role in the extractive economy, typically concentrated in lower-value segments of the mining value chain. Against this backdrop, the project sought to transform extractive governance by strengthening civil society actors and empowering marginalised groups—particularly women—to advocate for corporate accountability, gender-responsive mining policies, and a fairer distribution of mineral wealth.



Participants during the 2025 Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba

## What Changed in the Communities

Over its implementation period, culminating in 2025, the project delivered significant results in strengthening advocacy capacity, influencing policy processes, and enhancing community agency within the mining sector:

### Strengthened civil society advocacy capacity

The project enhanced the institutional and advocacy capacity of ZELO and the Women in Mining Association of Zimbabwe (WIGAZ). This enabled both organisations to develop and advance policy proposals on gender-responsive mining contracts and more equitable extractive governance frameworks, strengthening their engagement with state and private sector actors.

### Influence on mining policy reform processes

Through sustained engagement with parliamentary structures and national consultations, the project contributed to discussions shaping the 2025 Mines and Minerals legislative reform process. Civil society submissions to the Portfolio Committee on Mines and Minerals helped elevate issues of social responsibility, gender inclusion, and corporate accountability within the reform agenda. Engagement with parliamentary processes ensured that community and gender-responsive perspectives were reflected in national extractive sector policy discourse, contributing to more inclusive and accountable governance discussions.

### Strengthened women's economic empowerment in ASM

WIGAZ was formally strengthened as a national-level platform, enhancing the collective organisation and visibility of women miners in Hurungwe. Members established a revolving capital fund to support gemstone trading and value addition, improving access to finance and strengthening participation in higher-value segments of the mining economy.

### Improved community engagement in environmental governance

In Mutoko, community environmental monitors engaged with CRG Granite Mining Company, contributing community-led inputs into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. These engagements strengthened community demands for land tenure protection, environmental rehabilitation commitments, and greater transparency in mining operations.

### Enhanced community agency and bargaining power

Across both districts, marginalised communities demonstrated increased confidence and capacity to engage with mining companies and government institutions. This shift strengthened their role as informed stakeholders in extractive governance processes and expanded opportunities for negotiation and accountability.



The FGG Alliance III project demonstrated that sustained investment in civil society strengthening, and community organisation can meaningfully shift power dynamics in extractive governance contexts. A key lesson is that structured engagement with parliamentary and policy processes is an effective pathway for elevating community and gender-responsive concerns into national reform discussions. The project also reaffirmed the importance of women-led organisations in advancing both economic inclusion and governance accountability in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector. Although the project formally concluded in December 2025, it leaves a strong foundation for continued advocacy, strengthened civil society capacity, and improved recognition of community rights within Zimbabwe’s mining sector.

**FGG Project Coordinator Darlington Chidarara takes the stage at Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba 2025.**



FEMINIST JUST  
TRANSITION = CLICK  
WITH COURAGE  
AND POST WITH  
RESPECT

DIGITAL  
RESPECT

AMERO  
ARIROVE

#ENDDIGITAL  
VIOLENCE

MORE  
REAMS,  
DIGITAL  
VIOLENCE

BASA RANGU  
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UNITE!

UNITE!

UNITE!

MUKA  
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UNITE!  
End Digital  
Violence against  
All Women and Girls

UNITE!

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End Digital  
Violence against  
All Women and Girls

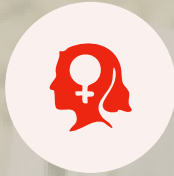
UNITE!  
End Digital  
Violence against  
All Women and Girls

End Digital  
Violence against  
All Women and Girls

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

### IMPACT DASHBOARD



**36,521**

Women's Rights  
Direct Reach



**635,000**

TORCHES  
Population Coverage



**5,074**

Economic  
Justice Reach



**82%**

Transition to  
Dignity Success Rate



**71,000**

Women & Girls  
Reached



**280**

Women trained  
in business skills



**378**

Households  
Supported



**1,890**

Drought  
Response Reach



**Youth**

Governance  
Participation

## 3.0

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

## 3.1 THE GENDER-RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICES (GRPS) AND YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Gender-Responsive Public Services (GRPS) and Youth Economic Empowerment initiative was implemented in rural areas through the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) movement. The program was also implemented in urban areas, specifically Harare South's Hopley region, within a national context where youth constitute approximately 35% of Zimbabwe's population, and young women represent an estimated 18% of the total population based on the latest census data. In high-density urban settlements such as Hopley—where population estimates range between 150,000 and 200,000 and youth proportions are significantly higher due to rural–urban migration—the programme deliberately targeted young women, who comprised 80% of the youth beneficiaries reached. This focus reflects both demographic realities and structural inequalities, positioning young women as a priority group for advancing inclusive economic empowerment and access to gender-responsive public services. The project's objectives were to empower rural

women and urban youth to assert their rights, demand accountability in essential services, and secure dignified livelihoods through technical and vocational excellence, addressing systemic inequality and economic exclusion.

### What Changed in Communities

- **Youth Reach:** 2,745 young people (1,864 women, 881 men) reached, exceeding targets by 305%.
- **Improved Services:** 1,438 young people reported improved access to essential services.
- **Women's Participation:** Rural women demonstrated increased participation in local governance and budget consultations.

Lessons learned highlighted the effectiveness of integrated support, including daycare services enabling young mothers to participate in vocational training, and Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) clubs supporting new enterprises. The project's success underscored the need for infrastructure expansion to maintain service quality, as demand far exceeded initial targets.

### 3.2 TOWARDS RESILIENCE WITH HEALTH, EQUALITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL (TORCHES) PROJECT

The Towards Resilience with Health, Equality and Safety for All (TORCHES) project was implemented between April 2024 and March 2025 in Nyanga, Shamva, and Chitungwiza districts of Zimbabwe in partnership with Family AIDS Caring Trust, Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZ) and Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ). The project worked within communities characterised by high levels of gender inequality and vulnerability to Gender-Based Violence

(GBV), with women, girls, and persons with disabilities disproportionately affected by harmful social norms and limited access to protection and justice systems.

Against this backdrop, the project sought to address the persistent and systemic nature of GBV, which is reinforced by unequal power relations and a prevailing “culture of silence” that often limits reporting, survivor support, and accountability.



Gender Champions supported by the TORCHES PROJECT proudly display certificates of acknowledgment for completing all 4 phases of the SASA Together methodology.



Meet the girls rewriting their futures with TORCHES.

To respond to these challenges, TORCHES applied a dual-approach methodology combining the SASA! Together community mobilisation model and TUSEME school-based empowerment clubs. These complementary approaches worked across community and school levels to shift harmful gender norms, strengthen collective

action, and build confidence and agency among young and old people. SASA! Together focused on community-wide norm change and collective responsibility, while TUSEME strengthened youth voice, leadership, and early prevention of GBV within schools.

## What Changed in Communities

### Community norm change and collective action through SASA! Together

Through the SASA! Together methodology, the project reached 12,831 people (7,960 female; 4,871 male) with sustained community engagement aimed at challenging harmful gender norms and promoting equality. This included an estimated 6,287 children and 6,544 adults. Among those reached, 127 persons with disabilities were actively engaged, strengthening the inclusivity of community-based prevention efforts. The approach contributed to increased awareness of GBV, stronger community willingness to intervene in cases of violence, and improved collective responsibility for prevention and response.

### School-based empowerment and youth engagement through TUSEME

A total of 3,404 learners (1,347 girls and 2,057 boys) were engaged through TUSEME school-based empowerment clubs. These participatory platforms enabled learners to identify challenges affecting them, speak out on issues of violence and inequality, and develop collective solutions to promote safer and more respectful relationships. Among participants, 165 children with disabilities were actively included, reinforcing inclusive prevention and ensuring that vulnerable learners were not excluded from school-based interventions.

### Improved access to survivor-centred services

The project provided direct support to 214 survivors of GBV (212 female; 2 male) through the Access to GBV Essential Services Fund. This support strengthened access to psychosocial care, legal assistance, and referral pathways, improving survivor-centred response and access to justice.

### Increased inclusion and protection for persons with disabilities

A total of 31 persons with disabilities (18 female; 13 male) received assistive devices, improving mobility, independence, and visibility, while reducing vulnerability to abuse and social exclusion. This reinforced the project's commitment to inclusive protection systems.

The TORCHES project demonstrated that combining community-wide norm change (SASA! Together) with school-based empowerment (TUSEME) creates a mutually reinforcing approach to preventing GBV. While SASA! Together shifted attitudes and behaviours at community level, TUSEME strengthened early prevention by equipping learners with voice, confidence, and leadership skills. A key lesson was that GBV prevention is most effective when interventions operate simultaneously across community and school environments, ensuring consistency in messaging and reinforcing positive norms across generations.

The project also highlighted the importance of intentional inclusion of persons with disabilities, not only as beneficiaries but as active participants in prevention and response systems. Practical accessibility measures and inclusive engagement approaches were essential in ensuring equitable participation. Overall, TORCHES demonstrated that integrated, multi-level approaches combining community mobilisation and youth empowerment can contribute meaningfully to reducing GBV and strengthening gender equality in diverse community settings.

### 3.3 THE GIRL SUPPORTER (GS) PROJECT

The Girl Supporter (GS) Project was implemented in Hopley (Harare South) and Mbire districts, Zimbabwe. The project aimed to empower girls and young women to claim their rights and challenge entrenched gender inequalities that limit their access to education, safety, and opportunity. It responded to pressing issues including gender-based violence, early and forced marriage, and unintended pregnancies, while also promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), climate justice awareness, and the creation of safe, supportive spaces for adolescent girls.

The intervention adopted a holistic approach combining material support, life-skills development, and community engagement to strengthen girls' agency and resilience in both rural and peri-urban contexts.

### What Changed in Communities

#### Strengthened girls' confidence, leadership, and agency

A total of 1,279 girls were reached through project interventions, of whom approximately 85% (1,087 girls) reported increased confidence and self-expression. Many of these girls transitioned into peer leadership roles, facilitating community dialogues on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

#### Improved access to education and reduced barriers to school participation

The project supported learners across six primary schools and additional participants in Hopley, reaching an estimated 2,460 learners. Interventions—including the distribution of 200 dignity kits and targeted education support for 120 learners—contributed to improved school retention and reduced absenteeism linked to period poverty.



The image above shows young women showcasing reusable sanitary pads produced during a two-day training facilitated by AAZ - an initiative addressing period poverty while building practical skills for self-reliance.



Girls' Club members in Mbire pose with AAZ staff after receiving dignity kits aimed at supporting girls' wellbeing, confidence, and continued participation in school and community life.

### Enhanced practical skills and economic empowerment

A total of 120 sewing machines were distributed to girls' clubs, enabling participants to acquire tailoring skills and produce reusable sanitary materials. This intervention addressed immediate menstrual hygiene needs while also creating opportunities for income generation.

### Strengthened community accountability and service delivery

Training of School Development Committees and village health workers strengthened local accountability mechanisms and improved responsiveness to the needs of girls. These efforts contributed to more gender-responsive service delivery at community level.

### Increased access to SRHR services and protection mechanisms

The project contributed to improved uptake of sexual and reproductive health and rights services and strengthened referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence, enhancing access to support and justice.

The GS Project demonstrated that combining material support with rights-based empowerment is an effective strategy for strengthening girls' resilience and self-reliance. Addressing practical barriers such as menstrual hygiene, alongside building confidence and knowledge, proved critical in improving school participation and wellbeing. A further key lesson is the importance of engaging boys, men, and traditional leaders in parallel processes to shift harmful social norms and create enabling environments for girls' empowerment. Overall, the project highlights the effectiveness of integrated, community-led approaches that combine skills development, service access, and

social norm change to advance gender equality and improve outcomes for girls and young women.

### 3.4 THE GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION PROJECT

The Girls' Access to Education Project was implemented in Makoni District, Zimbabwe, with the aim of removing systemic barriers that prevent girls from accessing, remaining in, and completing their education. The project addressed interconnected challenges including financial constraints, long travel distances, menstrual health barriers, and harmful social norms that undermine girls' educational attainment. At its core, the initiative sought to reposition the girl child within communities—from being viewed as a passive subject of cultural norms to being recognised as a rights-holder entitled to education, dignity, and opportunity.



Girls from Nyazura after receiving dignity kits, including buckets and soap, to support menstrual hygiene management and improve school attendance.

## What Changed in Communities

### Improved access to education for vulnerable girls

The project provided comprehensive educational support—including school fees and uniforms—to 55 girls across 9 schools, exceeding the initial target of 50 girls in 4 schools. This intervention directly reduced financial barriers and supported sustained school attendance among vulnerable learners.

### Reduced geographical and hygiene-related barriers

To address access challenges, 20 bicycles were distributed to secondary school learners, significantly reducing travel time and improving attendance. In addition, 50 dignity kits were provided to support menstrual hygiene management, contributing to reduced absenteeism and improved retention of girls in school.



Nyazura LRP girls pedal toward brighter futures with bicycles.

### Strengthened girls' confidence and agency

A total of 60 girls participated in structured mentorship sessions, resulting in increased self-esteem, confidence, and decision-making capacity. These sessions equipped girls with knowledge and skills to navigate social pressures and make informed choices about their education and future.

### Shifted community norms and strengthened accountability

The project secured public commitments from traditional and faith-based leaders to prioritise girls' education and actively report cases of child marriage. These pledges marked an important step towards shifting harmful norms and strengthening community accountability for protecting girls' rights.

### Enhanced stakeholder engagement and collective responsibility

Engagements with key stakeholders reached an estimated 5,670 individuals across participating communities. This included approximately 5,400 parents (2,808 mothers and 2,592 fathers), 180 school staff (99 female and 81 male), and 90

community leaders (63 male and 27 female). These efforts strengthened collaboration between schools, families, and community leadership, fostering a more supportive environment for girls' education.

### Promoted sustainability through asset management and institutional collaboration

The project introduced a sustainable asset management model, with bicycles registered as school assets and monitored in collaboration with the Ministry. This approach ensures continued access for future learners and strengthens institutional ownership of project resources.

The project demonstrated that addressing barriers to girls' education requires a layered approach that combines material support with sustained social and behavioural change interventions. While financial and logistical support improved access and retention, community engagement was critical in shifting norms and building long-term support systems for girls. Close collaboration with local stakeholders and targeted technical oversight were essential in ensuring effective implementation and accountability. The project also highlighted the importance of integrating economic empowerment and basic financial literacy into education-focused interventions to enhance sustainability and reduce vulnerability to school drop-out. Overall, the initiative successfully contributed to repositioning the girl child within the education system—strengthening her agency, improving access to learning, and fostering an enabling environment in which girls are better supported to pursue their education and future aspirations.





Some of the young women from Hopely who graduated in various vocational courses.

### 3.5 DANISH TELEVISION (DTV) PROJECT

The Danish Television (DTV) Project, implemented by AAZ from May 2021 to February 2026, was designed to advance youth empowerment and strengthen community resilience among vulnerable young people in Hopely and Epworth. Supported through investment from Danish Television, the project adopted an integrated youth development approach that combined vocational skills training, livelihoods support, psychosocial wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programming, and protection interventions. Through the establishment of youth hubs and partnerships with technical institutions

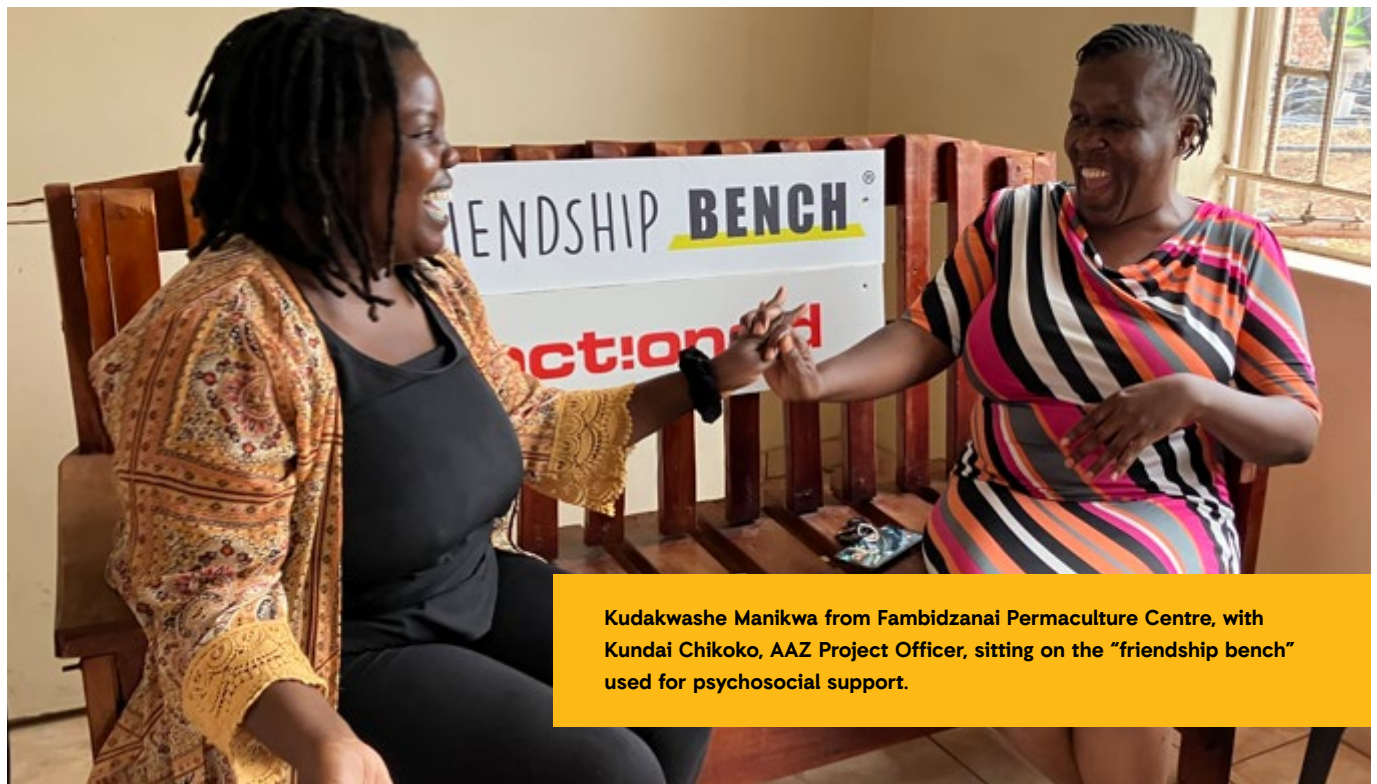
and community-based organisations, the project created pathways for young women and men to transition into dignified livelihoods, improve self-reliance, and strengthen their participation in community development processes. Young Africa Zimbabwe provided accredited vocational training to 40 young people supported by AAZ scholarships. The training covered beauty therapy, motor vehicle mechanics, electronics, solar panel installation, panel beating, and Early Childhood Development (ECD). The scholarships paid for college fees, uniforms, and protective clothing.

Vocational training delivered directly at the Waterfalls Youth Hub was facilitated by expert mentors contracted from the City of Harare, Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre, and Vichelle Design School. These partners provided specialist instruction in catering, baking, dressmaking, and agroecology horticulture, with Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre leading the horticulture and poultry components through its expertise in sustainable, agroecological food production.

Population Services Zimbabwe (PSZ) strengthened access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for young people in Hopley through a Voucher Referral system. Under a Service Level Agreement with AAZ, PSZ provided client consultations, pregnancy tests, counselling, STI and HIV screening and treatment, family planning, cervical cancer screening, post-abortion care,

and menstrual disorder management through its clinics in Mbare and Chitungwiza. Tariro Clinic — the sole public health facility in Harare South — served as the primary referral point for SRHR services, and its partnership with AAZ was central to improving health-seeking behaviour among young people. Through sustained advocacy by DTV-supported youth, the clinic’s nursing staff complement was increased from 7 to 11 nurses (supplemented by 12 locum nurses), a mothers’ waiting shelter was established, and waiting times were reduced from up to three hours to approximately one hour and 45 minutes.

Friendship Bench Zimbabwe was engaged to strengthen psychosocial support services for young people accessing the hub. Under this partnership, 20 community volunteers were trained to provide peer-to-peer psychosocial support using the Friendship Bench in a Box model.



Kudakwashe Manikwa from Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre, with Kundai Chikoko, AAZ Project Officer, sitting on the “friendship bench” used for psychosocial support.

Friendship Bench also provides specialised psychosocial services on a pro bono arrangement through its WhatsApp and call centre channels and a community bench stationed at Tariro Clinic. The City of Harare further contributed through its health department's engagement with advocacy processes, resulting in increased staffing at Tariro Clinic and the provision of water marshals at borehole sites to address gender-based violence risks at water points.

### Community Volunteers

A dedicated team of 20 DTV community volunteers has been the backbone of outreach and service delivery in Hopley. These volunteers facilitated SASA Together (Start, Awareness, Support, Action) and Pachoto dialogue sessions at community level, conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns and linking young people to referral services. Volunteers managed the case referral system by issuing referral slips, following up with service providers, and confirming that services were received — ensuring accountability across the referral pathway. Volunteers also coordinated the day care centre at the Waterfalls Youth Hub, enabling young mothers to participate in training without childcare barriers. In addition, the volunteers were trained as peer-to-peer psychosocial support buddies under the Friendship Bench model and are now providing community-based mental health support, with complex cases referred to Friendship Bench Zimbabwe for specialised services.

### Waterfalls Youth Hub: Ongoing Renovations and Expansion

The Waterfalls Youth Hub — acquired in lieu of the original Hopley site due to the informal nature of the settlement — is currently undergoing phased renovation and expansion to extend its service capacity with an extended main youth hub and a new training gazebo. The

hub already comprises a 200-square-metre greenhouse, a poultry run housing up to 200 chickens, a 200-capacity tent for training and graduation events, a day care play centre, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities (darts, chess, volleyball, handball, and netball), a mobile wellness clinic using the Global Platform Mobile Youth Hub in conjunction with PSZ, and fully equipped vocational training units with stoves, refrigerators, gas tanks, sewing machines, and kitchen utensils.

The expansion plan —will also add participant accommodation, a training and chillout gazebo with external gender-transformative toilets and bathrooms, a guard room, automated gate access, perimeter security



Some of the young women who completed vocational training in food and catering have since been contracted by major hotels.

and CCTV. Physical construction commenced in the final quarter of 2025 and is due for completion in 2026. The overachievement of hub user targets (1,842 cumulative users against a target of 1,000) has confirmed the necessity of this expansion to sustain and scale the quality of services provided.

### Vocational Training: Graduates and Active Trainees

During the reporting period, 200 young people (166 females and 34 males) completed three-month vocational training programmes at the Waterfalls Youth Hub across four disciplines: baking (40 trainees, 90% retention rate), dressmaking (40 trainees, 98% retention rate), catering (40 trainees, 95% retention rate), and horticulture and poultry (80 trainees,

53% retention rate). The overall retention rate across all courses was 78%, reflecting strong commitment by participants despite economic pressures. Cumulatively, 1,618 young people (1,227 females and 391 males) have received training and technical assistance since the project's inception in 2021, against a total project target of 600 — representing a 270% overachievement.

The first cohort of 10 graduates from Young Africa Zimbabwe — 6 females and 4 males — completed accredited training in catering, beauty therapy, motor vehicle mechanics, electronics, solar panel installation, panel beating, and Early Childhood Development. Supported by AAZ scholarships, they are now preparing for trade testing through the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education's Examination Council. Nine young women from the group have already secured formal employment: two as ECD teachers in the Hopley community, one coordinating the hub's day care centre, two as waitresses at Rainbow Towers Hotel, one with the City of Harare catering unit, two as designers at First Choice Clothing and Paramount Garment, and two in panel beating and spray painting at Delta Beverages. A further 318 young people are informally employed through their own enterprises.

Beyond technical skills, the training transformed participants' outlook and decision-making. Many reported a marked shift in how they perceived life opportunities, with some expressing regret over missed chances such as early marriages and a desire to have accessed such programmes earlier.



**Lignetty Chikweto, 24,** is emblematic of this transformation: after failing her Ordinary Levels, she enrolled in dressmaking, earned a certificate, and is now employed by First Choice Private Limited as a trained cutting and design professional — supporting her younger sister's education with her income.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

## HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS CHANGE

### IMPACT DASHBOARD



**79,180**

Humanitarian  
Direct Reach



**23,495**

Food Assistance  
Reach



**4,699**

Emergency Response  
Households



**13**

Schools Supported



**3,640**

Learners Reached



**7**

Classroom Blocks



**1**

Waiting Mothers'  
Shelter



**9,750**

Catchment Population  
Served



**685**

Persons with  
Disabilities Supported



**2,925**

High-risk Individuals  
Covered



**2,925**

High-risk Individuals  
Covered

# 4.0

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS CHANGE

AAZ implemented integrated Humanitarian and Resilience Preparedness and Response interventions across Nyazura, Hwedza, Saunyama, and Mbire Local Rights Programmes (LRPs), as well as at national level. The portfolio combined immediate humanitarian relief with longer-term resilience strengthening under AAZ's Humanitarian Signature model, which links emergency response, local leadership, and systems strengthening into a single continuum. The interventions were designed to reposition women, youth, and vulnerable households from passive recipients of aid to active actors in disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, and community resilience.

### What Changed in Communities

#### Emergency humanitarian response during El Niño drought

In response to acute food insecurity, AAZ and Rural Women's Assemblies (RWAs) provided targeted food assistance to **4,699 learners (2,443 girls; 2,256 boys)** across 27 schools in Makoni and Hwedza districts. This intervention ensured continuity of education and reduced dropout risks during the peak of the drought crisis.

The school-based response indirectly supported household food security and stability for an estimated population linked to learners, strengthening resilience during a period of widespread climatic shock.

#### Sustaining education systems under climate stress

A package of complementary school-based interventions strengthened education continuity:

- School feeding programme: reached 3,640 learners (1,893 girls; 1,747 boys) across 13 primary schools.
- Rehabilitation of 7 classroom blocks: benefited approximately 3,200 learners in 5 primary and 2 secondary schools.
- Sanitation infrastructure (Chitenderano Primary School): benefited 400 learners (208 girls; 192 boys) through improved gender-segregated WASH facilities.

These interventions collectively improved attendance, reduced dropout risk, and strengthened the resilience of education systems under climate and economic stress.

#### Strengthening community resilience through sustainable infrastructure

- AAZ supported investments that enhance long-term resilience beyond the immediate humanitarian period:
- Kadzi Secondary School (Mbire) nutrition garden (1 hectare): benefited approximately 600 learners (300 girls; 300 boys) and 25 school staff (14 male; 11 female).

The garden contributes to school feeding programmes, generates income for reinvestment, and supports a shift toward more self-sustaining school systems.

- Waiting mothers' shelter (Saunyama, Ward 8): designed to support approximately 100–130 pregnant women annually, improving access to safe delivery services and reducing maternal and neonatal risks in a remote rural setting.

**Women from Nyazura LRP, Makoni District prepare food for pupils as part of the El Niño Drought Response programme supported by AAZ, showcasing women's leadership in humanitarian response.**



### Strengthening protection and women's resilience system

- Two women-led protection committees were established in Nyazura, strengthening community-based safeguarding structures during emergencies
- 280 women in Chpinge were trained in business management in partnership with Jekesa Pfungwa, enhancing income diversification and reducing vulnerability to shocks

These interventions strengthened both protection mechanisms and household economic resilience, reinforcing women's role in community recovery systems.

### Strengthening disaster preparedness and governance systems

At district level, the Hwedza District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC) developed comprehensive Disaster Preparedness and Anticipatory Action Plans covering all wards. These plans strengthened:

- Early warning systems
- Hazard mapping
- Coordinated response mechanisms

At national level, AAZ contributed to the review and finalisation of the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill, strengthening institutional frameworks for disaster preparedness and response.

## 4.1 ARISE PROJECT: WOMEN-LED DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTION

The Women-Led Disaster Preparedness and Protection (ARISE) Project was implemented in the Nyazura Local Rights Programme (LRP) within Makoni District, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe. The project aimed to strengthen community-based disaster risk management by repositioning women and youth from passive recipients of assistance to active leaders in preparedness, emergency response, and protection systems. It also sought to institutionalise anticipatory action that responds to the specific risks and needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. At its core, ARISE advanced a locally led model of disaster governance that integrates protection, preparedness, and early response within community structures, ensuring that resilience systems are both inclusive and operational before disaster strikes.

**Mrs Bofu, Chairperson of the District Civil Protection Committee for Nyazura, leads a session with Nyazura Ward 28 DRR Committee members on community disaster planning.**



## What Changed in Communities

### Strengthened community disaster governance systems

The project established ward-based Disaster Risk Management Committees and women-led protection mechanisms in Wards 28 and 30, covering an estimated population of 13,000 people (6,760 females; 6,240 males). These structures enhanced local coordination for disaster preparedness, early warning, and response. A total of 96 community governance actors (24 committee members and 72 supporting actors) were trained and actively engaged in disaster risk management. This significantly strengthened local capacity for planning, coordination, and emergency response.

### Improved anticipatory planning and early warning capacity

The newly established structures developed localised Disaster Preparedness and Early Response Plans, improving community readiness and enabling more coordinated responses to climate-related shocks. These plans have strengthened hazard awareness, early warning dissemination, and community-level risk reduction practices.

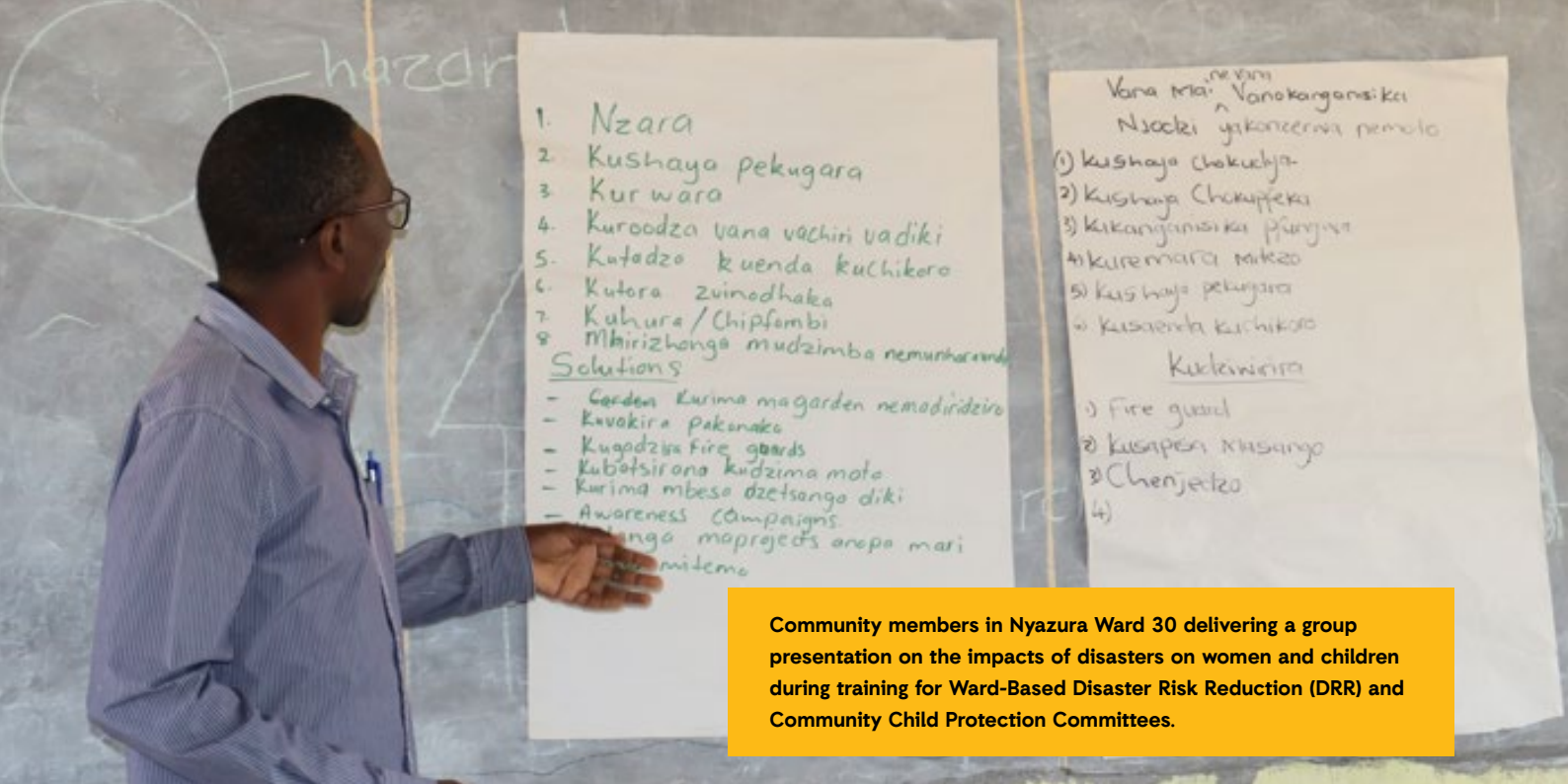
### Enhanced inclusive emergency infrastructure and service delivery

A solarisation system was installed at the Nedziwa Evacuation Centre borehole, improving access to safe and reliable water for an estimated 9,750 people in the catchment area. During emergencies, the facility directly supports approximately 1,463 evacuees, ensuring continuity of essential services during crisis periods. The intervention also benefits approximately 2,925 high-risk individuals, including an estimated 683 persons with disabilities (355 female; 328 male), through disability-inclusive infrastructure that strengthens safety, dignity, and access during emergencies.

### Strengthened preparedness through prepositioning of emergency supplies

The project prepositioned essential non-food items, including 20 medical kits, 30 dignity kits, and water containers, improving the readiness of local actors to respond effectively before and immediately after disaster events.





**Community members in Nyazura Ward 30 delivering a group presentation on the impacts of disasters on women and children during training for Ward-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Community Child Protection Committees.**

### Expanded women's leadership in disaster governance

Women were deliberately appointed to strategic leadership roles within disaster management and protection structures. They have taken active roles in hazard prevention awareness campaigns and community mobilisation, with increasing support from male counterparts. This has contributed to more inclusive and responsive decision-making processes at ward level.

### Strengthened district-level disaster governance systems

The District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC) was reinforced, engaging approximately 120 governance actors (30 committee members and 90 sector/community representatives). This strengthened coordination between community structures and formal government systems, improving alignment in hazard mapping, early warning systems, and emergency response planning.

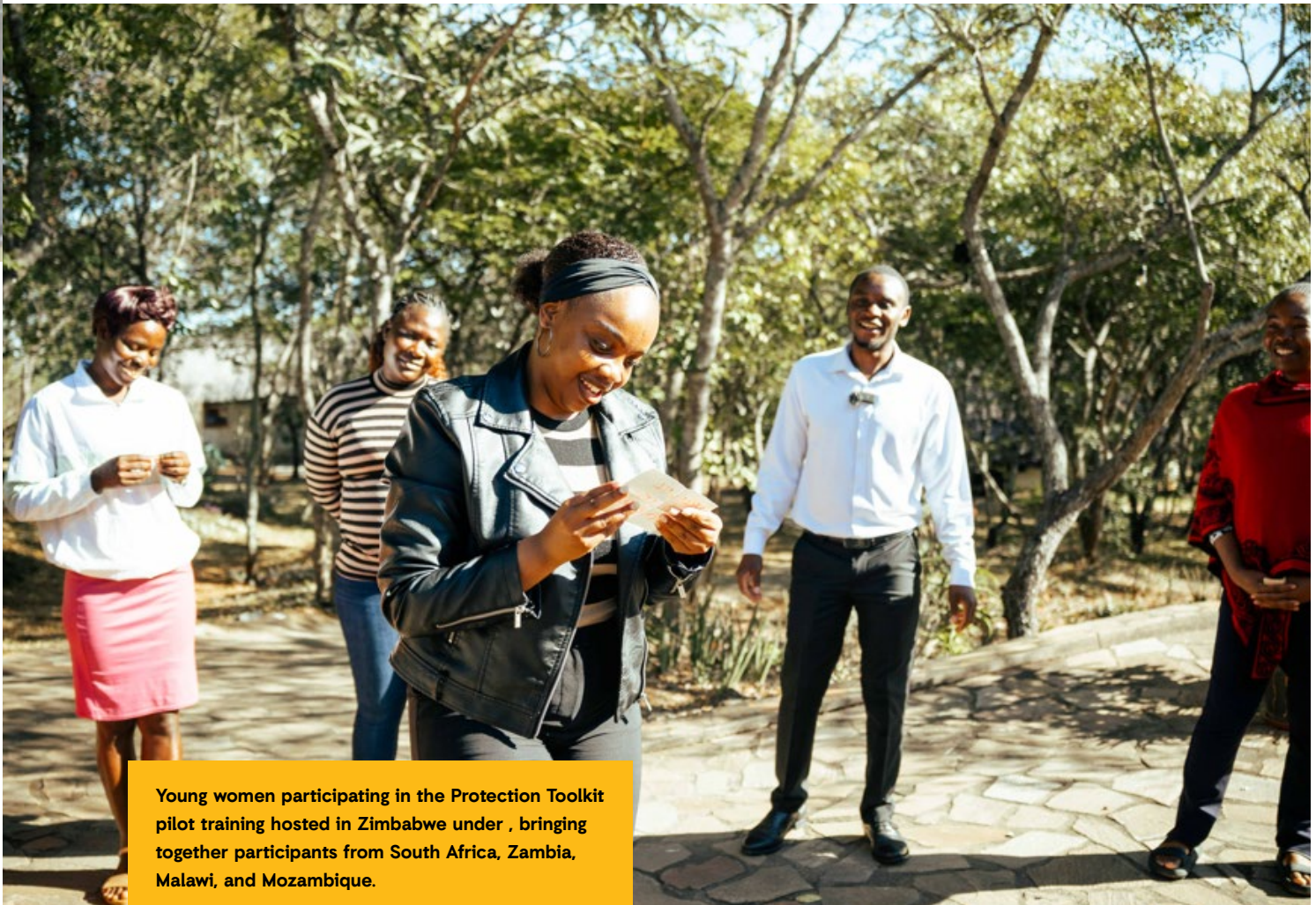
The ARISE Project demonstrated that localised leadership is central to effective and sustainable disaster resilience, particularly in contexts of increasing climate variability. Women-led structures proved essential in strengthening early warning systems, improving community trust, and enhancing responsiveness during emergencies. The project further highlights that community-based disaster systems require sustained institutional and technical support to overcome entrenched gender and cultural barriers, particularly in patriarchal settings.

The experience reinforced the need to institutionalise community-led disaster structures within national frameworks, including continued advocacy for the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill to ensure legal recognition and sustainability of local systems.

## 4.2 YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Youth Leadership in Humanitarian Action initiative under SPA II was implemented in Binga and Mbire districts, Zimbabwe, with objectives to transform young people, particularly young women and those facing

marginalisation, into active agents in shaping the social and policy environments that govern their safety, and to institutionalize youth power in disaster risk management and decision-making processes.



Young women participating in the Protection Toolkit pilot training hosted in Zimbabwe under , bringing together participants from South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.

## What Changed in Communities

- AAZ reached over 1,280 individuals through direct interventions, including 905 school-going youth in Binga who gained access to safe water—comprising approximately 471 girls and 434 boys based on census-aligned population ratios.
- Overall, the direct beneficiaries included an estimated 666 females and 614 males. In Mbire, 317 households benefited from the installation of mechanized boreholes, reaching approximately 1,585 people at household level, including 808 adults (420 women and 388 men) and 777 children (404 girls and 373 boys).
- A total of 33 young people were appointed to formal and informal decision-making roles, with 31 positions secured within Resilience and School Development Committees in Binga.
- 125 youth in Binga and 56 in Mbire petitioned authorities on critical issues such as human-wildlife conflict and displacement related to dam construction.
- A total of 306 youth participated in high-level platforms, including the National DRR Symposium and the “She Counts” Festival, influencing disaster governance.
- The National Youth Desk on DRR was formalized within the Department of Civil Protection, transitioning from a consultative group to a recognized state advisory body.
- Youth leaders utilized the SASA! model to address the intersection of resource stress and gender-based violence, restoring five strained marriages.
- The PAMUSHA household model empowered 21 farmers to integrate fish farming and agroforestry, creating a resilient economic base.

The initiative demonstrated that integrating governance and sustainable livelihoods into humanitarian response creates more durable resilience than isolated disaster relief efforts, and that youth leadership requires physical assets and infrastructure to implement resilient practices on the ground. The project showed the importance of combining skills development and psychosocial support with practical community spaces that are easier for young women to access. It also demonstrated that shifting activities closer to villages helped reduce travel challenges and the unpaid care responsibilities faced by young women. In addition, the successful transition of the National Youth Desk into a formal government advisory body showed that young people’s voices have greater influence when they are directly connected to government systems and decision-making processes.



## 5.0 ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS & GOVERNANCE

### 5.1. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

AAZ is guided by a versatile and gender-responsive Country Management Team (CMT) that ensures strategic decisions align with the AAI “Action for Global Justice” strategy, navigated complex operating environments, including legislative shifts and humanitarian challenges.


AAZ maintained a dedicated staff of 45, with 60% female and 40% male representation, driving feminist leadership principles.



# 6.0

## COMMUNICATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

*Amplifying Climate Justice, Women's Rights and Community Voices Across Zimbabwe*



**3.1M**  
PEOPLE REACHED  
THROUGH MEDIA

Through mainstream media, radio engagement, and advocacy campaigns across Zimbabwe.



**152,800**  
CAMPAIGN REACH

Digital and offline campaigns advancing climate justice, women's rights, sustainable mining, and youth inclusion.

**24 MEDIA MENTIONS IN 2025**

In 2025, ActionAid Zimbabwe secured 24 mainstream media mentions amplifying national conversations on debt justice, climate accountability, sustainable mining, youth empowerment, disaster resilience, and women's rights.




**KEY THEMES HIGHLIGHTED ACROSS THE MEDIA COVERAGE**


 <p><b>1. DEBT &amp; CLIMATE JUSTICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Multiple pieces linking foreign debt to Africa's climate-fight capacity and sustainable mining practices, mining regulation and sustainability.</li></ul>	 <p><b>2. EXTRACTIVES &amp; YOUTH INCLUSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Calls for tighter rules, gender-sensitive budgets, and youth inclusion in the extractive sector.</li></ul>	 <p><b>3. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stories on wetlands, plastic-pollution volunteers, and agro-ecology initiatives.</li></ul>	 <p><b>4. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Calls for gender-sensitive budgets and addressing gender-based violence.</li></ul>	 <p><b>5. ACCESS TO JUSTICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Partnership with ZHRC to boost access to justice in marginalized communities.</li></ul>
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**AWARENESS RAISING RADIO SESSIONS**


In partnership with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, ActionAid Zimbabwe conducted awareness-raising radio sessions on sustainable mining communities, environmental justice, and protection of community rights.



**YA FM**  
WE LEAD



**Diamond FM | 103.8**  
The Jewel of the Airwaves



**SKYZ METRO FM**  
beyond the sky!!

## ACTIONAID ZIMBABWE SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



**15.4K**  
FOLLOWERS



**12.9K**  
FOLLOWERS



**12.2K**  
CONNECTIONS



**1,000**  
FOLLOWERS

Facebook remained the dominant platform in Zimbabwe, driving the highest engagement levels during 2025.



### WHAT CHANGED IN COMMUNITIES



#### JULY 2025 LEADERSHIP TRANSITION CONTENT

The farewell post of former Country Director Joy Mabenge and introduction of Interim Country Director Dr. Selina Pasirayi generated significant public engagement and visibility.



**47,000**  
VIEWS



**40,000**  
IMPRESSIONS



**951**  
LIKES



The celebration of the life of feminist icon **Everjoice Win** generated close to **4,000 impressions on LinkedIn**, reinforcing ActionAid Zimbabwe's feminist storytelling and movement-building narrative.

### AAZ SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

ActionAid Zimbabwe's social media presence is significant, with Facebook (the most popular platform in Zimbabwe) leading the way, accounting for 63.55% of the market share, followed by Twitter (9.51%), Instagram (4.22%), and LinkedIn (0.64%) according to the Global Stats for Zimbabwe as at December 2025.

AAZ performance across these platforms continued to grow, with notable follower numbers: Facebook (**15.4K**, 52% women, 48% men), Twitter (12.9K), LinkedIn (12,2K), and Instagram (1,000).

### MOST ENGAGING CONTENT



#### CLIMATE JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

Our advocacy for sustainable mining practices and climate change mitigation resonated with our audience, generating:



**2,500+**  
ENGAGEMENTS



**1,200+**  
IMPRESSIONS



#### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Calls for gender-sensitive budgets and addressing gender-based violence sparked meaningful conversations:



#### OUR LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME

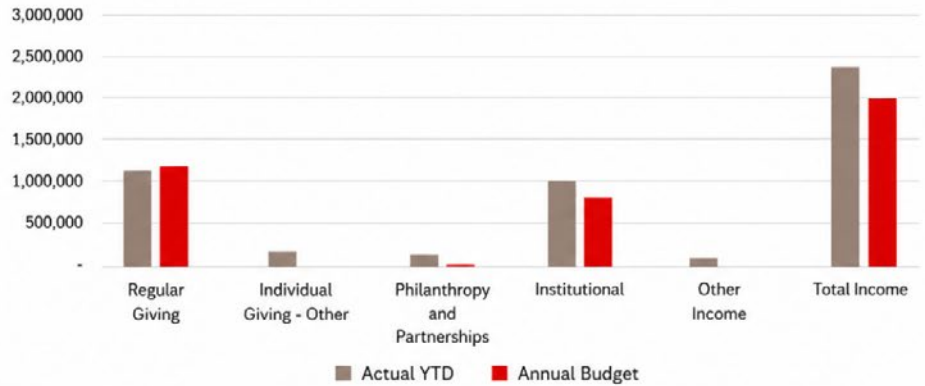
Phase-outs and Resilient Livelihoods initiatives in **Nyanga, Nkayi, and Hwedza** showcased strong community engagement around resilient livelihoods and local activism.

# 7.0 FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

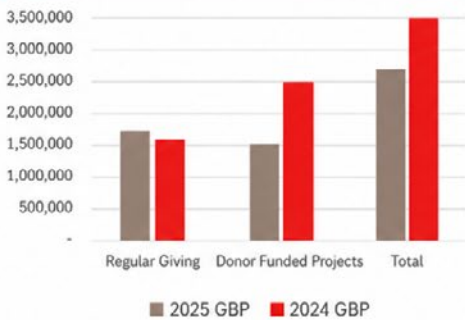
## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2025



### INCOME PERFORMANCE 2025



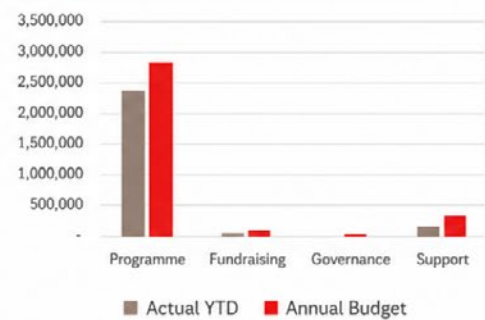
### INCOME COMPARISON - 2025 VS 2024



### FUNDING MIX



### EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE



Insert picture Rosemary Chiripanyanga from Hopley, Harare



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Website Address: [www.actionaid.org/zimbabwe](http://www.actionaid.org/zimbabwe)

Front Cover picture

Mandy, from Mbire District

Back Cover picture

Natale from Nyazura, Makoni District.

