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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
OF RESILIENCE & IMPACT



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



The year 2023 has been a pivotal moment in our journey at ActionAid Zimbabwe. It has been a year of reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to our

mission of social justice and equity in Zimbabwe.

As we commemorated our 20th year of AAZ's existence and operation in Zimbabwe, we took a moment to acknowledge the milestones we have achieved since our registration in 2003 and our significant merger with MS Denmark in 2010. This anniversary was not only a celebration of our past achievements but also a

reminder of the continued impact we aspire to make in the years to come.

The shrinking operating environment for CSOs, continues to affect our operations making it difficult to reach and engage with various stakeholders that can potentially benefit from our interventions.

Regardless, we continued with our work in line with our vision for 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. We are unapologetic about our stance to work with people in poverty for they did not choose the circumstances they find themselves in.

One of the major highlights of the year was the local launch of our flagship Climate Justice campaign- "Fund our Future"- which coincided with our anniversary celebrations. This campaign underscores our dedication to addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change and promoting sustainable practices that

safeguard our environment and livelihoods.

In the pages of this report, you will find accounts of our relentless advocacy for gender-responsive public services, sustainable agriculture, disaster risk management, and youth empowerment. These stories reflect the tireless efforts of our team, partners, and volunteers, who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans.

I am particularly inspired by the active engagement of young people in driving meaningful change through initiatives such as the #ActOnDRM Bill campaign. Their passion, determination, and unwavering commitment to advocating for policy reform are a testament to the power of youth leadership in shaping our collective future.

Our partnerships with local organizations, academic institutions, government bodies, and civil society have been instrumental in amplifying our impact and reaching communities in need. Together, we have forged a network of solidarity and collaboration that

strengthens our collective ability to effect change.

As we look ahead, we are reminded of the resilience and strength inherent within the Zimbabwean spirit. Despite the challenges we face, our communities continue to demonstrate courage, solidarity, and a steadfast determination to build a better tomorrow for generations to come.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters whose unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made these achievements possible. Together, let us continue to strive for justice, equality, and dignity for all.

In Solidary

Joy Mabenge

ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

ActionAid Zimbabwe implemented its development programmes within a fluid socio-economic and political environment in 2023. Being an electoral year, 2023 posed numerous socio-political challenges related to elections. While the pre, during and post elections environment remained relatively peaceful, the national atmosphere remained polarized and intimidating to the civil society organisations.

There were a few post-election cases of opposition party supporters' persecution and harassment, creating an envelope of intimidation and fear. The democratic space for the civil society organisation continued to shrink in Zimbabwe due to state repression that helped tighten the ruling party's grip on power. The opposition party was decimated through state institutions supporting fraudulent processes of recalls for the opposition Members of Parliament and the subsequent

by-elections. This process reversed the gains and inroads that had been made in widening the democratic space in Zimbabwe. Development programming in such an environment has been cumbersome. AAZ had to take precautional measures before, during and after elections. One of such measures was avoiding the fieldwork during the campaign period shortly before the harmonised elections to avoid unnecessary friction with the politicians in the communities.

Marred by uninterrupted 23 years of economic freefall since 2000, the economic situation in Zimbabwe has left most of the urbanites and rural people impoverished. For the past two decades, Zimbabwe's economic performance remain unstable due to a complex web of overlapping factors, poor human rights record, mismanagement of the economy, and the receding international community. Mismanagement of the economy has resulted in hyperinflation and shrinking economy, Consequently, poverty levels have been continuously rising. Poverty levels in Zimbabwe

have been exacerbated by the weak social protection system. The World Bank (2023) has estimated urban poverty to be 44%, a figure that is worrisome. Africa Development Bank Group (2023) has estimated that In 2023, the Zimbabwean economy shrunk by 0.8. This has induced severe hardships on the already impoverished households resulting in worsening vulnerability for both rural and urban populace. The poor state of public services has also worsened, including the inadequate infrastructure such as gender-based violence (GBV) referral systems.

Apart from escalating poverty levels, Zimbabwe continue to experience a series of hazards such as epidemics (cholera), El Nino induced droughts and tropical cyclones. Cholera and tropical cyclones have become an annual occurrence, leaving the country devastated. 2023 saw the year-round outbreak of cholera that led to a total number of 14 517 cholera cases and 253 deaths by the close of the year on 31 December 2023. Tropical Cyclone Freddy battered eastern Zimbabwe in

2023, leaving a trail of destruction in Chipinge district. Fortunately, no life was lost. About 13 more tropical cyclones dissipated in the Indian ocean. While Southern Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular were not known to be disaster prone areas, the past decade has transformed this belief hence there is need to brace for the exacerbation of droughts, floods, and cyclones.

All these political, economic, and social challenges in the operation environment had long lasting implications on the effective programming of AAZ in 2023. It required careful negotiating of these challenges and adoption of resilience mechanisms to achieve the annual organisational plans.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF RESILIENCE AND IMPACT




Amidst both national and global challenges, ActionAid Zimbabwe proudly stands at the crossroads of two decades of unwavering dedication to combating poverty and injustices.

As the old adage wisely states, “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” These words not only echo the profound truth of this saying but also capture the remarkable journey undertaken by ActionAid Zimbabwe over the past two decades.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS BY ACTIONAID ZIMBABWE

1. Outreach and Rights Holders:

 Annually reaching over 250,000 rights holders.	 Cumulatively reached approximately 2,500,000 over the past 10 years .	 60% female (150,000) and 40% male (100,000) annually.
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2. Financial Mobilization:



Mobilized an estimated **\$25 million** over the past 5 years.



Rooted in **30 districts** across Zimbabwe with 9 Local Rights Programmes (LRPs).

3. Local Partnerships and Policy Influence:



Currently collaborating with **30 local partners** across various projects.



Focused on influencing evidence-based policy in extractives, goat strategy, climate change, disaster management, and social protection.



Petitioned parliament on DRM Bill, Compensation Framework in the mines and minerals sector, Reforming the Seed Act-Partners also contributed to policy influencing (Basilwizi; GGTZ; Fambidzanai Permaculture-FPC), Agro Ecology Policy, Reallocation of affected communities-Gwaai Shangaani Dam (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement), Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill (MMAB), Gemstone Policy, Protocol on the multi sectoral management of sexual abuse and violence in Zimbabwe, Policy circular- re entry of pregnant mothers into schools, Media Practitioner Bill.



LRPs Policy: Social Protection Policy-related to TORCHES presentation (Hwedza- One Stop Centre), Makoni-referral pathway, School and Health Policy, Enactment of Domestic Violence Act and implementation of the revised Gender Policy.

4. Resilience Building:



Under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZSBF), reached **53,195 rights holders** in 3 districts.



Total expenditure of **\$7,000,000**.



99.2% reach of targeted households under the project.

5. Human Rights Advocacy:



Influencing human rights work using a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA).



Engaged **93 delegates** from various Parliamentary Portfolio Committees.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Advocate Jacob Mudenda, led the delegation.



Signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the parliament of Zimbabwe.

6. Gender Champions in LRPs:



Over the past 10 years, **37 Gender Champions** (6 males, 31 females) in 8 LRPs.



Impact: Improved public services and support for survivors of gender-based violence.

7. Child Sponsorship Programme:



Currently supporting **7,884 active children** (up from 1,277 in 2006).

8. Building a youth movement through Activista platform and social movements in the country reaching out to more than 10 000 youths directly and indirectly.

OUR IDENTITY

AAZ is a locally registered Private Voluntary Organization in Zimbabwe. Since the establishment of its programmes in 2003, the organization remains grounded in the communities from which it derives its mandate, with a geographical footprint embedded in its Local Rights Program (LRP) areas which are predominantly rural. AAZ has begun making its in prints in urban settings as well responding to rising urban poverty. In line with the ActionAid International partnership policy, AAZ defines itself as an independent organization that takes sides with the people living in poverty and works in partnership with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs), national and international

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), various tiers of government, and other like-minded organisations in and outside Zimbabwe.

VISION

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

01 **MUTUAL RESPECT:**
Requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

02 **EQUITY AND JUSTICE:**
Requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location and religion.

03 **INTEGRITY:**
Requiring us to be honest, transparent, and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgements and communications with others

04 **SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY:**
Lack of power and exclusion will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

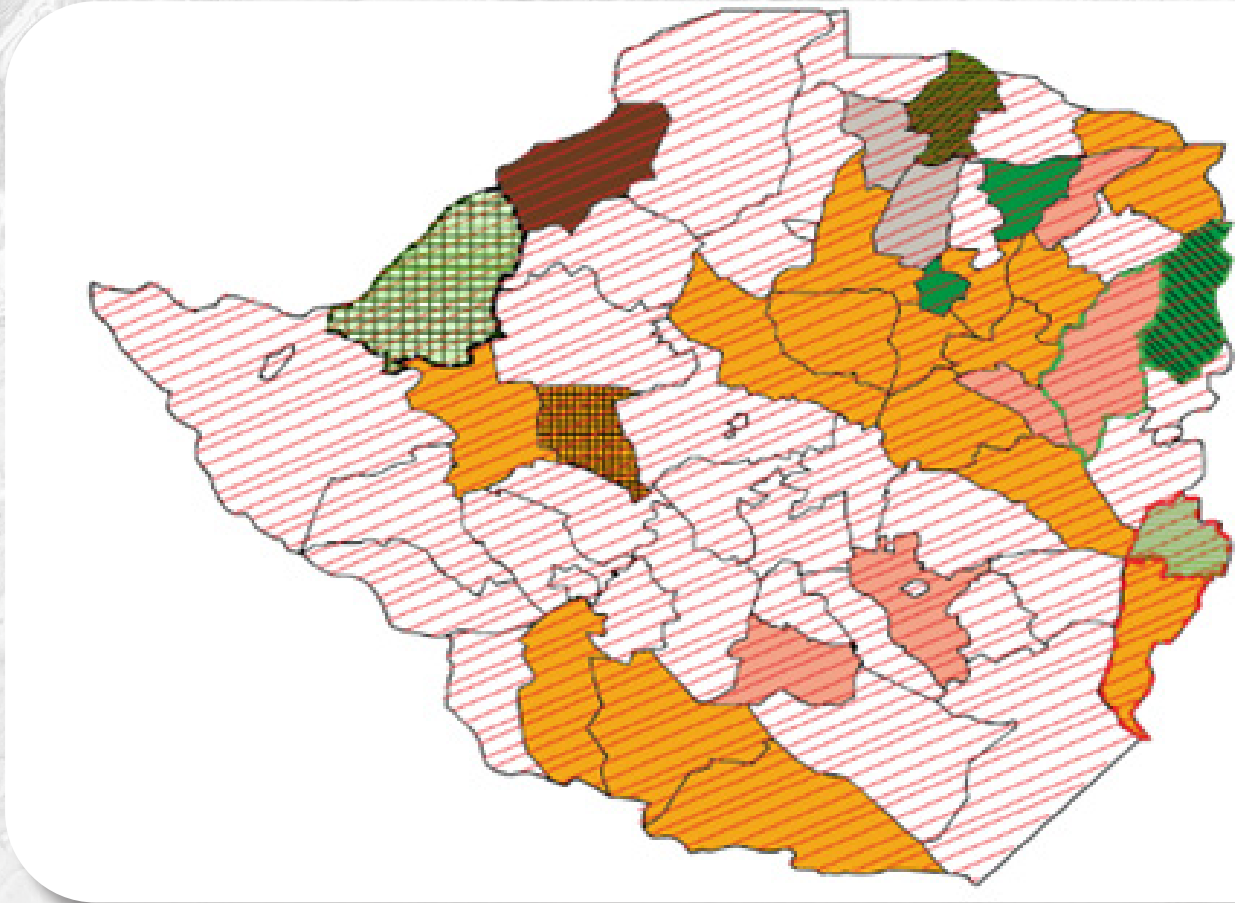
05 **COURAGE OF CONVICTION:**
Requiring us to be creative and radical, bold, and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality

06 **INDEPENDENCE:**
From any religious or party-political affiliation

07 **HUMILITY:**
Recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

WHERE WE WORK-FY23 PROJECTS

-  Danish Television Dignified Livelihoods for young people through creation of Safe Spaces
-  Towards Resilient Communities with Health, Equality and Safety for All
-  Partnership for Social Accountability
-  Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme
-  Local Rights Programmes
-  Lean Season Assistance
-  Fair Green and Global
-  Cyclone Idai
-  Activista Zimbabwe youth projects
-  Strategic Partnership Agreement



FY23 IN PICTURES



A collection of various grains and legumes, including lentils, beans, and rice, are displayed in small bowls on a patterned tablecloth. The bowls are arranged in a grid-like pattern, and the background is slightly blurred, showing more food items and a patterned cloth.

SYSTEM CHANGE FOR

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

CHAMPIONING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS FOR ADOLESCENTS



Shantel Mumpande, the young and energetic junior councillor of Lubanda Ward 25 in Binga district, has set her sights on becoming the President of Zimbabwe. Her selection as the Junior Councillor was attributed to her excellent

presentation on the topic of health for young girls. However, Shantel did not rest on her laurels but instead utilized her position to benefit other young girls in her community.

The Covid-19 era brought about a significant challenge for young girls, with many dropping out of school due to early pregnancies resulting from engaging in sexual activities. According to Shantel,

"IN MY CLASS WE WERE 40 PUPILS, BUT AFTER COVID-19, WE ARE NOW ONLY 14, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE DROPOUTS ARE GIRLS WHO WERE IMPREGNATED DURING THE LOCKDOWN."

Unfortunately, most of these girls lack knowledge about Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services and rights.

Following a successful training workshop, Shantel, a 16-year-old Junior Councillor, took it upon herself to educate her peers on the importance of safe sex practices. Shantel initiated peer-to-peer education sessions, disseminating vital information on abstinence, the use of condoms to prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS, and preventing unwanted pregnancies.

The Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance project, aimed at providing adolescents and young people with comprehensive, quality, non-judgmental, and inclusive HIV and SRHR public services, is expanding its reach. It has introduced the agriculture component into two more wards, including Lubanda Ward.

Enhancing Community Participation through Local Rights Programming (LRPs)

As part of our Local Rights Programming initiative, ActionAid Zimbabwe facilitated the active involvement of 492 community members, comprising 288 females and 204 males, from Nyazura, Nyanga, and Hwedza. This inclusive approach involved gender champions, women, and young people in attending public budget consultative meetings at the community level. Notably, 14 duty bearers actively participated in these meetings.

During these engagements, various gender-responsive public service concerns were raised. Key issues included challenges related to the availability of health facilities in accessible locations, ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water for the community, including schools, and establishing effective referral pathways for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response. The concerns also extended to access to education facilities for children in Nyanga.

Responding to these challenges, local authorities in Nyanga prioritized actions for the upcoming year. Measures included the procurement of a drilling rig to address water scarcity, the completion of clinics and classroom blocks under construction, and the utilization of 2024 devolution funds and internal revenue collected through development levies from households.

Advocacy through Commemorations: Empowering Women for Change

Commemorative events emerged as critical platforms for advocating Gender-Responsive Public Services (GRPS). Women from Local Rights Programming sites, in solidarity with others, actively participated in annual commemorations such as International Women's Day (IWD), International Rural Women's Day (IRWD), and 16 Days of Activism (DOA). This collective effort involved 5500 individuals, comprising 3488 females and 2012 males.

The advocacy during these events resulted in heightened awareness and strengthened partnerships for improved GRPS. Engagements between gender champions, women, District Development Coordinator (DDC), and other stakeholders fostered discussions on enhancing referral pathways. This collaborative effort seeks to ensure sustained progress in addressing gender-related challenges and promoting equitable public services for all.

Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Project

Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health among Adolescents

and Young People in Binga District

Under the auspices of the PSA project, notable strides were made in improving access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services for adolescents and young people in Binga district during the period from January to March 2023. A total of 1161 individuals (947 females; 214 males) availed themselves of SRH services during this timeframe. This figure represents a significant increase from the previous year, with only 406 and 689 individuals accessing similar services in 2022.

Building on this momentum, between April and September 2023, an even greater number of adolescents and young people accessed SRH services. Specifically, 1325 individuals (1093 adolescent girls and young women; 232 adolescent boys and young men) aged between 10 to 24 years benefited from SRHR services offered at both Simatelele and Sianzyundu Clinics.

Furthermore, there was a notable uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), with 33 users accessing this service for the first time since the project's inception. This increase underscores the improved knowledge and understanding of SRH services among young people, a testament to the dedicated efforts of youth mentees supported by healthcare providers.

These achievements signify the project's effectiveness

in fostering positive behavioral change and empowering adolescents and young people to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

Towards Resilient Communities with Health, Equity and Safety for All (TORCHES) project

The TORCHES project has played a pivotal role in enhancing access to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) essential services across Chitungwiza, Nyanga, and Shamva. Through the GBV Access to Essential Services Fund, survivors of GBV have been able to timely access critical services including health and legal support. A significant indicator of progress is the heightened awareness and utilization of the Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) referral pathway, as evidenced by the increasing number of individuals seeking assistance through this channel.

During the year 2023, a total of 140 survivors (106 females and 34 males) received comprehensive support to address their needs. This assistance encompassed a range of services such as age estimation, psychiatric assessments, psychosocial counseling, court attendance support, and medical attention. Additionally, key community and institutional stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises

Development (MWACSMED) and Department for Social Development (DSD) recognize the value of collaborative efforts in preventing violence and supporting survivors.

Moreover, the TORCHES project facilitated SASA Together sessions, reaching a broad spectrum of individuals, including 46,877 participants (30,346 females and 16,531 males), with special attention given to 812 people with disabilities (448 females and 364 males). These sessions have been instrumental in fostering awareness, dialogue, and community mobilization against GBV.

Enhancing Participation of People with Disabilities (PWDs)

The TORCHES project has also prioritized the inclusion and participation of People with Disabilities (PWDs) in initiatives such as SASA and TUSEME, both within sessions and across communities and schools. Notably, there has been a remarkable increase in the enrollment of Children with Disabilities (CWD) in project schools. For instance, at Wadzanai School in Shamva, the number of CWD has surged from 7 to 34, reflecting the positive impact of community awareness campaigns, teacher training, stakeholder engagement in disability inclusion, infrastructural adaptations, and the provision of assistive devices.

These accomplishments underscore the collective efforts towards building inclusive, resilient communities that uphold health, equity, and safety for all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities.

Girl Supporter Project

The Girl Supporter project has made significant contributions to enhancing support structures for girls and survivors of SGBV in various communities. The DSD received valuable assistance in the form of furniture, stationery, and counseling room materials, fostering a conducive environment for service delivery. Particularly noteworthy is the transformation of the MWACSMED office in Shamva, which underwent partitioning to establish separate, private counseling rooms. Previously, the office lacked demarcations, compromising privacy and the quality of counseling services. Through the project's intervention, the office space was subdivided into four distinct offices, including two dedicated counseling rooms equipped with essential resources such as furniture, stationery, mattresses, sanitary pads, and first aid kits. These enhancements significantly bolster the first response to Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors seeking support from MWACSMED.

In Nyazura and Chendambuya, the Girl Supporter project

reached out to 40 girls, empowering them with knowledge of their rights and fostering confidence to advocate for themselves. Among these girls, three were selected as Junior Councilors, symbolizing their active engagement and leadership within their communities.

The Girl Supporter project continues to serve as a beacon of support and empowerment, providing vital resources and advocacy platforms to uplift and amplify the voices of girls and survivors of SGBV.

Fair Green Global (FGG) Project

The Fair Green Global (FGG) project, a collaborative effort between ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) and partner ZELA, has played a pivotal role in establishing the Women in Gemstones Association of Zimbabwe (WIGAZ). This member-based network serves as a robust platform for women engagement within the gemstone sector, advocating for decent working conditions and fostering enhanced participation.

WIGAZ represents a significant milestone in promoting gender equality and empowerment within the gemstone industry. With 22 members currently onboard, the association serves as a catalyst for collective action, enabling women gemstone players to coordinate their

efforts in lobbying, advocacy, and negotiation with stakeholders and duty bearers. It serves as a voice for women, voicing their concerns and advocating for their rights in the sector.

Notably, WIGAZ stands as a pioneering initiative, focusing not only on gemstones but also extending its reach to other valuable chains such as gold and diamonds. AAZ and ZELA have been instrumental in spearheading efforts to support artisanal and small-scale miners (ASMs) within the gemstone sector, marking a significant step towards fostering sustainable and inclusive practices.

Through the FGG project, women in the gemstone sector are empowered to assert their rights, access opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the economic and social development of Zimbabwe.

Danish Television Project (DTV)

A total of 466 youths, comprising 373 women and 96 men between the ages of 16 and 35, underwent training on income-generating projects such as baking, detergent production, and petroleum jelly making. Additionally, 688 youths (526 women and 162 men) received training in entrepreneurship. These initiatives were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs,

Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, and the Royal Business Consult Trust.

The entrepreneurship training modules covered various aspects including business management, marketing, club management, bookkeeping, constitution drafting, and business plan development. To further support the participants, the project engaged the Zimbabwe Youth Council to provide guidance on registration processes and potential benefits.

As a result of these interventions, five internal savings and lending clubs were established, with an average monthly saving of US\$100.00 per group. Ten young individuals (7 females and 3 males) have successfully launched their small businesses, with daily savings ranging from US\$5.00 to US\$10.00 per person. Notably, one entrepreneur, Gladys Chihozhwa, utilized her share of the ISALs to expand her detergent-making business and venture into cross-border trading. She now earns a monthly income ranging between US\$80.00 and US\$140.00 from her endeavors.

The technical skills acquired by the youths have equipped them with the necessary knowledge to initiate and manage successful enterprises. They have developed essential documents including resumes, constitutions, business plans, and marketing strategies. The local communities of Glenorah, Highfield, and Waterfalls have provided a viable

market for their products.

An encouraging outcome of the project is that 60% of the participating youths have redirected their energies from negative activities such as sex work and drug abuse to productive endeavors like detergent and petroleum jelly production, as well as fruit and vegetable vending. Monthly savings have increased by 20% on average, enabling the youths to support their families, pay school fees, and purchase household essentials.

The testimonials from the young entrepreneurs highlight the transformative impact of the project, enabling them to improve their livelihoods and contribute positively to their communities.

Strategic Partnership Agreement II (SPAII)

SPA11 project actively engaged in the provision of rapid response and support to Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and survivors of politically motivated violence. 136 people (76 females and 60 males) were supported. This includes prison solidarity visits, post-prison wellness support, and direct legal representation with support from local legal resources. Additionally, the project supported youths as candidates, resulting in 11 people (7 females and 4 males) being elected from various political parties, although some faced recalls after the elections.

SYSTEM CHANGE FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE POLICY INITIATIVES

Girl Supporter Project

Advocating for Girls' Rights

The Girl Supporter project has facilitated significant strides in advocating for girls' rights, culminating in impactful actions to address critical issues affecting young women in Zimbabwe.

A notable achievement was the successful submission of a petition on girls' rights issues to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education by TUSEME Club members from 10 project schools in Chitungwiza and Shamva. The petition, signed by Parliamentarians, signifies a commitment to address the challenges highlighted by the girls. Key issues raised include the inadequate implementation of Policy Circular P35 regarding the re-entry of pregnant girls and young mothers to school, child marriages, deficiencies in school infrastructure and textbooks, sexual exploitation, and the

plight of diaspora orphans.

Local Rights Programme (LRPs)

Community dialogues were instrumental in Nyazura, Hwedza, and Nyanga as part of the advocacy initiatives, engaging duty bearers and service providers. These dialogues provided valuable insights into pressing issues and formed the basis for lobbying efforts aimed at improving Gender-Responsive Public Services (GRPS). Platforms such as budget consultations at the community and district levels, dialogues at the community level, and male dialogues facilitated constructive discussions.

Position papers were drafted and submitted to local authorities and key stakeholders, outlining priority concerns in delivering gender-responsive public services, particularly regarding access to clean and safe water and the establishment of improved referral pathways.

Partnerships for Social Accountability (PSA) Project
Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors on the SADC
RISDP 2020-2030

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) outlines its ambitious 10-year regional strategy, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020 to 2030, alongside the SADC Vision 2050, aiming for “a peaceful, inclusive, middle to high-income industrialized region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice, and freedom.”

Continuing the momentum from the 2022 event, regional civil society organizations reconvened for a hybrid (in-person and virtual) dialogue on September 13-14, 2023. The focus of the Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors on the SADC RISDP 2020-2030 was “Accelerating SADC’s Development through the Socially Accountable Generation and Use of Public Resources.”

In Zimbabwe, the national dialogue saw participation from 36 individuals (18 females, 19 males) representing key organizations including the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Health, Care Zimbabwe, Centre for Agriculture and Food Policy, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, and the media.

The Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA)

Alliance conducted a rapid review and analysis documented progress and key milestones, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations on the implementation of the RISDP 2020-2030, focusing on: (a) health, (b) agricultural, (c) education, (d) climate change, (e) women, (f) youth, and (g) generation of resources for development through industrialisation and trade and other public resource generation and management efforts, in the context of social accountability. A communique was developed which had recommendations to the SADC secretariat. The discussions yielded the following recommendations:

- Continuous Civil Society Engagement with Policymakers: Advocacy efforts should maintain consistent engagement with policymakers to ensure alignment with SADC commitments.
- Utilization of Newly Elected Parliament Members: Leveraging the recently elected parliamentarians to monitor and track SADC commitments within national-level documents.
- Engagement of New Parliamentarians: NANGO plans to

engage newly elected parliamentarians through the Bulawayo CSO movement building meetings to foster collaboration and advocacy.

- **Enhanced Information Exchange: Increasing information exchange among non-state actors through the creation of a mailing list, facilitated by SAPSN, to ensure dissemination of relevant information.**
- **Investment in Investigative Journalism: Recognizing the importance of investigative journalism in tracking SADC commitments, there's a call to invest in institutions and support journalists in this endeavor.**

Danish Television Project (DTV)

Youth Advocacy for Gender Responsive Public Services in Harare

16 Young people (10 females and 6 males) actively participated in the 2023 City of Harare budget consultation meetings, advocating for the allocation of resources towards Gender Responsive Public Services

(GRPS). Their advocacy efforts focused on various areas, including the establishment of more public schools in Hopley, provision of psychosocial support services to address drug and substance abuse, creation of recreation facilities, and development of youth safe spaces. As a result of these initiatives, the City of Harare Health Department responded by increasing the number of nurses from 9 to 13 and establishing a mothers' waiting shelter at the Tariro center, thereby enhancing health service delivery in the city.

Feminist Research on Drug and Substance Abuse

A feminist research initiative was conducted on drug and substance abuse to generate evidence for engaging local and national duty bearers in addressing the issue. The research aimed to highlight the need for recreational opportunities and alternative economic pathways as part of comprehensive strategies to tackle substance abuse challenges. This evidence-based approach strengthens advocacy efforts and informs policy interventions to address drug and substance abuse effectively.

Fair Green Global (FGG) Project

Advocacy Efforts and Progress in Mining Regulation



Gazetting of the Mines and Minerals Bill:

In February 2023, the Government of Zimbabwe gazetted the Mines and Minerals Bill, marking a significant milestone achieved through the collaborative efforts of ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ),

partner ZELA, and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). ZELA's involvement in the drafting steering committee of the Bill focused on advocating for Community Benefit, Corporate Social Responsibility, Land Rights, Environmental Protection, and the Protection of Women Miners' Claims, including support for the establishment of the mining cadastral system. Although the Bill was not approved during the tenure of the 9th Parliament, it has been included in the agenda

of the 10th Parliament, indicating progress. Advocacy efforts will continue to fine-tune the Bill and push for its approval and implementation. ZELA's research and content development on gaps in the Mines and Minerals Act contributed to the incorporation of some recommendations into the Bill.

Launch of the Responsible Mining Audit: In May 2023, the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development (MMMD), initiated a nationwide Responsible Mining Audit process, set to occur annually. This audit aims to ensure mining companies and investors adhere to and promote human rights in their operations. ZELA's role in producing guidelines emphasized stakeholder inclusion, particularly women who are vulnerable to human rights violations in mining activities. The guidelines, shared with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, facilitated stakeholder consultation and engagement, enhancing transparency and accountability in the mining sector.

SYSTEM CHANGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



EMPOWERED FARMER TRANSFORMS RURAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE PROJECT.

Allen Murombo, a 30-year-old farmer hailing from a remote village in the Mbire district of Mashonaland Central province, inherited a small plot of land from his father. However, his journey as a traditional maize and bean crop farmer was riddled with challenges. Allen struggled to make ends meet due to the lack of

access to quality seeds suited for his climate, affordable irrigation equipment, and relevant agroecology extension services. Moreover, selling his produce proved arduous, with long journeys to distant markets and low prices from middlemen.

Determined to improve his circumstances, Allen made the pivotal decision to join the SPA11 project. Through this initiative, he received invaluable extension services from the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC) Field staff, who guided him in cultivating high-value crops like sesame using improved seeds and organic fertilizers. With new found knowledge in pest

and disease management, soil and water conservation, and income diversification through chicken and goat rearing, Allen's fortunes began to change.

Securing quality sesame seeds from FPC and joining a producer group empowered Allen to negotiate favorable prices and contracts with buyers. His efforts yielded significant results, with sesame sales alone netting him US\$327.00. With this income, Allen invested in a solar-powered submersible water pump and solar panel, significantly enhancing his access to water. This newfound resource enabled him to engage in diverse livelihood initiatives such as gardening, thereby enriching his diet with nutritious vegetables, eggs, and meat.

Proud of his achievements, Allen looks to the future with optimism. He aspires to expand his farm operations and cultivate more sesame and other crops in the coming years, showcasing the transformative power of innovative agricultural practices in rural communities.

Local Rights Programs (LRPs)

Promoting Agro-ecology and Water Accessibility in Communities

Adoption of Agro-ecology Principles: More than 200 households, primarily represented by women farmers, have embraced Agro-ecology practices in community gardens across Local Rights Programming (LRP) areas. Through trainings provided by partners and Fambidzanayi, rights holders are increasingly adopting Agro-ecology principles, including the cultivation of small grains, planting trees and early maturity varieties, and employing water harvesting techniques like constructing weir dams. These practices are crucial as rainfall patterns become less predictable. Farmers are growing various vegetables such as onions and tomatoes, leading to improved household nutrition and food security.

Rehabilitation of Boreholes in Binga: A total of 4 boreholes, including 3 community boreholes and 1 school borehole, were rehabilitated in Binga. This effort has significantly enhanced access to safe drinking water for the local communities. Additionally, the

installation of solar-powered systems has improved access to portable water at Sizemba Primary and Secondary Schools and the surrounding communities. This initiative addresses the critical need for clean water sources, benefiting both educational institutions and the broader community.

Strategic Partnership Agreement 11(SPA 11) Project

Youth Advocacy for Seed and Agroecology Policies

Youth actively campaigned for the amendment of the Seed Act to legalize indigenous seeds, aiming to enhance food security and sovereignty. Their efforts contributed to prioritizing the Plant Breeders Act, intended to replace the current Seed Act. Additionally, youth submitted the first draft of the agroecology policy to the ministry for review, awaiting final stakeholder validation. This initiative led to changes in farming practices, with a gradual transition to agroecology methods.

Community Engagement for Climate Action

Communities in Chipinge and Chimanimani participated in advocacy efforts through community voices and the formation of Climate Action Teams (CATs). CATs were strengthened through training and collaboration with other youth movements, resulting in impactful climate actions. They developed Climate Action Plans, identifying major climate change-related challenges such as food insecurity in Chimanimani and water shortages in Chipinge. The plans outline advocacy actions and engagement with stakeholders and partners to address these challenges.

Youth Engagement in Climate Resilience

In Chimanimani, 22 young people from wards 21 and 22 were co-opted into the Civil Protection Unit, reflecting a commitment to climate resilience. Additionally, members of the Climate Action Teams received training on Pump minding from the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency's District Coordinator in Chipinge. This training aimed to enhance youth participation in water point committees and borehole

rehabilitation efforts, recognizing their agility and potential contributions to community development.

Partnerships for Social Accountability (PSA) Project Capacity Building of Extension Workers on Agroecology

Following the successful establishment of an agroecology demonstration plot by a trained extension officer supported by ZIMSOFF, the Extension Department in Mutoko committed to training its 29 extension officers (1 per ward) on agroecology. Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre conducted a workshop on Introduction to Agroecology and Climate Justice from June 26th to 28th, 2023. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of Agritex Officers on Agroecology and Climate Justice concepts. It was attended by extension officers from various wards in Mutoko and representatives from Binga working with Basilwizi Trust, reaching a total of 41 participants (15 females and 26 males).

Advocacy Actions by Social Accountability Committee Members and Farmers

In January 2023, smallholder farmers within the Social

Accountability Committee, comprising 28 members (19 females and 10 males), successfully advocated for the removal of transportation fees imposed on farmers during the delivery and distribution of inputs. Farmers were being charged USD1.25 per 50g bag of inputs despite government subsidies. In response, farmers refused to pay, returned the inputs, and lodged complaints with ward-level officials, sparking a district-wide movement. A multi-stakeholder inputs committee subsequently resolved that farmers should not bear transport costs, and transporters are now compensated through the Community Development Fund.

System Change for Climate Justice Policy Initiatives

Local Rights Programs (LRPs)

Climate Justice Advocacy and Promotion of Agroecology

Following the national launch of the climate justice campaign, 133 women (97 adults and 34 youth females) in collaboration with ActionAid Zimbabwe

(AAZ) initiated advocacy efforts for the promotion of agroecology in the Local Rights Programming (LRPs) districts. Women from Nyanga utilized a learning exchange platform to advocate for support for women in farming through the provision of water for 3 gardens and materials to secure them while farming using agroecological concepts.

During the advocacy efforts, duty bearers including Chief Saunyama, representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs, and AGRITEX were present. They acknowledged the concerns raised by women regarding improving livelihoods and committed to exploring available options for resource mobilization to assist women in farming endeavors. This commitment reflects a collaborative approach towards addressing the needs and promoting sustainable agricultural practices within the LRPs districts.

Partnerships for Social Accountability (PSA) Agroecology Policy Validation Meetings

ActionAid Zimbabwe and Fambidzanai collaborated to conduct Agroecology Validation meetings in Bulawayo and Marondera. These meetings were attended by stakeholders from various organizations,

including the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Voluntary Services Organisation, ADRA Zimbabwe, Troicare, and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The policy formulation process began in 2021 with support from FAO and the Government of Zimbabwe. It involved consultations across all provinces, gathering data from smallholder farmers' representatives and other stakeholders. ActionAid participated in this initial process. A zero draft of the policy was crafted from key points extracted during provincial consultations. The validation meetings critiqued the zero draft, added necessary information, and formatted the document in line with government policy standards. The Director from the Directorate of Policy in the Ministry of Lands, Water, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development was present. A final draft of the policy awaits presentation for cabinet approval.

Engagement of Young People in Policy Development

Ten young people (6 females and 4 males) from Mbire district actively participated in policy development efforts. Their contributions included submitting the

agroecology policy draft to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, and Rural Resettlement for review and advocating for the adoption of Climate Action Plans by local councils. Engagement with District Development Coordinators and Rural Infrastructure Development Agencies demonstrated a commitment to influencing policies related to climate change.





HUMANITARIAN

AND RESILIENCE

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS IN CHIPINGE AFTER TROPICAL STORM FREDDY

ActionAid Zimbabwe, along with Simukai and Jekesa Pfungwa Vulingqondo, responded to the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Freddy in Chipinge, focusing on rebuilding schools

KEY POINTS

- 1** Beneficiaries: 1,210 people benefited, including 616 males and 594 females, with structures renovated and dignity kits distributed.
- 2** Renovations: Focus on repairing and reconstructing damaged structures like classroom blocks, teachers' houses, offices, and toilets.
- 3** Dignity Kits: 350 women and girls received dignity kits to support their personal hygiene needs.
- 4** Classroom Impact: 240 school children (137 males, 103 females) benefited from the renovated classrooms, with each accommodating 40 children.
- 5** Teacher Housing: Three seven-roomed teachers' houses renovated or newly constructed, providing accommodation for at least 25 people, with 14 females and 11 males.
- 6** Toilet Facilities: Renovation and construction of six blocks of children and teachers' toilets, benefitting 550 school children (100 girls, 450 boys) and 45 teachers (27 females, 18 males).
- 7** Dignity Kit Distribution: 350 kits distributed to women, with 148 girls (18 years and below) and 202 women (19-50 years) reached at Mugondi, Ndiadzo, and Chiriga Primary Schools.

Disaster Response and Preparedness Efforts

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) and Jekesa Pfungwe Vulingqondo (JPV) collaborated to renovate damaged structures in Chipinge following Tropical Storm Freddy. A total of 1,210 people (616 males and 594 females) directly benefited from the project, which focused on repairing classroom blocks, teachers' houses, and school toilet blocks. Schools such as Mugondi, Mwanyisa, Ndiadzo, Chiriga, Chitepo, Vheneka, and Manzvire Primary Schools were among the beneficiaries.

Furthermore, AAZ and JPV supported the development of Gender Responsive Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans for communities in Chimanimani and Chipinge. In Binga and Nkayi LRPs, support was provided to review district preparedness plans. These efforts aimed to create disaster-ready communities as the country entered the disaster season from November 2023 to March 2024, thereby mitigating potential losses.

Additionally, through the humanitarian program, AAZ trained 5 young people (2 from Lusulu LRP and 3 from Chipinge LRP) on vulnerability assessment in preparation for the General Secretariat-supported Vulnerability Assessment in Zimbabwe's Binga and Chipinge districts. This initiative aims to determine the level of preparedness of young people for disasters and identify areas where further support is needed.

Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) II Project

Empowering Social Enterprises in Tongogara Refugee Camp, Chipinge

The project engaged and mentored 12 impactful social enterprises in Tongogara Refugee Camp, Chipinge, covering various sectors such as food security, clothing, arts, media, and health detergents. The enterprises aim to address challenges experienced by the refugee community in the camp. Led by 207 young people (120 females and 87 males), these enterprises include:

1. Health Feeds Investments: Producing mushrooms from agricultural waste.
2. Tokoos Mwamba: Producing peanut butter.
3. TEG Repellent: Manufacturing mosquito repellent candles.
4. Bio-Briquette: Producing a new source of energy for cooking.
5. Maajabu Fish Farming: Providing an easy relish for cooking to the community.
6. Fashion and Design: Creating footwear designs from animal skin and old car tires.
7. Golden Sound Music School: Supporting musical talents and providing training on various musical instruments.

8. World View Media: Covering refugee activities and publishing them on different platforms.
9. TRC Fruits & Herbs Orchard: Producing various herbs for medication and fruits.
10. Mafuta Safi Investment: Producing cooking oil from coconut fruits.
11. Rafiki Sausage: Producing affordable sausages for the community.
12. Usafi Kwako: Producing bathing soap that helps cure different kinds of skin diseases.

The incubation of these enterprises is expected to significantly impact the lives of refugees in the camp, providing them with sustainable solutions and opportunities for empowerment.

Humanitarian and Resilience Policy Initiatives

Youth Advocacy Training on Disaster Risk Management

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) trained a group of 16 young people, (3 males and 13 females), on Advocacy and Lobbying. The objective was to empower them to actively participate in national policy influencing

processes on Disaster Risk Management in Zimbabwe.

Advocacy Initiative

Following the training, the group, known as Activistas, submitted a Petition to Parliament. The petition protested the continued delays in the finalization of the Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Bill. This action demonstrates the proactive engagement of youth in advocating for timely policy implementation and addressing critical issues related to disaster management in the country.

Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) II Project

#ActOnDRM Bill Campaign by Young People

Young people across Zimbabwe, totaling 140 (93 females and 47 males) individuals, led the #ActOnDRM Bill campaign aimed at expediting the finalization of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill. The campaign targeted the replacement of the Civil Protection Act and aimed to address critical issues related to disaster management in the country. By mobilizing young people and engaging stakeholders, the campaign aimed to accelerate the legislative process and ensure effective disaster management frameworks are put in place.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Child Sponsorship remains one of the reliable and consistent fundraising mechanism for ActionAid Zimbabwe. Child Sponsorship which is known as Regular Giving contributed 43% (GBP402, 000) of the total Country Programme income in 2023. The table below shows the number of sponsors from the north, with their funds supporting the most marginalised

and often excluded communities in nine communities namely:

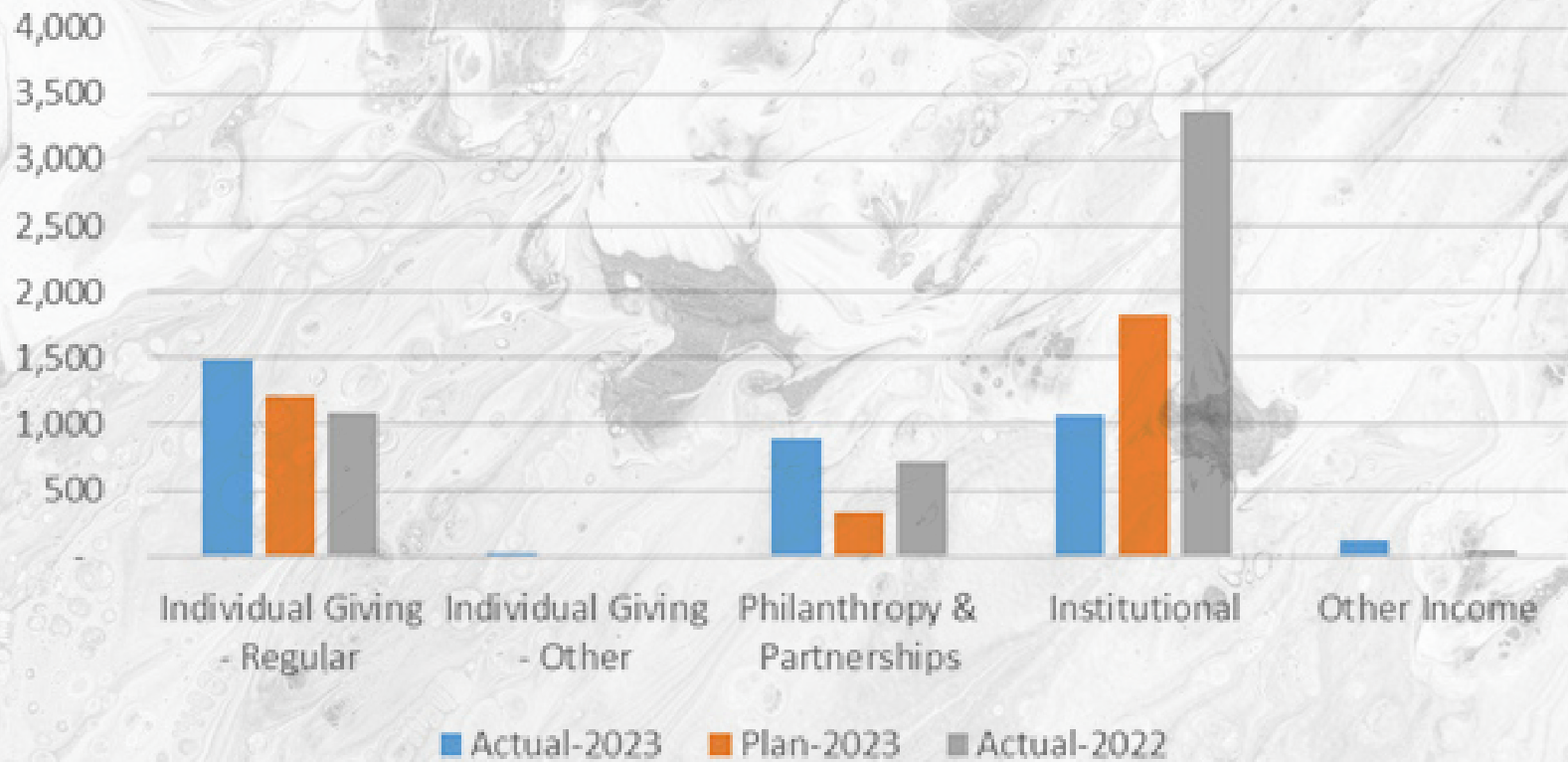
- i. Chendambuya Local Rights Programme area
- ii. Hwedza Local Rights Programme area
- iii. Nyanga Local Rights Programme area
- iv. Nkayi Local Rights Programme area
- v. Nyazura Local Rights Programme area
- vi. Saunyama Local Rights Programme area
- vii. Binga Local Rights Programme area
- viii. Cipine Local Rights Programme area
- ix. Lusulu Local Rights Programme area

Funding Affiliate	Name of LRP	No of Links/Supporters
Italy	Hwedza	1 153
	Nyazura	1 126
	Saunyama	1 324
	Binga	1 225
	Lusulu (New)	113
	Total	4 941
Greece	Nyanga	836
	Nkayi	721
	Chipinge	300
	Total	1 857
United Kingdom	Chendambuya	895
	Total	895
Grand Total		7 693

Sweden is still contributing under child sponsorship, with supporters contributing funds, but not linked to a child. Sweden introduced a new model in 2022 and is supporting a Programme called Girl Supporter.

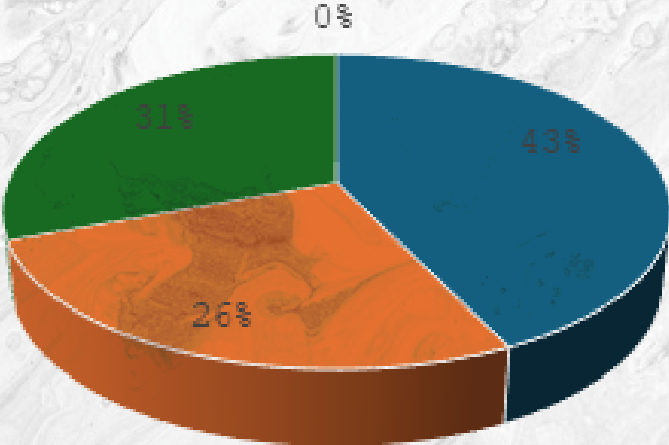
FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Income Performance



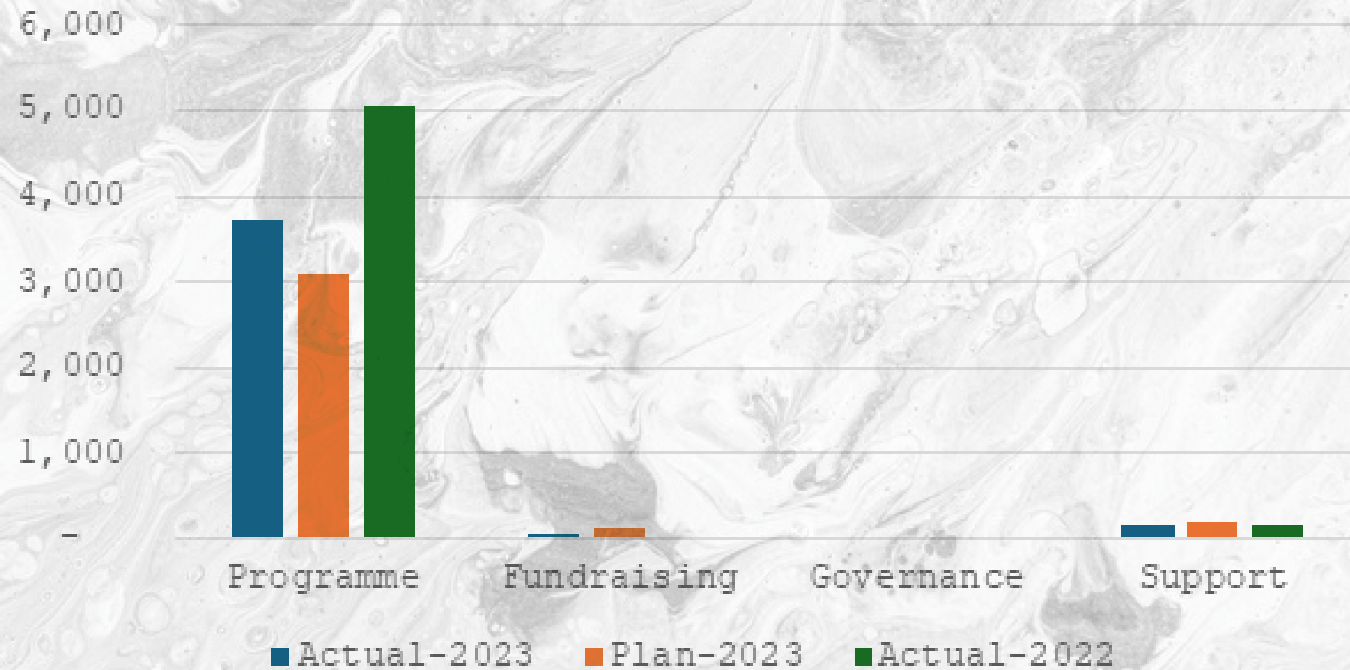
The total income received for the year 2023 decreased by 31% from GBP5,218 in 2022 to GBP 3,599 in 2023. Regular giving income received was GBP402,000 more than prior year's income by 37%. The increase in regular giving was due to efforts by the federation to increase child sponsorship income and new links being added to Zimbabwe. Institutional income received in 2023 was less than prior's year income by 68% due to the exit of the two major donors that we had under the UNDP-ZRBF and EU-ZAGP projects. In terms of income by category, institutional income accounts for 31% of CP income, Philanthropy and Partnerships 26% ,Regular gular giving 43% and other income is 0% of total income received.

Funding Mix



- Individual Giving - Regular
- Philanthropy & Partnerships
- Institutional income
- Other Income

Expenditure Performance



During the year 2023, the CP utilised GBP 3,969,000 which was 16% higher than the plan and a decrease of 25% from the prior year, respectively. Expenditure decreased due to projects that came to an end.

In 2023 programme costs are 21% more than plan and 26% less than the prior year. This is due to the reasons

highlighted above of exit of the two huge donors under EU and UNDP. Fundraising costs for 2023 are less than plan by 51% and more than prior year by 71%. This is due to the accelerated plan in fundraising initiatives. Governance costs decreased from plan by 42% and were close to prior year.

COUNTRY LEADERSHIP

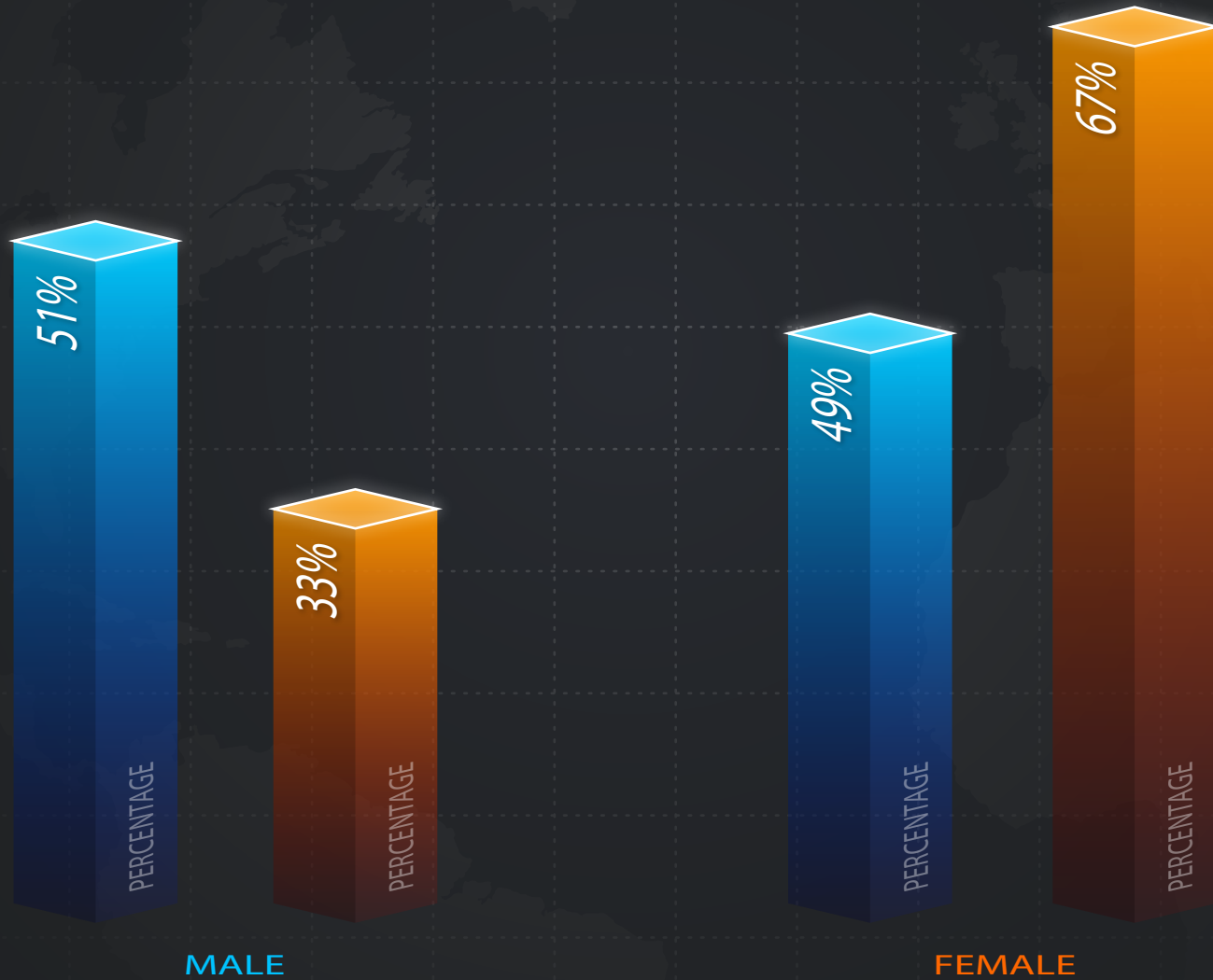
COUNTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Joy Mabenge	Country Director
Xanthe Chikarara	Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager
Andrew Chikowore	Head of Programs and Resource Mobilisation.
Rumbidzai Makoni	Projects and Program Manager Women Rights and Economic Justice
Peter Matimati	Local Rights Programme & Partnerships Manager
Patience Ndavambi	Finance Manager

STAFF HEADCOUNT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Male	Female	Total
Staff	20	19	39
Interns	3	6	9
Total	23	25	48

TOTAL EMPLOYEES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023



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change coming?
#agroecology





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