



ActionAid Zimbabwe

NEWSLETTER JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

**DEEPENING OUR INCLUSIVE AND
TRANSFORMATIVE WOMEN-LED
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND
FEMINIST APPROACHES**



THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S WELCOME NOTE

ActionAid Zimbabwe's Country Director,
Joy Mabenge



Zimbabwe has been experiencing climate-induced emergencies such as cyclones, flooding, and droughts year in year out for more than a decade now. While the eastern parts of the country are still to recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai of 2019 and other cyclones, the year 2022 has not been spared as it was affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana from the onset. Tropical Cyclone Ana has affected the eastern parts of Zimbabwe and neighbouring Southern African countries like Mozambique and Malawi. Faced with this hazard, ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) has continued to deepen its Inclusive and transformative women-led humanitarian response and feminist approaches targeting the affected communities. We are implementing programmes that support communities to recover from the effects of climate change, including early recovery response to cyclones, long term resilience building initiatives, disaster risk management and the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) Programme.

After Tropical Storm Ana struck, AAZ initiated a rapid needs assessment in Nyanga where destruction of classroom blocks and teachers' cottages took place at Nyafaru Secondary School, Magadzire Primary School, Masaya Primary School, Nyatsanga Primary School, and Nyamahumba Primary School. Our interventions include rehabilitating the destroyed classrooms and teachers houses which fall within our long-

term rooted programming areas known in our ActionAid language as Local Rights Programming areas. Further to this, AAZ is supporting 3950 people with cash to communities that lost their crops and houses from the effects of the storm.

In this issue, we share with you highlights of some of our most recent humanitarian work such as the LSA as well as a focus on the impact of Tropical Storm Ana in some of the communities we work.

As we implement interventions aimed at promoting climate justice, we remain cognizant of the fact that our programming cannot be efficient and effective if we do not address the structural causes of inequality that inhibit people living in poverty from securing both climate and economic justice. Hence this issue will also cover some of our feminist movement building initiatives aimed at building strong women groups that can access adequate funding for challenges such as climate change and COVID-19. Also, to be published in this issue is the Towards Resilient Communities with Health, Equality and Safety for all (TORCHES) project and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) initiatives seeking to address issues of power imbalance, to create communities where women and girls, including people with disabilities, are free from violence and have amplified voices and agency. Happy reading!

IMPACT OF TROPICAL STORM ANA IN COMMUNITIES:

AS WE PREPARE FOR APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS

Right: Chipo standing in her maize field that has been destroyed by Tropical Storm Ana.



Our partners Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT) and Diocese of Mutare Community Care Trust, and AAZ staff visited the affected communities in Nyanga. Here is what they found:

Chipo Samungure (36), a married woman of three children lost her entire maize crop which she relies for subsistence and income for the family:

“Before Tropical Storm Ana we anticipated a bumper harvest but after the devastating effects of the Storm, it is unfortunate that we won’t be able to harvest anything.”

Tropical Storm Ana left many homeless:

Ruth (60) of Nyamaropa, Nyanga, a widow looking after three grandchildren lost her two roomed house and is forced to cram in a one roomed hut with the children who are all teenagers, being one girl and two boys.



The remains of Ruth’s house



Christabel Momberume (23) of Ward 21 in Nyanga, lost her kitchen which collapsed due to Tropical Storm Ana

RELIEF TO DROUGHT PRONE MUTARE COMMUNITIES THROUGH LEAN SEASON ASSISTANCE

With support from the World Food Programme (WFP), the objective of the Lean Season Assistance Programme (LSA) is to provide a seasonal social safety net to improve access to food and ensure that vulnerable women, men, girls, and boys, consume an adequate and nutritious diet in times of need. It also aims at reducing asset depletion at household level and increasing resilience.

For six months starting from October and ending in March (since 2020), AAZ has been targeting at

least 104 654 persons who are from food-insecure households in Mutare District from 14 rural wards. On a monthly basis, cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil are distributed by community food distribution point committees (FDPs) who are supervised and monitored by ActionAid Field Monitors. Women constitute at least 65% of the FDP Committees and occupy 50% of the executive positions in the committees. This is also in line with the ActionAid humanitarian signature which prioritises women leadership and protection during emergencies.

LEAN SEASON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME 2021/2022 IN PICTURES

Maggie Dhundu, an ActionAid field monitor registering persons assisted in Ward 19, Mutare in October 2021

The community Food Distribution Committee members from Ward 19 Bambozonke Mutare after being selected by the community to help facilitate the LSA program in Mutare. The FDP committee comprises eight females and three males who play a leading role in coordinating food distributions in the community in partnership with ActionAid.



A PUSH TOWARDS INCREASING WOMEN'S FUNDING

#Feminist Movement Building Brown Bag
Webinar

The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre Network (ZWRCN) in partnership with AAZ and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission on 4 February 2022 organized an online webinar meeting to advocate for the prioritization of funding of women's issues. The meeting was targeting government, donors, policy makers and other stakeholders. This is part of AAZ and partner efforts of building the feminist movement and ensuring women's issues are prioritised and not overshadowed. The women's issues should also be aligned and paired with key thematic areas and emerging challenges in the world.

Key takeaways from the meeting are as follows:

- The trends that are being seen in women's rights organizations are that there is a reduction in women's advocacy funding.
- There are a lot of women's issues being overshadowed in challenges such as climate change and COVID-19.
- There is a general decline in funding for protection for women in the humanitarian sector for example as cited by a report done by ActionAid in 2019 entitled "Funding a localized, women-led approach to protection from Gender-Based Violence". Here is the report link <https://actionaid.org/publications/2019/funding-localised-women-led-approach-protection-gender-based-violence>.

AAZ calls upon government, policy makers and donors to:

- Promote progressive taxation to increase local funding available to support initiatives that help women to fight GBV.

ZWRCN
Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre & Network
Making A Difference (MAD) for Women

**FEMINIST
MOVEMENT
BUILDING
Brown Bag Webinar**

Host:
Dorothy Hove
Executive Director
ZWRCN

Panelist:
Rumbidzayi Makoni
Women's Rights & Economic
Justice Programmes Manager

Panelist:
Commissioner Naome Chimbetete
Zimbabwe Gender Commission

Moderator:
Bella Matambanadzo

DATE: 04-FEB-22
TIME: 1000hrs

SCAN CODE TO ATTEND

OR VISIT:

zoom.us/j/82271793791
PASSCODE: 580006

**LIVE: Zimbabwe Women's
Resource Center and
Network Facebook Page**

Zimbabwe Gender Commission | **act:onaid**

- There should be policies that include women's rights organizations participation at local, provincial, and national level especially on disaster risk reduction committees so that they get access to the funding.
- There should be accounting mechanisms that shorten the funding chain so that gender funds reach the intended people to be assisted.

TOWARDS RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WITH HEALTH, EQUITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

Nommatter holding one of the SASA methodology conversational posters she uses to train community members on reducing GBV.



The Towards Resilient Communities with Health, Equity and Safety for All (TORCHES) project, with support from the People's Postcode Lottery and ActionAid UK, is being implemented by AAZ in Nyanga, Shamva and Chitungwiza Districts of Zimbabwe. The project partners are namely, Family Aids Counselling Trust (FACT), Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) and Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe Chapter (FAWEZ).

The project's goal is to create communities where women and girls including people with disabilities are free from violence and have amplified voices and agency. The project theory of change is driven by the SASA Together methodology, which is a community mobilisation approach being used in preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG) and it is based on the analysis and understanding of power imbalances as the root cause of VAWG. Nommatter's story is one of the examples of the success of the project :

'EVERYONE HAS POWER': NOMMATTER'S STORY

Nommatter Nyamuwera, a young woman of 34, from Munondo Village, Ward 4 in Nyanga District, with albinism has gained respect at her home and in her community after using SASA Methodology tools which challenge power imbalance as the root cause of violence against women and girls (VAWG). She is one of the SASA community champions trained under the TORCHES project.

She was born with albinism in a community where people with disabilities are looked down upon. "Since I was a child, I was used to other children laughing at me and calling me names because of the colour of my skin. I ended up accepting that I am useless and cursed and that nothing good can come out of me."

When AAZ, FACT and LCDZ introduced the TORCHES project in Nyanga District, they encouraged people with disabilities like Nommatter to join as SASA champions. She started with being trained and later cascaded her knowledge to other community members.



Nommatter with some of the community members she has trained.

Nommatter said:

“I really liked the statement from one of the training manuals which said, “Everyone has power within”. Each time I went home the statement would keep on ringing in my mind. I told myself that if everyone has power so I also have power and I can use the power in me to change how the world looks at me. When I confidently started facilitating the power poster, people got interested and started to discuss the poster. Everyone got interested and I always look forward to the community discussions.”

Nommatter has gained confidence in herself to face the world. Her community now values and accepts her as they have also been trained to progressively use their power which includes respecting Nommatter. She has mobilized a group of 12 women whom she conducts discussions with twice every month. Nommatter is now being

invited to churches and to community gatherings to facilitate discussions on power and GBV using SASA materials such as the power poster and community conversation charts. In a month Nommatter reaches out to more than 100 people with SASA activities.



Ward 7, Nyanga Community Champions after a two-day SASA Champions refresher in 2021. They shared experiences and ideas to improve their facilitation skills as they conduct SASA activities. pictures

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

AAZ in partnership with ZWRCN, FAWEZI and Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe on the 6th of December 2021 held a dialogue meeting on public service gap during emergencies. They called for collaborative intervention to promote coordination of GBV responses during COVID-19.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV commemorations, the dialogue's objective was to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, including sexual violence in crisis situations and its negative consequences especially during

emergencies. It was noted that there is an alarming increase in the already existing pandemic of violence against women.

According to the UN Secretary-General's report titled "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, there has been a spike in domestic violence reporting, at exactly the time that services, including rule of law, health, and shelters, are being diverted to address the pandemic.



The launch of the TILL WHEN-Tracing the roots of Women's abuse book. From left Doreen Makamure Head of Programmes ZWRGN Dorothy Hove ZWRGN Executive Director Brightness Mangora Member of Parliament (Promotional Representation) Kudakwashe Henry Chidziya, member of the Activista Zimbabwe,

The dialogue also saw the launch of 'TILL WHEN-Tracing the roots of Women's abuse' a book by Activista Zimbabwe member Kudakwashe Henry Chidziya. The book shares real-life experiences on women's struggles in rural Honde Valley which is in the Eastern Borders of Zimbabwe. The book intersects two pertinent aspects, perpetrators of women oppression through culture, religion, beliefs, and societal expectations. It also explored the implications of cultural and religious practices on the liberties of women. This discussion is also an attempt to raise awareness on how women can also recognize their unique bodies and speak back to their domination.

"Gender ideologies and sexist reasoning resultantly create gender superiority and inferiority complexes. Through socialisation, women are despised not because of their ability but biological body parts. Masculinity and femininity should not define gender", says Chidziya while launching the book.

AAZ CONTINUES TO AMPLIFY CALLS TO END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Members of the public, AAZ staff, Vengere High School students and Members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender based violence march in Rusape raising awareness against the effects of GBV on women and girls in November 2021.



AAZ continues to make a mark amplifying the call to end all forms of violence against women in the development arena with its work on gender equality mainly touching on issues to do with gender-based violence deepening. In Rusape on the 26th of November 2021, AAZ organised a 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based violence event which saw members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police ZRP and students from Vengere High School participating in the march.

The 2021 commemorations ran under the theme “Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!” Nearly one out of three women have been abused in their lifetime and in times of crisis the numbers rose as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. A report from the UN Women based on data collected in three various countries indicated that two in three women reported that they have experienced some form of violence. AAZ continues to call an end to Child Marriages. Our advocacy for the provision of Gender Responsive Public Services by government is critical in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls each year.

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