

FRONTLINES OF RESILIENCE

ActionAid Zimbabwe

Call for Extended Abstracts — Disaster Risk Reduction in Zimbabwe

Applicant Information Pack | April 2026

Integrating Climate Justice and Youth Leadership

5 research stipends	USD 650 per selected researcher	35 & under age eligibility	30 April abstract deadline
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What is this initiative?

Frontlines of Resilience is a **structured research development initiative**. Five selected youth researchers will receive a research stipend, dedicated academic mentorship, and a pathway to publication, supporting them in developing extended abstracts into full, publishable papers on Disaster Risk Reduction in Zimbabwe.

Selected papers will be presented at the **3rd Youth Symposium on DRR (Late June 2026)** and published in the **Frontlines of Resilience Mini-Publication** — distributed to government ministries, university libraries, and NGO partners.

What support will I receive?

BENEFIT	VALUE	DETAIL
Research stipend	USD 650	Paid on selection to support fieldwork and research costs associated with paper development.
Academic mentorship	Structured	Three formal mentor sessions: initial scoping, mid-process review, and pre-submission read-through.
Symposium access	Covered	Complimentary registration to the 3rd Youth Symposium on DRR, 17–19 June 2026, with travel support.
Publication	Included	Your paper published in the Frontlines of Resilience Mini-Publication with full authorship credit.

What should I research?

Your research must be anchored in **Disaster Risk Reduction in Zimbabwe** and grounded in local experience — rural, urban, or both. Engage one or more of:

- Climate Justice — loss and damage, climate finance equity, indigenous knowledge, gender-differentiated vulnerability, extractive development as a driver of disasters.
- Youth Leadership & Governance — youth in DRR governance, young women’s leadership, community-led accountability, digital DRR advocacy, Grand Bargain 4.0 localisation.

Research that draws on both sub-themes is particularly encouraged. All submissions must engage a defined methodology and draw on evidence from Zimbabwean communities.

Who can apply?

- Youth researchers aged 35 and below at the time of submission.
- Final-year undergraduate, Masters, or Doctoral students at any accredited Zimbabwean university — or recent graduates within two years of completing their degree.
- Individual applications or teams of up to two researchers. Multi-institutional teams are encouraged.
- **Co-authored student-supervisor submissions are permitted.** Lead authorship and the substantive intellectual contribution must rest with the student. The supervisor acts as mentor and co-author.
- Zimbabwean nationals at SADC-region universities may apply if research focuses on Zimbabwe.

Not eligible: applicants over 35; AAZ staff and immediate family; Review or Selection Panel members and their supervisees; researchers whose work is published or currently under peer review.

Research requirements

- Based on completed or ongoing research not yet published or submitted elsewhere.
- Grounded in local Zimbabwean experiences — rural and/or urban communities.
- Harvard referencing style throughout — no other citation style accepted.
- Submitted anonymised — no author names or affiliations in the abstract body.

What do I submit?

Stage 1 — Extended Abstract (all applicants)

- 800–1,200 words including: research question, theoretical/methodological approach, key findings or anticipated findings, DRR relevance in Zimbabwe, and local context.
- Harvard referencing. Blind format — no identifying details in the body.
- Cover Sheet: author details, age, institution, supervisor contact, sub-theme(s).
- Signed Declaration of Integrity: research ethics, originality, conflict of interest, and AI use.

Stage 2 — Full Paper (selected authors only)

- 6,000–10,000 words (full paper) + Policy Brief (max 4 pages, practitioner-facing).
- Harvard referencing. Blind format.

How do I submit?

Email your extended abstract and Cover Sheet to:

abel.sibanda@actonaid.org

Copying: tafadzwa.muropa@actonaid.org and tracy.mafa@actonaid.org =

Acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours. Deadline: 30 April 2026, 23:59 CAT.

Timeline at a glance

MILESTONE	DATE	WHAT HAPPENS
Launch & webinar	April 2026	Public call issued; informational webinar held.
Abstract deadline	30 April 2026	Extended abstracts submitted by email. No late submissions accepted.
Abstract review	1–7 May 2026	Blind peer review: written feedback prepared for all applicants.
Results & stipends	8 May 2026	Five selected authors notified; stipends issued; mentors assigned.
Mentorship period	9 May–20 June 2026	Three structured mentor sessions per selected researcher.
Full paper deadline	20 June 2026	Full papers and Policy Briefs submitted by selected authors only.
Full paper review	21–26 June 2026	Selection Panel review; final papers confirmed for Symposium.
3rd Youth Symposium	TBA June 2026	Paper presentations; mini-publication launch; Policy Brief distribution.
Mini publication	Post-Symposium	Editorial compilation, design, and distribution of the mini volume.

How are abstracts selected?

Each abstract is independently assessed by two Academic Panel reviewers. Five are selected. All applicants receive written feedback regardless of outcome.

SELECTION CRITERION	WEIGHT
Conceptual clarity & theoretical grounding in DRR	20%
Methodological rigour and ethical soundness	20%
Originality and contribution to knowledge	20%
Relevance to DRR practice in Zimbabwe (rural/urban)	15%
Climate justice and/or youth leadership integration	15%
Quality of Policy Brief (Stage 2 only)	10%

What happens to my paper?

All five selected papers are published in the **Frontlines of Resilience Mini-Publication** — a peer-supported volume distributed to government ministries, university libraries, and NGO partners. Authors retain full credit. AAZ will support selected authors in submitting to peer-reviewed journals following publication.

Strategic alignment

This initiative contributes to Zimbabwe’s obligations under the **Sendai Framework 2015–2030**, the National DRM Policy Frameworks, the SDGs (11, 13, 16), the AU Agenda 2063, and the SADC Regional DRR Strategy — as well as ActionAid’s global commitment to feminist climate justice and youth leadership.

Frequently asked questions

Can I submit if my research is still ongoing?

Yes. Submissions based on ongoing research are welcome, provided the work has not been published or submitted elsewhere. Your abstract should outline anticipated findings and your methodological approach to date.

Can my supervisor be a co-author?

Yes. Final-year undergraduate students are eligible and will be assessed on the same criteria as postgraduate submissions. Lead authorship and the substantive intellectual contribution must rest with the student. The supervisor’s primary role is mentor. This must be declared on the Cover Sheet.

I am a final-year undergraduate. Can I apply?

Yes. Final-year undergraduate students are eligible and will be assessed on the same criteria as postgraduate submissions. Strong, well-grounded undergraduate DRR research is very welcome.

Can I use AI tools?

AI may be used for literature searches, editing, translation, or formatting. It may not generate substantive findings, conclusions, or sections presented as your own work. All AI use must be declared in the Declaration of Integrity.

What referencing style is required?

Harvard referencing is required throughout — in the abstract, the full paper, and the Policy Brief. No other style will be accepted.

When will I hear back?

All applicants will receive written feedback and a decision by 8 May 2026. Selected authors will be contacted to confirm stipend arrangements and mentor pairings on the same date.

Questions? Contact us.

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www.actionaid.org/zimbabwe