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ActionAid Zimbabwe

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2020

**BREAK THE CYCLE,
STOP VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



REPORT
ABUSE
CALL

HARARE - 08080490
SHAMVA - 08080491
CHIMANIMANI & CHIPINGE - 08080480

16 Days
of Activism
Against Gender
Based Violence

Country Director's Welcome Note



Joy Mabenge, ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director

As we wind up 2020, I would like to welcome you to our December 2020 ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) Newsletter. In this issue we are focusing on Programme Priority 1 and the Cross Cutting Intervention of our current strategy. Priority 1's thrust is on empowering women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to challenge the structural causes of violence and secure economic justice. Our Cross Cutting Intervention advances transformative women-led emergency preparedness, response and prevention.

Our 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence GBV (16DOA) commemorations, saw us bringing gender responsive public services (GRPs) to the spotlight at community and policy making levels.

Through the rooted campaigning, communities and stakeholders were reminded of the impact of women's unpaid care and domestic work on women's rights. This also included the realization of women's rights to decent work, social protection, public services, including the reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work.

Government was urged to provide quality gender responsive services such as water, health and early childhood services to give women time to do productive work as well help in reducing, redistributing and recognising unpaid care work (UCW). With support from partners like the Canadian Embassy in Zimbabwe we conducted road shows to strengthen the gender based violence (GBV) referral pathways through engagements with service providers like the police and key government departments as part of the 16DOA. This helped advertise the GBV toll free lines to reduce GBV in the home and in public spaces. AAZ also took part in the Global Walk for Survival and the Zimbabwe team walked a total of 562Km for the recognition, redistribution and reduction of women's unpaid care and domestic work.



A poster on 16 days of activism against GBV advocating for the reduction, redistribution and recognition of unpaid care work designed by Savana Trust, an arts group we partnered with

As part of our thrust to promote women led-emergency response under our Cross Cutting Intervention, we are currently implementing the Southern Africa Food Crisis Programme, the Cyclone Idai and COVID-19 response supported by various development partners. The Southern Africa Food

Crisis Programme is being implemented in five Local Rights Programmes (LRPs), reaching an estimated of 1200 households in Nkayi, Makoni and Binga. As part of the food crisis response, AAZ under the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance and the International Humanitarian Resilience Team (IHART) handed over a Zimbabwe Food Security Policy Brief to the Parliament and Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Mechanisation to influence policy change around climate resilient sustainable, accountable and responsive agriculture.

At least 3500 households in Chimanimani and Chipinge have been reached under the Cyclone Idai Response. Furthermore, we are also responding to the Corona Virus pandemic with about 35 000 people having been reached through different interventions, which include awareness raising, food and personal protective equipment (PPE) and dignity kits distributions.

It is my hope that you will enjoy reading this last issue of 2020 and wishing you a safe 2021!

Reduce, redistribute and recognise unpaid care work, policy makers told

Theatre performances showing burden of unpaid care work by Savana Trust members



AAZ in partnership with Savana Trust, an arts group organised a Breakfast meeting with the Parliament of Zimbabwe Portfolio Committees on health, local government and budget and finance as part of efforts to commemorate the 16DOA.

COVID-19 has restructured families and political economy of the country with the burden of unpaid care work for women such as home schooling and travelling long distances to fetch water increasing. Policy makers were engaged to put in place policies to recognise, reduce and redistribute UCW.

According to the ActionAid International Whore Cares for the Future Report (Finance Gender Responsive Public Services) women spend four hours and 25 minutes everyday doing UCW compared to men who spend an hour. Read more about the report here:

<https://actionaid.org/publications/2020/who-cares-future-finance-gender-responsive-public-services>.

It is the primary role of government to provide GRPs to reduce the burden of UCW on women. There should be functional public services like water, transport and early childhood services for the redistribution of UCW to happen. As bluntly put by Everjoice Win, former ActionAid International Director of Programmes:

“In terms of health, we have seen how women have been carrying hospitals in their heads and we have been seeing this from the times of HIV and AIDS and now we are seeing this in the COVID-19 era”.

Win said this during the 16DOA breakfast meeting with the members of Parliament.



Women from Makoni also participated in the 16DOA commemorations Walk for Survival as they campaigned for an end to GBV. A total of 50 women took part in the walk with each walking about 3km, making a total of 150km done for Makoni District. The Zimbabwe team walked about 562km for the recognition, redistribution and reduction of women's unpaid care and domestic work. The Walk for Survival was part of an ActionAid International Global March for Change.



Some of the members of Parliament during the 16DOA Breakfast meeting held in Harare on 10 December 2020 and right, Everjoyce Win, former ActionAid International Director of Programmes during the same meeting

Provision of quality gender responsive services help reduce GBV

16 DOA Road show in Chitungwiza



AAZ members joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 16DOA by organising a road shows to advocate for improved quality gender responsive public services (GRPS) which will help reduce GBV in the home and in public spaces.

In attendance in the road show were officials from the Department of Social Services and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) who have the duty to provide timely services to women affected by GBV. The road shows, which were in form of branded truck drives around GBV hotspots in Hopely and Chitungwiza were part of GBV sensitizations supported by the Canadian Embassy in Zimbabwe.

The GBV sensitization road shows happened as we hear of an increase in the recorded cases of GBV induced by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The national GBV Hotline (managed by Musasa) recorded a total of 5,306 GBV calls from the beginning of the lockdown on 30 March to 7 October 2020 with an overall average increase of over 60 per cent compared to the pre-lockdown trends. About 94 per cent of the calls were from women according to Musasa.



Top: A man from Chitungwiza putting up GBV posters during the road show. Below: Takudzwa Mudzuri from Activista and two unidentified young men from Chitungwiza with GBV posters





**BREAK THE CYCLE,
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AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

REPORT ABUSE CALL HARARE TOLL FREE LINE: 08080490

actionaid Canada

Some of the posters with toll free numbers to report GBV in Harare distributed during the road show



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STOP
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
HARARE Hotline
08080490
I tollfree
SPEAK UP: Silence Allows Violence

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STOP
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
SHAMVA Hotline
08080491
I tollfree
SPEAK UP: Silence Allows Violence

JEKESA PFUNGWA
VULIQONDO
jpv-zw.org
TOLL FREE
HOTLINE:
08080480
CHIMANIMANI AND CHIPINGE
actionaid



Toll free lines introduced to help fight GBV

AAZ and the Forum for African Women Educationalists Zimbabwe (FAWEZI) are running toll free lines in Harare and Shamva to support survivors of Sexual GBV and child abuse which have increased after the introductions of COVID-19 lockdowns. The toll-free lines (Harare- 0880490 and Shamva 08080491) are being managed by trained volunteers who help survivors with information and referring them to the relevant service providers like the ZRP VFU and the Department of Social Services.

The toll-free lines in Harare and Shamva are supported by ActionAid UK, ActionAid Denmark and the Canadian Embassy. A total of 38 cases had been recorded and referred to relevant service providers by November 2020.

ActionAid in partnership with Jekesa Pfungwa Vuliqondo has supported communities affected by Cyclone Idai with toll free lines aimed at helping women to report GBV. According to JPV, no calls on GBV or child abuse were recorded on the toll-free line 08080480 serving Chimanimani and Chipinge communities by end of December 2020.

“What we have been getting through the toll-free line for Chimanimani and Chipinge has been feedback on gratitude towards the trainings of GBV prevention,” said Victoria Jambaya from JPV.

Women from ward 16 Chimanimani say, GBV has reduced in their communities through support provided on safe houses and reporting systems like toll free numbers. According to Learnmore Ndarera of Ward 16, Chimanimani:

“We used to record three cases of GBV every day after Cyclone Idai. But now we can go to zero cases a day for a long time as both men and women have learnt”.



Learnmore Ndarera, leader of a Chimanimani women group talking to other women about the benefits of the toll-free line (08080480) for women and girls in Chimanimani and Chipinge

Our fight against COVID-19 continues!

Agnes Vhinyu, a 45-year-old mother of five from Hopley is one of the people who was assisted under the ActionAid COVID-19 Response programme.

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) in partnership with AAZ supported marginalized communities such as Hopley by providing them with hygiene kits to make the brunt of the COVID-19 outbreak manageable.



“I am very happy about the hygiene kits I have received, especially the pads because I cannot afford them as they are now costing US\$2 for a packet of 10 an increase from US\$1. The pads I received will last a month, but they are still not enough as I have to share them with my eldest daughter,” said Agnes (above).



(ABOVE) the official handover of the PPE to the Zengeza Clinic Staff by AAZ Women's Rights and Economic Justice Programmes and Projects Manager, Rumbidzayi Makoni and **(BOTTOM)** and right some of the PPEs handed over to Zengeza Clinic.



The hygiene kits consisting of toothpaste, bathing soap, sanitary pads and toilet paper were distributed to over 20 women in Agnes's community.

AAZ, with support from the Canadian Embassy in Zimbabwe in October 2020 donated PPE which include face masks, hand sanitizers, disposable

isolation gowns, examination gloves and face shields to Zengeza clinic in Chitungwiza to assist in the fight against COVID-19.

At least 35 000 people have been supported by various AAZ interventions under the COVID-19 Response.

Zimbabwe Food Security Policy Brief launched

AAZ under the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance and the IHART launched the Zimbabwe Food Security Policy Brief on 9 December 2020. This was done to mobilise policy makers to come up with climate resilience, accountable and gender responsive policies that will enable the country to recover from the current food crisis.

The PSA Alliance launched the Southern Africa Food Insecurity Policy Brief in September 2020 at the Southern Africa Social Forum. The brief highlighted the existing systemic weaknesses of regional policies meant to develop resilient food security in the SADC and made key policy recommendations for the region.

The Southern African region is facing a food crisis with close to 44.8 million people estimated to be food insecure as of July 2020, representing a 67% increase from 2017 (26.9 million people). Zimbabwe was predicted to be worst hit in the SADC region with the number of food insecure people likely to increase almost 50% by the end of 2020. About 8.6 million

people, or 60% of the population is expected to be hungry. The 2020 Vulnerability Assessment adopted by cabinet in 2020, highlights that 5.5 million people or 56 per cent of the rural population are estimated to be cereal insecure at the peak of the hunger season, from January to March 2021.

The policy brief was handed over to the Parliament Portfolio Committee for Lands, Agriculture and Mechanisation to take up the recommendations made in the policy Brief. Some of the recommendations in the policy brief include a call for government to enhance agricultural productivity anchored in sustainable production systems based in agroecology. These system should address climate change, promote the creation of women and youth led farmer group businesses using agroecological principles and decentralisation of power to local communities with a focus on women and youth led accountability mechanisms. Please open following link to read more about the policy brief: <https://zimbabwe.actionaid.org/publications/2020/zimbabwe-food-security-policy-brief>

The handover of the Zimbabwe Policy Brief. From left, Patrick Mhona, member of the Parliament Portfolio Committee for Budget and Finance, Andrew Itai Chikowore, AAZ Head of Programmes and Resource Mobilisation Patrick Dutiro, from the Parliament Portfolio Committee for Lands, Agriculture and Mechanisation



Livelihoods restored through Cyclone Idai Response

Rose Duri's crops and fields were destroyed by Cyclone Idai and the family struggled finding food to eat. Duri received seeds like maize and beans in 2019 from ActionAid as part of the Cyclone Idai livelihoods support. Here is what she said almost two years on:

“We used to eat once a day and now we eat three times a day. I am a mother of 7 children and 13 grandchildren. I live with all my grandchildren and one daughter who is going to school.” Rose’s challenge is the market. “Because of COVID-19, it’s difficult to sell the beans which we used to sell in schools before COVID-19. Most schools have been closed because of COVID-19 and also some people who used to come and buy from us are not coming due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.”

At least 3500 households in Chimanimani and Chipinge have been reached under the Cyclone Idai Response supported by the Aldorado Trust, the Disasters Emergency Committee and ActionAid UK.



2020 Activities in Pictures



Chipinge Women accessing water sources affected by Cyclone Idai and rehabilitated by Simukai Child Protection Programme in partnership with AAZ



Tusungwale Women Group from Binga supported in sorghum production under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund as part of climate resilience sustainable agriculture



Hopely girls after receiving dignity packs with menstrual hygiene supplies supported by the Canadian Embassy and AAZ in partnership with Ownai



Rose Jena from Hotsprings in Chimanimani speaking during the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba also attended by key Parliament Portfolio Committees in September



Activista Zimbabwe Guiding Principles and Regulations signing ceremony in Nyanga in November



Human Rights Based Approach Documentation Training Certificates and Creative Activism for Social Justice Awards handover to Activista Zimbabwe members on 15 December



NATIONAL OFFICE

- 📍 26 Divine Road, Milton Park, Harare
- ☎ +263-242-788123/5, 776127,
- 📱 +263-772164449
- ✉ info.zimbabwe@actionaid.org
- 🌐 zimbabwe.actionaid.org
- f www.facebook/ActionAidZimbabwe
- 🐦 www.twitter.com/ActionAidZim
- 📺 ActionAid Zimbabwe

REGIONAL OFFICE

- 📍 281 Chimurenga Street, Rusape
- ☎ +26325-3537,
- 📱 +263-772395967