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Community Volunteer Voices



Towards women
and girls safety
in public spaces
A collection of
community
stories



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ActionAid Zimbabwe is spearheading the Safe Cities for Women and Girls Campaign Programme together with the Safe Cities Campaign Network of Zimbabwe (SCCNZ) which is comprised of various organizations as well as individual supporters. The campaign is aimed at making women and girls aware that the violence they experience in public spaces is a violation of human rights and change the attitude of boys and men to treat women and girls with dignity and protect women and girls from violence in public spaces. The goal is to have women's fear and experience of sexual violence in cities and urban spaces reduced. Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) and Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) who are the implementing partners of the She Can project which is part of the broader Safe Cities Campaign but with a focus on promoting their safety, mobility, access to justice and gender responsive public services. A total of 156 volunteers were trained by SAYWHAT and ZWLA. However they are working with 106 active volunteers who have formed a total of 32 Reflection action groups which comprise of 8-10 people.

The following are stories from the Safe Cities community volunteers from Chitungwiza verbatim as they speak out on how they have contributed to change in their communities with regards to the safety of women in public spaces in Chitungwiza.

Ward 16 Success Story

**By Kudakwashe Chidamba,
Safe Cities Volunteer**



ZWLAs teams and tous sticking labels on a commuter omnibus in Makoni, Chitungwiza as part of the campaign to stop violence against women in the public spaces. Public transport operators have been accused of harassing women travellers.

“ After reporting the matter to the Police the dealer was arrested but the following day he was back in the streets destroying lives of young people and adults by selling dangerous substances such as bronco, mbanje and musombodiya.”

In Ward 16, Unit J, Chitungwiza, so many youths were being involved in the abuse of drugs and there was a drug dealer roaming the streets endangering innocent and young lives. As a trained volunteer under the Safe Cities project, I realized how dangerous the use of drugs was to everyone regardless of their age.

I then went to report this case to our local Councilor, Mrs Jena, who supported us and referred us to the Police. After reporting the matter to the Police the dealer was arrested but the following day he was back in the streets destroying lives of young people and adults by selling dangerous substances such as bronco, mbanje and musombodiya.

As volunteers of the Safe Cities Project and youth advocators we went back to the Councilor and updated her in which she expressed remorse as to how the culprit had been released. We went back to the police and engaged them in a dialogue and highlighted to them the dangers of having a drug dealer looming the streets.

After consultations with the Police the dealer was arrested on the 22nd of February 2017 and his case was booked for court ruling on the 8th of March 2017. He was given 6 years of imprisonment after the court case ruling. The drug dealer tried to plead



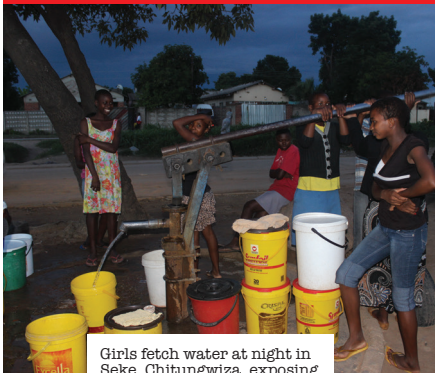
Safe Cities Chitungwiza volunteers during one of their meetings.

for bail but was not granted. He was sent to Chikurubi maximum prison where he will be serving a six (6) year jail sentence.

Hence for now the youths in Ward 16 are safe from interaction with drugs and it is my desire that peace continues. Many Youths were now living irresponsible lives for instance crime, sexual activities so that they get money to buy these drugs. I hope and wish that by the time his sentence is over the whole community will be aware of the dangers of abusing drugs.

A success story from Ward 14, Chitungwiza

By Faustina R. Chataika
Ward 14, Safe Cities
Volunteer



Girls fetch water at night in Seke, Chitungwiza, exposing themselves to violence

“ People would wake up as early as 3:00am in search of water. Women and girls ended up washing clothes in wet areas (mubani) very early in the morning and it was not safe for them. Anything from harassment and rape could happen to them.”

Since August 2016 the borehole in the old and new Zengeza four areas was not functional. Thus, there were severe shortages of water supply. People would go to the nearby wetlands in search of water and go around houses and other boreholes from other areas to look for water. Some people with functional boreholes would not allow us to use their borehole because they were afraid that their boreholes would run out of water.

People would wake up as early as 3:00am in search of water. Women and girls ended up washing clothes in wet areas (mubani) very early in the morning and it was not safe for them. Anything from harassment and rape could happen to them.

As a woman, it pained me because I was also affected by this situation. I decided to go and see the Councilor so that we could find a way to rectify the problem. The Councilor promised that he was going to do something. After a week, I went back to the Councilor and he said that the council could not do anything because the Morton Jeffrey Aqua station which supplies us with water was getting dry due to the El- Nino induced drought that had hit the country sometime last year.

We spent many months without water and I realized that in our community there was now an outbreak of typhoid and cholera. A lot of people died because of water borne diseases.



Faustina during a She Can awards ceremony

In December 2016, I led members from my community to have a meeting with the councilor and other community leaders. We visited the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) offices to talk with them about the problem we were facing as a community and they promised us that they were going to get back to us.

Weeks went by and we heard nothing from UNICEF. We went back with the councilor and had a meeting scheduled for a later date. The engineer at UNICEF gave us good news that they were coming to fix the borehole.

Come January 10th 2017, the engineer called, they were coming that day at 10:00am to fix the borehole. We were delighted to hear the good news. We rushed to the borehole site to see if it was true. When we arrived there, we saw the UNICEF workers fixing the borehole.

They spent 2 days fixing the borehole and it was fixed. We were very happy as a community because we had suffered for so many months and a lot of women, children and men had lost their lives due to waterborne diseases. After the borehole was fixed we thought that all the problems had gone away, but we had problems with local men who would use their carts to fetch water for other people. These men were harassing women and girls at the borehole. The men would not allow women and girls to fetch water before they had finished fetching their buckets of water of which they would come with. They would bring more than 50 buckets.

I decided to go back to the councilor to report the matter to them as I was also a victim of this form of harassment and he called for a community meeting. At the meeting women and girls raised a lot of issues mounting to physical and emotional harassment and one girl testified to being beaten up by the men at the borehole for standing up for herself.

At the meeting, we agreed that no women or girl would stand in a queue. I was very happy because as a Safe Cities Volunteer I managed to make Ward 14 a safe place for women and girls. Women and girls are now safe because they are no longer being harassed by the men 'with the carts' (zvingoro) and they no longer stand in queues.

Team Vigoro so

**By Paidamoyo Kamwendo
Ingrid Manyawu
Tinashe Chigwedere
Mavis Mupandira
Gamu Chinomba
Hardie Musakwa and
Dalisto Makwangwala**



ActionAid, partner staff and volunteers during a Safe Cities Day commemoration.

“ With just one call to the Councilor to report that the borehole was malfunctioning, he responded in less than half a day. This is a success though we encountered a few obstacles such as the period taken to implement the idea of engaging our Councilor. As a team, we applaud our Councilor for a job well done.

Being a team that is full of vigor, we held our meetings discussing service provision that was not fully met in the ward. As a team, we held our meetings at a local social welfare center. We debated, we argued constructively and we managed to come up with a plan to carry out various tasks.

Our main aim as a team was to effect change in the ward that would benefit the whole of the community at large and make a conducive environment for women and girls to safely dwell in. Many issues came out as we brainstormed among them water problems, lack of knowledge as well as the availability of the knowledge to women.

As a team, we assigned each team member a task in relation to the water problem and agreed that some would meet with the Councilor and some would communicate with the committee leaders for water from the Chitungwiza Town Council. The Councilor supported us as it was one of his mandate to make sure there is sufficient provision of water in the ward.

We updated the SAYWHAT She Can Project Coordinator most of our proceedings. The Councilor did not disappoint us as he has managed to make sure the borehole does not go for more than a day without water. We highlighted to him the effects of taking long to repair the borehole as mostly girls would be prone to violence and labelled names as they spent most of their night times at nearby congested boreholes to access water and they would be labelled ladies of the night (sex workers).

With just one call to the Councilor to report that the borehole was malfunctioning, he responded in less than half a day. This is a success though we encountered a few obstacles such as the period taken to implement the idea of engaging our Councilor. As a team, we applaud our Councilor for a job well done.

Youth on the move, Ward 13 Success Story

By Itai Gwatsvaira,
Safe Cities Volunteer

During the year 2016, Ward 13 and 14 Safe Cities volunteers managed to get together and met our Councillors namely Mr. Musekiwa (Ward 13) and Mr. Chibvongodza (Ward 14) and formed a WhatsApp group as means of communication. Our meeting point was Utano Publicity Health Centre in Chitungwiza and we met at least once per month.

We discussed about the problems being faced by our community members mainly the weekly collection of bins, malfunctioning of sewer systems and the unavailability of water regardless of the Chitungwiza residents paying monthly water bills.

Councillor Musekiwa worked with the Town Council public works department and our sewer was restored after numerous consultations between the two parties. Every Wednesday waste is now collected and water is available from Thursday evening to Sunday morning every week.

We now have a very big tank at Pagomba near the public toilets in our area. The tank provides water to clients, vendors, hawkers, business owners and community members.

Currently we are working on the rehabilitation of boreholes in conjunction with churches like Seventh Day Adventist which hosts the borehole. The refuse container at Pagomba was removed since people were not using it well, hence diseases were spreading. The Coca-Cola Company donated the bottle collection tank situated at pagomba main shops in Chitungwiza.

Currently Mr. Magunje, a local businessman, is working on putting big bins at every shop entrance and at the vendors' market. We are sending regular reports to the Ministry of Women affairs, Gender and Community development through our ward based ministry officers.



Itai Gwatsvaira (31) holding a placard in commemoration of the Safe Cities Day.

“Councillor Musekiwa worked with the Town Council public works department and our sewer was restored after numerous consultations between the two parties. Every Wednesday waste is now collected and water is available from Thursday evening to Sunday morning every week.”

Together we Can

By Claudia Matiza,
Safe Cities Volunteer



“ Even though others took the matter for granted or made fun out of it, as you know these days people make jokes out of potholes, I told myself, I am a trained volunteer under the Safe Cities Campaign supported by SAYWHAT, why can't I make a change for my community and at the same time helping in making a safe community for women and girls.

As you walk along the streets of Zengeza 3, Ward 12 in Chitungwiza, high heel shoes were not advisable for the ladies who are fashion conscious because of the bad state of the roads in my community. For those drivers, whose vehicles had worn out tyres, a spare wheel was an obvious must or else one risked leaving all the tyres in the road after bumping into potholes. To the residents, life had become unbearable. Extreme caution was required for anyone who dared step out of the gate and walking without checking where they were treading. The roads were in a very bad state.

My Ward had a challenge of potholes or let's call them "POTHOLES" in capital letters to show the severity of the issue. They were now called "Mazigomba Muroad" meaning "large holes in the road". The social media frenzy in Zimbabwe call them "Dish holes". Oh, it was a very painful challenge. To make matters worse, it was something that could not be fixed overnight. It was something that needed dedication, patience and perseverance.

As a volunteer, I viewed the issue of potholes on a different angle that is the way it was affecting the community especially young women like myself. Even though others took the matter for granted or made fun out of it, as you know these days people make



Claudia Matiza during a She Can award ceremony.

jokes out of potholes, I told myself, I am a trained volunteer under the Safe Cities Campaign supported by SAYWHAT, why can't I make a change for my community and at the same time helping in making a safe community for women and girls.

People may ask: "How do potholes particularly affect women and girls? Residents were now taking potholes as dust bins and dumping

sites where they could dump used pampers sanitary pads, old clothes and any other household waste which ended up causing a health hazard for the community. As some of the potholes were in front of residential areas, the persons who ended up cleaning the mess were women and girls. For real this was unhealthy.

One wonders why residents were dumping inside the potholes? Municipal refuse trucks were avoiding the streets with potholes and were not collecting refuse from affected residential areas. Sometimes if they came to collect the garbage, the vehicles would spill the waste in front of residential gates because the trucks were not stable as they were moving due to a rough surface caused by the potholes. Women and girls again were forced to clean the rubbish again.

The potholes were causing accidents as drivers were at some stages losing control of their vehicles due to the potholes. I took pictures of the potholes with my phone and I approached my Councillor Mr. Musonza to show him the pictures. To my surprise he was so worried about it. It was difficult for him to convince the council workers to urgently come and fix the problem in my area as there is a shortage of council workers. He said it would take a while for them to respond to his request.

I asked the Councillor if it was possible to engage young men from my Ward who are unemployed to help with the repair of the road. We call these young men, "boys dzepa bridge", Shona slang which means the "young men from the bridge". They are usually found basking the sun at bridges due to unemployment. On mentioning the idea of the "boys", he did not hesitate to call for an urgent meeting with community

members to address the problem as well as to agree to use the “boys”. I gave him a round of applause on this one, because it made my work easy.

I did not know that gathering the “boys” was not an easy task as I thought earlier on. I spent four days trying to gather them and explaining to them what the Safe Cities Campaign is all about. I ended up doing door to door visits as I tried to convince them. I would spend all day visiting them from 9 am to 5pm. Some of the people I met along the way were elderly people who understood me better than the boys. This gave me a lesson. I had to be patient and dedicated. This fight was not for myself but for the community. It was a painful pothole fight. I finally managed to gather 19 “boys” and one young woman who we called a “girl” within the community, to make a total of 20 youths. I told them about my voluntary work in the community and the issue of potholes and linking this to the Safe Cities Campaign. They initially understood it as something that had a political inclination at first. After repeated explanations, I thank God they understood. I also took the opportunity to do a short dialogue session with the youths on gender based violence (GBV) in public spaces and in the home and what youths can do to end it and the youth sexual reproductive health rights.

With support from the local Councillor who was there with me, the “boys” and “girl” agreed to work on the pothole filling project. The Councillor brought gravel and tools of the job. The “boys” and “girl” requested if they could be paid little cash as token of thanks.

The “boys” and “girl” worked very hard and the outcome was great. Right now, the roads are now in a good state and they are also clean. Thanks to the “boys” and “girl” as they did a wonderful job. The community is now happy and they are saying they now feel safe. To my Councillor Mr. Musonza, I salute you for your dedication. You did not think twice to fulfil your duties. To SAYWHAT, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a change in my community. God, Bless you! #safecitiesbecause.

People of Victory

By **Tinashe Chigwedere**
Ingrid Manyawu and
Paidamoyo Kamwendo



Safe Cities volunteers during 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence commemorations in December 2016.

“ On the 16th of March 2017, we gathered as a group and went to the Councilor to discuss about the sewage which was affecting our community. The councilor accompanied us to the site where there was sewer burst with the sewerage flowing on roads and into houses.

Sewage can be a health hazard to a community as it can cause diseases. This was the situation in our community in Chitungwiza. As volunteers for the Safe Cities project we were taught of the need to have gender responsive services in our community. Hence my group and I realized that something needed to be done in our community to stop sewerage bursts.

On the 16th of March 2017, we gathered as a group and went to the Councilor to discuss about the sewage which was affecting our community. The councilor accompanied us to the site where there was sewer burst with the sewerage flowing on roads and into houses. Many young children from the area had been affected by typhoid, diarrhea and frequent asthma attacks.

Five children were admitted at Chitungwiza Hospital and one of them died. We wanted this to end. We were accompanied by four men in our area who spent a day trying to dig a trench so that the sewage will not enter houses. We went and talked with the Councilor Mr. Musonza who also accompanied us to the site where the sewage was flowing.



Mr. Musonza reported to the Council and three plumbers came to the scene. They said new pipes were needed and they took only four days to start changing the area. A caterpillar came and was used to dig a trench to remove the old sewer pipes. Digging was done near four houses which were badly affected. Six new big sewer pipes were brought and some of the community men like Mr. Chipanga and Mr. Shumba helped the city plumbers.

Everything went well. New pipes were placed and new white chemicals were sprayed. We were given aqua tablets to give people so that they put in their drinking water. The aqua tablets were obtained from Zengeza 3 Clinic.

Mr. Musonza thanked us for the job well done. He also thanked SAYWHAT for steering the She Can project which is helping people in the Chitungwiza Community.

Ward 10 Shining Stars

By Tanyaradzwa Ndlovu
Winnet Muranganwa
Rudo Mupotsa and
Ashley T.M Dzobo
Safe Cities Volunteers



Litter dumped along a road in Chitungwiza pausing a health hazard in the community

“After noticing the issue, we went to see the Councillor Mr. Marambakutongwa and notified him about it. Mr. Marambakutongwa reported the issue and the trash on the durawall was cleared.”

People in Zengeza 5 Primary School along Chirongo road in Chitungwiza were living in fear of contracting diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhea. These fears came after an undesignated dumping area developed along the road (along a dura wall) since waste was not being collected in the area.

After noticing the issue, we went to see the Councillor Mr. Marambakutongwa and notified him about it. He said we should come the following week. Mr. Marambakutongwa reported the issue and the trash on the durawall was cleared. The road was levelled. Although a lot still needs to be done to fix the road, at least for now something has been done to ease the situation.

Vendors have for now established their market stalls along the dura wall so that people do not dump waste in undesignated areas. This is to try and minimize chances of the Chitungwiza Community getting affected by cholera or typhoid.

Furthermore, we suggested that the Council of Chitungwiza provide a big waste collection basin at the nearest business center in Zengeza. The Councillor promised to work together with us to make sure the community of Chitungwiza has waste collection bins so that people do not litter or dump waste wherever they see fit.

Change story

By Angeline Marungisa



Ellen Nhamuro (33), Safe cities volunteer highlights the need for safe spaces for women and girls in a placard.

“Gone are the days when men could freely mock and insult women in public spaces, now we can stand up and defend our rights so much so that even the rate of domestic violence has decreased.

One day when I was coming from Town Centre in Chitungwiza with a lot of issues on my mind. Little did I know that I was walking right into the lion's den. Two commuter omnibus conductors started harassing me pulling me from one end to the other forcing me to get into their commuter omnibus. I did not have enough bus fare to board the commuter omnibus. I told the two conductors but they insisted it was enough.

Once in the Kombi and it was time to pay I gave the conductor the 30 cents and to my surprise he started shouting at me when he was the one who had insisted that I board his commuter omnibus and I stood up and said, “mukwasha musandione sendinopenga plus hamuna right yekundituka kudaro munoziva kuti ndinogona kutora number plate yemota yenyu ndonomhan'ara kumapurisa kuti muri ku violater marights angu makatidzvanyirira kodzero dzedu kare tisingazive iye zvinotavakuziva kodzero dzedu,” (Gone are the days when we did not know our rights and we were oppressed, now we are aware of our rights and we are not afraid to speak up), both of them kept quiet and later accepted my fare and most of the passengers agreed with me.

I was not sure I had this confidence within me until that day. Appreciation



Taking radio to the people outdoor activity done in partnership with Star FM to give a platform for Chitungwiza women and girls to speak out on violence against them in public spaces.

goes to the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) for teaching me and other women about our rights as women. Gone are the days when men could freely mock and insult women in public spaces, now we can stand up and defend our rights so much so that even the rate of domestic violence has decreased. ActionAid Zimbabwe was implementing the She Can Project together with SAYWHAT and ZWLA in Chitungwiza and Dzivarasekwa.

Thank you, team, ZWLA and all volunteers I love you all.

“Yes SHE CAN”!!!

Chitungwiza young woman fights for the right to youth friendly medical services

By **Tatenda Chinyanganya,**
SAYWHAT

“It’s difficult being a young woman living with HIV. In my community, women are not respected and not taken seriously and for me it’s even worse because I also face stigma because of my HIV status. I will not forget the day that I was embarrassed at Chitungwiza General Hospital when I went for a CD4 count test. The nurse treated me as if I was not a human being. That day I could not access the service that I wanted to get at the hospital and I just left not realising that my right to health had been violated. That time I did not realise that I was the agent of change that would make youth friendly service provision available and accessible”.



Mercy Musiwa sharing her story.

Mercy (23) narrates the bad treatment she received at a General Hospital in Chitungwiza when she wanted to get a CD4 count test. Mercy is a young woman who stays in Unit N, Chitungwiza which is located south of the capital, Harare. Mercy stays with her cousin as she lost her parents in 1996 and 2006 respectively. Her parents died because of HIV related illnesses and since that time she was staying with her aunty who, then refused to take care of her because her health was deteriorating as a result of the virus. The death of her parents and the attitude of her aunty made her declare that she would adhere to treatment no matter what.

On 25 May 2016, Mercy was not provided with the service she wanted to access at Chitungwiza hospital because she did not have US2.00 dollars to pay for the syringe that was required. The nurse instead of just turning her away chose, to shout at her attracting other people who were at the hospital. Mercy walked away

“ The nurse instead of just turning her away chose to shout at her attracting other people who were at the hospital. Mercy walked away in shame as she felt she had been humiliated by the way the nurse had addressed her.

in shame as she felt she had been humiliated by the way the nurse had addressed her. She highlights that besides her, there were other young people who had been ill treated at the hospital thereby creating a huge barrier for young people to access services.

Mercy recalls the day she committed herself to changing the situation at Chitungwiza Hospital. She points out how the She Can project that is being implemented by the Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) in partnership with ActionAid has given her the weapons to break the culture of silence and speak out against the abuses that they faced at the hospital.

Weeks after she had been denied access to CD4 count test, Mercy's friend also faced the same challenge and Mercy decided to take action using the experience that she had gained from the trainings on human rights, lobbying and advocacy. She went with the name of the nurse who had denied her access to CD4 count test to the Public Relations Officer at the Hospital. At first the Officer did not take her seriously but later on realised that she was determined to have her issue addressed. She kept on pushing the officer until she called for a meeting where they met the nursing staff and a Doctor on the 14th of July 2016. Mercy presented her issue outlining poor service delivery that community members were complaining about. The hospital made a vow that they would address the issues that had been raised and their first step was of providing vulnerable young people who are not in a position to pay their medical bills with an Assistant Medical Treatment Order which would allow them to get treatment free of charge.

Mercy is now very pleased with the progress that she is noting at Chitungwiza General Hospital. With a sharp look on her face she states that: *"The She Can project under the Safe Cities Campaign strengthened me as a young woman. Before the project we did not have knowledge on rights as well as how to conduct effective advocacy. I am very happy that we are being treated with dignity and respect. We spoke out and our voices were heard. If it was not for the She Can project which inspired us to break the culture of silence no one was going to challenge the bad treatment we were getting"*. Mercy was chosen to be part of an advocacy board at Chitungwiza Central Hospital which deals with issues around HIV positive people and she is the only young person in the board that comprises of seven members and has been part of the board for the past five months now.

SAYWHAT under the She Can project has trained 150 peer educators who formulate 17 groups in Chitungwiza. The project is part of the Safe Cities Campaign which aims at creating safe spaces for young women and girls in public spaces. SAYWHAT's role in the project is to impart the young women and girls with information on sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) so as to lobby and advocate for such services, lack of which have perpetrated against women and girls in public spaces.

Woman

speaks out on safety
of women and girls in
dormitory town

“Gone are the days when men could freely mock and insult women in public spaces, now we can stand up and defend our rights so much so that even the rate of domestic violence has decreased.”

They call her “Sweetie Pie”. She resides in Chitungwiza, a dormitory town on the outskirts of Harare. She is one of the 48 community volunteers trained by the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA), an ActionAid partner as part of a She Can Project, which is a programme campaigning for the safety of women in public spaces. The She Can project is part of a broader Safe Cities Campaign which is seeking to end violence against women and girls in public spaces. ZWLA and the Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT), who are both ActionAid partners are working with 48 and 58 volunteers respectively most of whom are women in spearheading the Safe Cities Campaign in Chitungwiza.

Memory Chivizhe (48), a widow, attracted the nickname “Sweetie Pie” at the onset of the She Can Project in Chitungwiza in 2014. One cannot attend a volunteer meeting in Chitungwiza and miss Sweet Pie and her nickname has become a household title for the She Can Project in Chi-Town community. Chi-Town is the shortened version of Chitungwiza.

Asked how the name came about, Sweetie Pie said: “When ZWLA officers began volunteer trainings at the beginning of the project they asked us to think of nick-names which we could use to spice up our work. I thought of



Sweetie Pie sitting on water containers branded with #safecitiesbecause messages

the nick-name “Sweetie-Pie,” a name that I saw a former employer call his wife. He called her “Sweetie-Pie” because he loved her. I used that name because if you know that you are loved, you will love your work and do it wholeheartedly. I love my work.” Sweetie Pie is a former domestic worker, who lives with two of her children, an 18 year old and the other who is 13.

As fate would have it, Sweetie-Pie’s husband died of drug abuse in 2016, a development that hurt her but has given her more zeal to work towards an end to drug abuse in her community at the same time.

“He used to consume an illegal beer called “Krango”. In Chi-Town those who use drugs have caused public violence. While the drugs could lead to death to those who consume them, drug abusers are a community menace as they cause violence

to the people around them at home and in the community. Those who suffer more are women and girls.

“I am working with other volunteers and the police to ensure that our place is drug free. Those who sell Krango should be arrested. I do not want any more people to die of drugs just like what happened to my husband. My husband, who was a driver, left a huge financial gap in my family.”

Sweetie Pie is now vending (buying and selling clothes) to make ends meet for her family.

To ensure that women in her community have access to safe drinking water and reduce the public violence they face as they meet drug abusers in the streets when they look for water, Sweetie Pie has teamed up with 15 other volunteers in her community to engage local councils to provide them with running water at home.

“We had no running water on our taps in our community for three years. We were drinking water from open wells which were not protected. We now have running water from our taps however it is still being rationed and we are getting it for two days a week,” Sweetie Pie said. She said she would continue engaging the local authorities to make sure that water is available everyday within her community.

Sweetie Pie was one of the volunteers awarded by SAYWHAT recently in March 2017 for excelling exceedingly in her community. She received a 20 litre container labelled “Safe Public Spaces=Safe Chi-Town 4 women & girls,” an accolade she treasures. #safecitiesbecause

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