



OUR VOICE

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ZWB Thematic areas

- Agriculture & Food Security
- Entrepreneurship & Business Development
- Research, Information, Lobbying & Advocacy
- SRHR, HIV & AIDS
- Gender Based Violence

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ZWB cascades business training to 3000 ICBTs



14WV project participants posing for a picture after the business development training in Zhombe

Lives of informal traders have been improved in Gokwe, Zhombe, Seke and Harare North through cascaded trainings which were conducted by Zimbabwe Women's Bureau in Zimbabwe under the auspices of Information for Women's Voice Project which is being funded by OSISA.

Information for Women's Voice Project seeks to strengthen the information and advocacy base of informal cross border traders in Zimbabwe.

The trainings were conducted under this project this year covered different topics which included business planning, market research, record keeping, pricing, costing and other topics related to Business

Development.

Information for Women's Voice trainers cascaded training to 3 000 women and equipped informal cross border traders with relevant information to improve their enterprises and strengthened collective voice in the sector.

The participants were grateful to ZWB for the project because they are now organized and can speak with one voice when lobbying for safe working space and funds.

Informal cross-border traders and vendors are now possess the business management skills that enable them to run sustain-

able initiatives.

However it was observed from the trainings that there is still a gap in some areas for example most informal traders do not have proper records and some are not aware of human rights issues as such they end up being victims of harassment by ZIMRA officials when doing their cross border activities.

Some of the challenges faced include limited access to credit from financial institutions because informal traders are not being recognized at the moment and some of them lacks collateral and information gaps on regulatory policies.

ZWB exhibits at NANGO Expo 2019



ZWB members marketing their product at NANGO Expo

National Association of Non-governmental (NANGO) Expo was conducted from the 19th - 21st September 2019 at Harare Gardens.

An event hosted annually where civil society organisations in Zimbabwe converge to showcase their initiatives through exhibitions, knowledge sharing and social efforts.

This year's theme was "Inclusive spaces and partnership for improved public accountability, transparency and effective development".

Mr Olkonne Head of EU delegation in Zimbabwe official opened the exhibitions and gave the remarks followed by a tour.

Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) was represented by 10 members drawn from Gweru, Mutare, Goromonzi, Harare and Zvishavane who exhibited organic food products, ethnic garments, and arts and crafts.

Over one hundred and thirty nine people visited ZWB stand to familiarise with the organization's work and what it stands

for and eight people joined membership.

The exhibition also provided a marketing platform for members to sell their products and exchange with fellow entrepreneurs who operate in their respective fields.

Over 40 different products from different participants were sold by our members despite the economic challenges which have affected business and this made NANGO Expo a successful event.

"Is TSP gender mainstreaming in all its goals?"

TSP Gender Mainstreaming monitoring

Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA) hosted the Civil Society Sensitization and Monitoring workshop on the 7th of October 2019 at Bronte Hotel Harare, Zimbabwe.

The workshop aimed at building peace, social cohesion in achieving gender equality through the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP). Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) was represented by 10 members who were equipped with knowledge on the TSP.

The workshop was attended by different stakeholders from relevant organizations which are affiliated to gender issues such as ZCIEA, Combined Harare Residents Association, Women and Land, Imba Mukadzi, ZWRNC, WAG and others.

WLSA presented on the introduction to the TSP and explained that the Transitional Stabilisation Programme Reform Agenda is the first phase of the implementation of the Vision 2030 spanning from October 2018 to 2020.

Under the TSP, the country is anchored to

achieve a status of an Upper-Middle Economy with a per capita income level of US\$2,018 in 2020 and rising to US\$5,821 by 2030.

TSP has seven areas that it seeks to reform namely Governance, Productive sector, Public Infrastructure investment, Service Sector, Human Development, Macro-Economic imbalances and Institutional reforms.

In the TSP it was outlined that gender is going to be integrated in all policies and all reforms that is in programing, disbursement of funds, implementation and prioritization of resources.

It was recommended that when TSP is going to be reviewed researchers should monitor to see whether gender mainstreaming has been achieved. However the major problem of the TSP is that it is based on a Neo-Liberal approach to development and austerity measures which brings more suffering to the people impact of Climate change and electricity challenges experienced in Zimbabwe.

The government was urged to invest in renewable energy. It was therefore noted that the National Gender Policy should include issues of renewable energy.

Tafadzwa Chikumbu from ZIMCODD also presented on public finance management and its impact on Women's rights. He explained that public finance management is enshrined in chapter 17 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment 20) of 2013 and that it is an essential part of the governance process.

Women were urged to understand the implications of debt on poverty, inequality, social development and gender.

Mrs Masiwa from WAG also presented on the health challenges faced in Zimbabwe that the health sector is deteriorating day by day. She explained that there is need to push the government to recognize the Abuja declaration which states that 15% of the budget should be allocated to health issues.

Women suffer the most on health challenges because of their household responsibilities.

Other key issues were also presented such as corruption, poor service delivery, financial inclusion of women, property rights.

There is need for formulation of gender centric anti-corruption measures and to remove masculinity in institutions.

Civil society organizations were recommended to come up with a unified view of devolution they want and to ensure that women are in powerful positions to influence policies in parliament.

TSP should focus on challenges being faced by women in the informal sector and as well formulate and implement strategies to formalise them.

The workshop was successful in sharing ideas and obligations that should be considered to achieve gender equality through the Transitional Tribalization

SWIMCs projects participants at ZAMI



Barbra Nyoni presenting on the SWIMCs project during the gender and inclusion in extractives side session

Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) 8th edition was held in Bulawayo from 18-20 September 2019 under the theme: Sustainability for all: Building a legacy of citizen action for equitable and just natural resource governance in Zimbabwe in line with the Leave No One Behind principle stated in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Zimbabwean Child President Mukudzeiishe Madzivire officially opened the conference with a key note address, expressing his displeasure concerning the exclusion of the youth in extractives and requested stakeholders to engage young people as ambassadors of the work they do.

Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) and Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) are addressing concerns over exclusion of young people through Supporting Women in Mining Communities (SWIMCs) pilot project which targets women who are aged between 18 and 35 years.

Representatives from Mhondongori, Maprimira, Runde Rural District Council (RRDC) Chief Executive Officer, the traditional Chief (Chief Mapanzure),

RRDC Environmental Officer and the District Administrator for Zvishavane district were among the stakeholders who attended ZAMI 2019 in ZIMA.

Objectives of the meeting were to deliberate on the progress on local content developments and empowerment initiatives for local mining communities, including showcasing of corporate social investments by mining companies, key legal and policy reforms developments .

The Artisanal and small-scale mining policy, Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), development of key mineral development policies and Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

SWIMCs project participants were given latitude to share their experiences represented by Barbra Nyoni who prefaced her presentation by giving a background of the pilot project.

She continued her presentation by attesting to the notion that women in mining communities have no equal opportunities to get jobs in mining companies as compared to their male counterparts.

She commended ZWB and ZELA for conducting a baseline survey that revealed

business opportunities which are available in the mining communities

The session on gender and inclusion in extractives advised women participating in SWIMCs project on how to run successful enterprises to graduate from group businesses to sole business proprietors. Groups are a starting point and they promote sharing of ideas that refine business skills, however they are not sustainable.

SWIMCs project participants were implored not to shy away from venturing in small scale mining activities which have prospects of high returns in chrome and gold as compared to running some small enterprises.

The ZAMI 2019 provided a learning platform for women participating in the SWIMCs project through exposure to national level forum and they had an opportunity to learn from successful business owners who experienced the same humble beginnings.

The participants are expected to cascade the information to other members, improve both engagement efforts and running of sustainable businesses in mining communities.

GIZ Visits Gweru for Leadership project M&E



ZWB Executive Director Ronika Mumbire and GIZ team interacting with the participants during leadership project monitoring and evaluation visit

GIZ representatives visited Gweru district to assess the impact of the Leadership project implemented by Grassroots Women's Network (GWN) in Zhombe and Goromonzi as well.

The meeting was attended by participants drawn from different wards that were involved in activities conducted, local stakeholders Gweru city council, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development and many others.

The monitoring visit the team inquired on what transpired during project implementation, linkages between ZWB's work and other stakeholders in relation to Leadership project.

ZWB developed and strengthened the abilities of Gweru women in terms of constitutional literacy, grooming and etiquette and leadership.

The participant's advocacy and lobbying skills on women and youth matters were enhanced through effective communication training. The project boasted women's confidence to occupy leadership positions and taught them to desist from campaigning against fellow women because men tend to hold positions of power, with many believing that women are incapable of leadership.

The few female leaders are often isolated and unable to fully take part in decision-making hence women's needs and concerns go unheard. Issues of poor service delivery, domestic violence, rape and early marriage are widespread in Gweru.

ZWB advocacy committee is working tirelessly with Victim Friendly Unit and other relevant stakeholders to curb

these challenges.

Even though the Constitution of Zimbabwe has improved women's rights, many still have limited access to economic resources, justice and are unaware of their rights and legal position. Zimbabwe is in the midst of transitioning to a new system of governance.

Devolution or the shifting of certain powers and resources from the national to the county level, creating opportunities for women therefore they need support and skills to be able to participate effectively.

Going forward, ZWB will be working with GIZ and GWN partners to support Women's Leadership for Economic Development for transformational leadership, movement building, inclusion of women in decision making and collective action.



Vincentia Muzondiwa's Success Story



Home away from home!
Are you planning a workshop, conference, wedding / graduation? ZWB is the perfect venue in Hillside close to Harare CBD and Mukuvisi Woodlands.

SERVICES OFFERED:

Conference Facilities 300 guesthall and 20 guest halls which can be hired conferences, meetings or workshops.

Overnight Shared Accommodation for 43 people.



Catering Services meals are also provided at reasonable prices using locally grown, organic ingredients from the ZWB garden.

WE ACCEPT: CASH Or SWIPE



43 Hillside Road
Harare
Zimbabwe

Phone: +263 4 747905
Twitter: zwb78
E-mail: zwbtc2@gmail.com



Mrs Vincentia Muzondiwa selling clothes to King Mswatii at an Expo

Vincentia Muzondiwa joined Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) membership when she was 30 years old in 1996.

The membership seeks to build the capacity of women by promoting financial inclusion through training, support in entrepreneurship, business coaching and mentorship.

Vincentia was selected to attend a two weeks business start-up training which was sponsored by ZWB under the theme, Making money makes sense.

Mrs. Muzondiwa tremendously benefited from membership before the training she had no money, knowledge to start a business.

All she had was passion for sewing. during the training Vincentia

learnt that in business one has to follow her heart ta and not what others are doing.

This became her own source of inspiration to fulfill her childhood of owning a fashion label .

Mrs. Muzondiwa started designing and sewing African garments using an old model domestic machine.

She went to ZWB seeking for assistance so that she can export her clothes to other countries and she was referred to Zimtrade.

Her clothes were assessed to see whether they met the minimum required standards and quality for export.

Mrs Muzondiwa was advised by Zimtrade to purchase more

machines so that she can reach the required export standards.

She bought four sewing machines and started to sew and designing her products.

After a while she revisited Zimtrade again in 1998 for assessment finally her wardrobe was approved.

Zimtrade gave her an opportunity to attend a one year training which was called New Exporters Program.

Through the trainings and ZWB assistance, Mrs. Muzondiwa is now a director of Delight Ethnic garments which was established in 1998 which specializes in designing African attire and hand crafts and is exporting clothes to France .