Women networking platforms have made me the Tracey Chibonda I am today. After losing my job at Renaissance Bank when its license was withdrawn, I thought that was the end of the world to me not until I visited the ZWB offices. They convincingly shared with me their mandate of social and economic empowerment of women. I was hesitant at first to become a member and then just decided to give it a try and this was indeed the turning point in my entrepreneurship life.

I joined Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau in March 2014 and we managed to form a Savings and Credit Cooperative that is registered with the Ministry of Small to Medium Enterprises. The Cooperative has twenty members, of which I am the Chairperson.

I then decided to own business as a cross boarder trader going to Tanzania and South Africa and business operations have been made uneasy with the import statutory instruments.

Through Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau I have had an opportunity to network with many business people and share motivational ideas through workshops and other platforms. In 2014 I also completed a training course in sack potato at certificate level; courtesy of ZWB. Through continuous networking platforms facilitated by ZWB in 2015 I was able to start my detergents business. I make sunlight liquid, engine cleaner, toilet cleaner and degreaser. I have even managed to become a supplier in some wholesalers and I am yet to extend my supplies into retail shops and the demand levels are currently very high.

I have branded my detergents Triple T, which are the initials of my children’s names.

In October 2016 ZWB awarded me an opportunity to access my first business loan of US$300.I used it to start my stationery business which makes African print diaries, journals, files, gift bags, pens, and note pads.

DIRECTOR’S CORNER
Welcome readers to the ZWB newsletter edition. I am pleased to share with you our first member edition. Here you will find articles on the different and interesting ways ZWB is empowering women through its mission and vision.

In these past few months we have seen an increased focus and impact on social and economic rights of women. Happy reading and we welcome your ideas and feedback. Please feel free to contact director@zwbonline.org
Making Thousands Through Tomatoes.....

John Maravanyika, from Ward 20, Goromonzi is making thousands of dollars through vegetable production. “I have always been engaged into vegetable production but I kept no records and had not received any proper training in vegetable production this caused a lot of challenges for my business.”

John then joined ZWB in 2015 when the organisation was launching its Enterprise and Business Development Programme. “At first, I thought ZWB and the EBDP were only targeting women, however after all was unveiled to me, I realized that this was the perfect programme to change my life and I then joined ZWB as a member. After joining ZWB he and the other participants were trained in crop production, record keeping, business management, income savings and poultry production. Being equipped with the training, John then enhanced his vegetable production enterprise with the main crop being tomatoes.

“My main crop is tomatoes and I farm about 5000 tomatoes that take 3 months to mature. I make a net income of $3000 after each harvest. Tracking these figures and transactions only became possible after ZWB trained us on record keeping and crop production.”

John is in the process of applying for a $300 loan from ZWB as he needs to expand his enterprises into poultry production.

As a way of easily accessing rural finance, John and the other 10 members have created an Internal Savings And Lendings (ISALs) group in which they contribute $100 a month and loan it to group members at 10% interest rate. The EBDP being implemented by ZWB and We Effect, being funded by Sida has been changing lives for people in rural lives. They have been empowered socially and economically.

One of the major purposes of the Enterprise and Business Development Programme being implemented by ZWB is to make financial services easily accessible for people living in the rural areas. A phenomenal milestone for this cause has been surpassed in Gokwe, Gawa Ward through a SACCO that was formed under ZWB’s EBPD and registered under the Ministry of Small to Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development. Gawa SACCO started as a commodity association that then joined with other ISAL groups and started operating as a SACCO on 28 April 2016 with $1560 but was formally registered in September 2016.

The SACCO is made up of 118 members from 14 ISAL groups. The SACCO has 78 females and 40 males including youths. Currently the SACCO loans up to $300 to individuals and they are planning to start a revolving fund scheme.

The groups that make up the SACCO are engaged into various enterprises; 4 are into goat rearing, 4 into gardening, 1 into beef production, others into peanut butter making poultry and buying and selling.

Members report that access to finance has been made easier through such initiatives like SACCOs.

“Capacitating a person and providing him or her with knowledge to do things is the best and only handout that should be provided to rural communities in Zimbabwe for us to realize meaningful and sustainable rural development,” Gawa SACCO Chairperson.
Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau took it to community level to commemorate World Food Day. World Food Day commemorations were held in Gokwe, Goromonzi, Gweru, Mutare and Zhombe. The theme of the was, “Climate is changing, food and agriculture must too” The essence of commemorating the day is declared commitment to eradicate hunger in communities. With the advent of climate change, this year’s theme was to raise awareness to rural communities on the changing climatic conditions and how they can adapt and mitigate climate change.

ZWB, rural communities and local stakeholders, (NGOs, Ministries of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development; Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, Small to Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development), Livestock Production Department, Local Authorities and Local Leaders, joined forces to recognize the belated World Food Day commemorations.

Participants also took the opportunity to showcase the various food they produce. The farmers present were encouraged to move with time and practice farming methods that are adaptive to climate change. This include focusing more on small grains and small livestock.

The event also served as a way of facilitating access to markets. Also deliberations were made on cross-cutting issues like Gender Based Violence, HIV and AIDS, inheritance and access to resources for women.

All the stakeholders in presence agreed to work together with ZWB in empowering communities socially and economically.

ZWB TRAINING CENTRE

FOR ALL YOUR AFFORDABLE CONFERENCE AND ACCOMODATION FACILITIES.............

ZWB offers the 300 seater and 20 seater conference halls which can be hired by anyone wishing to hold conferences, meetings or workshops. Overnight accommodation for 43 people and meals are also provided at reasonable prices. Meals are cooked as much as possible with locally grown, organic ingredients from the ZWB backyard garden. During 2015 to 2016, ZWB has re-invested income generated from the training centre to improve its services for its customers, members and other stakeholders.

Planning a workshop, conference or wedding / graduation? ZWB is the perfect venue in leafy Hillside close to Harare CBD and Mukuvisi Woodlands.
Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau is a membership based organisation that was formed in 1978 with the thrust of empowering women socially and economically. The vision of the organisation is: A Zimbabwe in which all women are treated as equals, empowered and their socio-economic and political rights are respected. ZWB operates in nationwide in Zimbabwe and has presence in 20 districts of Zimbabwe. The 5 major areas of focus for ZWB are sustainable agriculture; entrepreneurship development; research, lobby and advocacy; information dissemination and capacity building.

ZWB also has a training centre that is used for hire to individuals, companies and organisations to host activities and events. ZWB also offers overnight accommodation and meals at affordable rates in Harare.

Would you like to be part of Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau and enjoy lots of benefits like market linkages and access to financing? ZWB has three membership categories:

- Individual members – subscribe with only $5 a year
- Group Members – each member pays $2.00 and group subscribes $5 for the whole year.
- Institutions and community based organisations – subscribe with $100.00 per year

Join today and enjoy a lot more benefits!!!

To join contact us on Contact us on +263-4-747905, +263864072565

zwbtc2@gmail.com, www.zwbonline.org

OR visit us at 43 Hillside Road, Hillside Harare

More on the World Food Day..........

Participants of the World Food Day commemorations also managed to bring various traditional food that they produce. Participants were encouraged to turn more on traditional foods since they are nutritious and are less likely to cause various disease. This year’s community World Food Day commemorations were unique and phenomenal in that many men also attended the commemorations. This also shows that ZWB’s programs has left no one behind (both men and women, youths and adults) and everyone is appreciating the Enterprise and Business Development Programme. Here are some of the pictures for Gokwe World Food Day.