



UN WOMEN ZIMBABWE

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

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COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE'S NOTE

In April 2022, I moved to Zimbabwe to become the new Country Representative for the Zimbabwe Country Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Working together with my Deputy Country Representative and the UN Women Zimbabwe team, we continued to build on the country office's mandate, achievements and partnerships to advance the gender equality and women's rights and empowerment agenda.

The year was marked by the celebration of women and girls who are committed to building a more sustainable future for ALL including in challenging humanitarian crises; the introduction of Innovation in our engagement with stakeholders and partners (launch of the first Gender Café for interactive dialogues on topical gender equality and women's rights issues); and as the Technical Lead of the UN Joint Programme on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, the Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative, we added our applause to Zimbabwe winning the Fortitude Award at the first Spotlight Initiative Global Learning Symposium held in September in Cancun, Mexico.

Key areas of focus in 2022, among others, included strengthening gender accountability mechanisms; ensuring compliance with the reporting for normative frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the publication of the CEDAW National Action Plan; increasing male engagement through the UN Women He4She Initiative which in Zimbabwe is now not only at the national level, but is being 'localized' at community level in the five Spotlight Initiative Provinces (Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Matabeleland South, Harare Provinces); and planting the seeds for building a Gender Equality and Women's Rights Movement that is focused on using intersectionality as a frame of analysis to dismantle inequalities.

Our partners include Government Ministries, Independent Commissions (notably the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, the Judicial Services Commission), the Judiciary, gender equality and women's rights groups and a wide range of groups working at provincial and district levels to end violence against women and girls and harmful practices. Within the UN, we continue to foster joint partnerships with agencies to strengthen the delivery of gender results under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

I am proud of the achievements in 2022. Moving forward, challenges remain, and while we will modestly take a step-by-step approach, we will aim to set milestones and targets that contribute to the country's achievement of SDG 5. We look forward to 2023 with a renewed commitment to the joining of hand and minds with our partners to fight inequality and push towards a more gender-equitable Zimbabwe.

Fatou A. Lo

Fatou Aminata Lo

Country Representative



1. INTRODUCTION



Zimbabwe has shown a strong commitment to gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women and girls in its legal and policy frameworks. The country has signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),¹ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and adopted the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Women, Peace, and Security. The 2013 Constitution includes strong gender equality and women's rights provisions, and the revised National Gender Policy and the policy's Implementation Strategy, and Action Plan provides specific actions for mainstreaming gender in all sectors. Through the Spotlight Initiative, the country now has a High-Level Political Compact on ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices by 2030 which includes a Plan of Action and M&E Framework.

Implementation of the laws and policies remains the main challenge to closing gender inequalities and to effectively and consistently protecting the rights of women and girls. Women comprise 31% of the National Assembly and 43.7% of the Senators in Parliament due to a special measure in the Constitution. In local government councils, 13.3% of the elected councillors are women. The trend is similar in private companies. In 2019, out of the 103 CEOs of state-owned parastatals, only 15 were female.² Violence against women continues to be a pervasive human rights abuse. The 2019 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey shows 39% of females reported being physically abused since 15, and 12% between 15-49 years had experienced sexual violence.

Violence severely constrains the rights of women to exercise their choice and agency in many spheres. For example, women's participation in politics and leadership is hindered by the threat of violence. In the 2022 by-elections, at least six women were reportedly hurt or violently harassed. Such incidents continue to discourage and hinder women's participation in electoral processes.

In this context, UN Women strategically focused on

- (1) strengthening the oversight and monitoring of the implementation of gender equality and women's rights commitment by relevant institutions;
- (2) women's participation in political processes throughout the electoral cycle;
- (3) high-level advocacy and the strengthening of conflict prevention mechanisms; and
- (4) raising public awareness of the negative impact of violence against women and girls and on the positive benefits of women's meaningful participation in politics and leadership.

Our UN System-Wide Coordination on Gender Mainstreaming to ensure gender accountability also continued in 2022. This work included employing thought leadership and technical expertise in the form of gender data, information and analyses to inform key UN and national documents including the Country Context Analysis (CCA), National Development Strategy One (NDS1), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and the UN Socio-Economic Framework in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹CEDAW was signed and ratified in 1979

²Women on Boards: A Review of Zimbabwe Listed Companies 2019, Bernard Chidziva, ISOR-Journal of Business and Management, Volume 21, Issue 12, Ser III (December 2019), pg. 62-65 (all 60 listed Boards)

2. OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

18



UN agencies including the Resident Coordinator's office in Zimbabwe committed to implementing and reporting achievements on gender equality and women empowerment.

14



Peace Huts, platforms for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in remote communities set up under the Spotlight Initiative, by Community Based Organisations in Manicaland Province.



1,6 Million

people reached by **#ViolenceFreeSpaces** Campaign against gender-based violence in public spaces, public messaging disseminated through face-to-face engagement, social and electronic media.

34

Civil society organisations trained on gender-based violence, laws, policies, and referral pathways for victims of abuse.

48

1325
women | peace | security
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Policy Makers (29 females and 19 males) (**Members of Parliament and Senators**) received training on **UNSCR 1325** and its significance to local policy making processes.

150

Gender Champions implementing community engagement strategies such as SASA Toolkit, a methodology changing community attitudes, norms, and behaviours around gender, violence, and the risk of and vulnerability to HIV infection among women.

68

Traditional leaders engaged in developing traditional leader's model and framework to end violence against women and girls.

496
(362 females)

Market vendors in Epworth, Highfields-Lusaka and Hatcliffe vegetable markets gained access to rehabilitated markets, better sanitation facilities and enhanced occupational safety and health.



80

Aspiring women political candidates from different political parties supported and trained to participate in upcoming 2023 elections.



100 000

People reached with COVID_19 information dissemination campaign and vaccination drive in Guruve and Mbire district, Mashonaland Central Province.

14,005



(9,332 Female and 4,673 Male)

Youths reached (9,332 Female and 4,673 Male) through interventions implemented with and/or for youths including but not limited to the Innovators Against GBV programme, #HeForShe on university campuses, AWLN Youth caucus, Youth Peace and Security consultations and the Investing in Adolescent girls and Young Women's Leadership and Voice in the HIV programme.

500



Women in Mbire and Guruve districts) contributed to improved hygiene and slowing down of the spread of COVID-19 and other infections in their local community, through production and distribution of face masks and liquid soap.

10

Knowledge products on gender equality, women empowerment and women rights issues developed and disseminated.

3. KEY HIGHLIGHTS



UN Women provided the Technical Coordination and Technical Coherence for the Zimbabwe's Spotlight Initiative Country Joint Programme (six UN agencies) **which won one of the seven global awards in 2022.** *The Fortitude Award*, presented at the **Spotlight Global Learning Symposium** held in September 2022, Cancún, Mexico, recognises the Country Programme for the resolve, determination and resilience demonstrated to ensure that eliminating violence against women and girls continued in the face of COVID-19 and other unforeseen circumstances.



UN Women **successfully coordinated implementation of the 2022 UN System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) Gender Scorecard** and the development of the subsequent report on the Scorecard's findings. Eighteen out of the 22 UN agencies resident in Zimbabwe participated in this exercise and have committed to consistent reporting on UN gender achievements.



Significant steps were made towards **movement building on Gender Equality and GBV** at community, district, and provincial levels. Through support from the Spotlight Initiative, UN Women's Implementing Partners created networks of stakeholders – community-based groups, the police, government officials and GBV service providers, among others -to conduct joint advocacy initiatives on EAW. At the national level, the umbrella Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe coordinated over 46 women's groups to develop two joint statements targeted at duty bearers calling for specific actions on EAW.



Some **140 women representatives from the country's 10 Provinces participated in a national policy dialogue** supported by UN Women to share their critical areas of concern for the 2023 National Budget. A Policy Brief based on their discussions was developed by UN Women's partner – University of Zimbabwe Economics Department – and shared with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Finance.



Eighty (80) aspiring women political candidates who will contest in the 2023 general elections were trained in the *Women's Rise in Politics Mentorship Programme* through a collaboration between the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and UN Women.



The National Action Plans (NAP) for Youth and Women, Peace and Security was developed by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Ministry of Defence and War Veteran Affairs and Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Recreation, in collaboration with national stakeholders.



Gender programme intervention in the national HIV response, strengthened through using the Making the HIV Response work for Women through PILI Film toolkit, targeting all 10 provinces. Thirty-five (35) government officials, 20 civil society leaders and 15 community leaders and activists were trained in the process.



Thirty (20 females and 10 males) Innovators Against Gender-based Violence (IAGs) participated in an experiential leadership development initiative that harnesses the talents, energy and creativity of graduate volunteers and inspires innovative volunteerism to create safer communities for women and girls while building a critical mass of skilled experts on gender.

4. CONVENING AND COORDINATION



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



United Nations
Development Programme
www.undp.org





In 2022, UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development began consultations to revitalise the National Gender Machinery and to establish an inclusive Gender Sector Working Group to create coordinated platforms within Government and externally to influence and lobby for the implementation of the national gender equality and women's rights priorities. Consultations were convened with Government Ministries, Civil Society, Young Women's representatives, Development partners and the UN. Consultations with Parliament will continue in 2023.

Within the UN, UN Women Zimbabwe led the reconstitution of the Gender Thematic Working Group (GTWG) in 2022. The GTWG currently has 30 members, who hold decision-making positions within their respective agencies. UN Women facilitates and chairs the group's quarterly meetings, and coordinates with the agencies the key gender equality actions in their



work plans. UNDP and UNICEF are the alternate chairs of the GTWG. The group has set out its Terms of References for the next five years, developed an 18-months- workplan and a learning plan for the UN-Wide System.

To foster accountability for Gender Mainstreaming into the UN Country Team's corporate functions, UN Women Zimbabwe led the adoption by all entities of a System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and implemented the UN SWAP Gender Scorecard, to improve the UN performance on mainstreaming gender equality.

The Scorecard has 15 performance indicators, and the UNCT improved on its 2021 scores.

UN Women Zimbabwe also has provided the UN System with technical support to track and report the financial investment to gender through the UN Gender Marker and UN Info. Capacity strengthening on application of the gender marker was done for UNSDCF Results Group.



5. ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The image shows a woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a bright yellow blazer and a gold watch, signing a large white board. The board is part of a campaign with several sections:

- Tolerance** (in a green box)
- Gender Equality** (in a brown box)
- #LetsGo505** (in a yellow box)
- No To Violence** (in a green box)
- I PLEDGE:** (in an orange box)

Below the 'I PLEDGE:' section is a grid of boxes for signatures. Some boxes already contain signatures in blue and black ink. The woman is currently signing one of the boxes with a black marker.

At the bottom of the board, there are logos for various organizations:

- UN Women
- WE CAN DO THIS
- WOMEN'S UNION
- WOMEN'S UNION
- WOMEN'S UNION
- Hivos
- actalliance
- INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT
- GENDER LINKS

UN Women's work on Ending Violence Against Women in Zimbabwe focused on strengthening the Women's Movement, on expanding the agency's footprints in the country, and on increasing its Civil Society partnerships all through its interventions in the European Union- funded Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative.

In 2022, the agency continued to strengthen the capacity of 70 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to use various social accountability mechanisms – community scorecards and participatory budgeting and public expenditure tracking tools. CBOs, women's rights



groups, and groups representing groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination also gained more knowledge and skills on how to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their EAWG programmes.

Implementing Partners **created strategic linkages at the district and community levels in the continued fight to end Gender Based Violence.** Strong cooperation agreements were established with Rural District Councils (RDCs) on the inclusion of CBO members in RDCs platforms such as full council and social services meetings, especially in provinces and districts where the Spotlight Initiative is implemented, such as the Rushinga and Mbire Districts in Mashonaland Centra Province.

In **promotion of community-based conflict resolution and gender justice**, UN Women Zimbabwe supported its partners in Manicaland Province in the eastern part of the country to work with traditional community structures to develop the Peace Hut Model, which traditional leaders within the Province and in other Provinces of the country tout as a replicable prototype for addressing GBV and Harmful Practices such as early marriages by communities.

In **Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women**, UN Women supported an EAWW symposium, facilitated by the Women's Coalition in Zimbabwe (WCOZ). A joint advocacy statement calling for greater action from duty bearers to implement policies to end violence against women and girls was issued by more than 46 women's groups, CSOs and individual women rights activists.



6. GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



 **UN WOMEN**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

What We Do

• Leadership and Political Participation

• Empowerment

• Inequality

• Women's Security

• Women's Economic Empowerment

• Women's Political Participation

• Women's Leadership

• Women's Empowerment

• Women's Security

• Women's Economic Empowerment

UN Women supported the development of a **National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security** led by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the Ministry of Defence and War Veteran Affairs, in collaboration with national stakeholders. Community consultations on the development of the NAP were carried out in six Provinces with 310 stakeholders involved (195 Females and 115 Males). Also, a **Handbook for Parliamentarians on UNSCR 1325** was developed and disseminated to 950 policy makers to increase their knowledge on the content of the Resolution.

In collaboration with the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, UN Women supported the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation and stakeholders to commence the development of a **National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace, and Security**. Orientation of 22 participating National Steering Committee members and consultations with national stakeholders were conducted in Bulawayo and Harare reaching 135 people in total of which 50% women.

The 2022 **launch of the first Provincial African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)** Chapter in Bulawayo, in the Southern part of the country, now serves as a model for the establishment of AWLN Provincial Chapters across Zimbabwe. The launch created a platform for discussion on women's leadership attracting over 60 stakeholders comprising members of the AWLN Network, the media, women leaders from Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and South Provinces and female members of Parliament.

As the country moved towards the **2023 general elections**, UN Women contributed to the **trainings of 60 women leaders and peace actors on Gender-Sensitive Conflict Management, Prevention and Resolution**, in collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and the African Women Leaders Network in Zimbabwe.





The **prevention of violence against women during the elections** has also been a major focus of UN Women Zimbabwe's support during the various stages of the electoral cycle. The African Women Leaders Network was supported to facilitate a multi-stakeholder roundtable session with representatives from the three major political parties in Parliament. Over 33 pledges on combatting Violence Against Women in Politics were signed during this session.

An assessment that focused on the **barriers that affect women's political participation at the Local Government level** was conducted and identified barriers that hinder women's effective participation. Recommendations to address these barriers were shared widely with relevant stakeholders. Knowledge products capturing the recommendations were produced and shared with stakeholders.

Media practitioners from television, radio, print, and online media were trained on gender-responsive coverage, representation, and reporting on women's political participation to combat the negative reporting, which is a major barrier to women's participation in public life and leadership. This training can be institutionalized in media houses and media training institutions with the Media Handbook on Women's Political Participation, Media Monitoring Tools, and Media Guide and Checklist for Editors on Women Political Participation produced by UN Women.

Building on the success of the 2021 **Women's Rise in Politics Training and Mentorship Programme**, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, a series of trainings were conducted in 2022 to strengthen the capacities of over **80 aspiring women political candidates** who will contest in four electoral districts in the 2023 elections.

7. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



Institutional strengthening is a cross-cutting priority, which supports the Government and CSOs to ensure recommendations and commitments in normative frameworks (such as CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform, SADC Gender Protocol, Maputo Protocol) are domesticated, implemented and monitored. In 2022, UN Women Zimbabwe provided technical support to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development to produce the CEDAW Mid-Term report and to roll out the recommendations for the CEDAW National Action Plan in Zimbabwe's 10 Provinces.



An innovation in Zimbabwe for gender equality and women's rights activists in Zimbabwe has been the development and in 2022, operationalization of a new platform for the engagement in existing and upcoming law and policy making processes. UN Women supported this initiative through the Spotlight Country Programme to ensure that activists and women across the country have access to information on policymaking processes, so that they can form pro-active lobby and advocacy strategies. As at the end of 2022, more than 100 users have accessed and others registered on the platform. The LWAZI (*knowledge in the local Ndebele language*) platform can be accessed at: <https://lwazi.co.zw/>

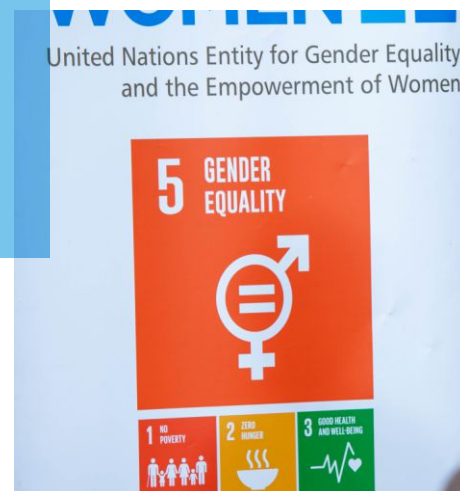
Financing for gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be a priority. The agency continued to support the Ministry of Finance in building the Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB) and GRB auditing capacity of budget officers and gender focal persons in six ministries –Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs; Primary and Secondary Education; Health and Child Welfare; Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; and Land, Agriculture and Fisheries. Some 24 (20 females and 4 males) government officials were trained. This exercise was seen as an opportunity to improve the preparation of the gender budget proposals for the 2023 fiscal year.

UN Women convened also **virtual policy dialogues with women and men from across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces** to discuss gender issues to be considered for the 2022 mid-term Budget Review Statement and 2023 National Budget. One hundred and forty (140 participants (131 women, 9 men) participated. A policy brief was produced outlining the concerns and key asks which was shared with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the Parliament Portfolio Committees on budgeting and gender. And women also engaged with the Parliamentary Budget Committee during the post-budget analysis.

The Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) was similarly supported to convene and host **Gender Forums at the provincial and national levels** on Gender and Economic Empowerment- for Inclusive Economic Growth. Five policy briefs were developed on the sub themes- financial inclusion, women's participation in key decision-making positions, women's business ownership, GBV and women's economic empowerment, and the viability of livelihood activities for rural women. These briefs will inform the ZGC's engagement with relevant government ministries, departments, and Parliament in 2023.

UN Women **strengthened the coordination mandate of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development** in 2022 at the Provincial and District levels to develop and implement GBV and gender equality action plans that are aligned to national policies and strategies. The Provincial and District Gender Equality and GBV coordination mechanisms in the five Spotlight Provinces – Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Harare and Matabeleland South – were technically supported to develop Action Plans based on the 2021 Spotlight High Level Political Compact to End Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices. Some 200 people including government officials, civil society organizations, religious institutions and traditional leaders in the coordination mechanisms participated in the planning processes to align their coordination plans at sub-national level with a national document.

Chiefs and traditional leaders are a key constituency in the fights against GBV and ending harmful practices in Zimbabwe. UN Women, in a partnership with the MWACSMED, engaged with 34 traditional leaders and Chiefs in the Spotlight Manicaland and Matabeleland Provinces to develop a framework to end violence against women and girls and to strengthen their knowledge of the laws and policies to end child marriages.



8. WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



To ensure women and girls benefit from opportunities in renewable energies, UN Women joined other Agencies in working towards catalysing investments into renewable energy for the acceleration of the attainment of the SDGs in Zimbabwe Fund (UNSDG-F)

The fund intends to catalyse investments in climate and sustainable energy projects particularly those that benefit women and youth for the achievement of SDGs 5, 7, 9, 13 and 17 in Zimbabwe for positive social benefits for local communities. These activities will include the fund launch and capital injection into the Renewable Energy Fund (REF), REF governance structures will be set up, structuring and deployment of innovative finance products for the RE sector, including for women and youth (Recycling Grants, Senior Debt, Cash cover/First Loss cover, Equity/Convertible Instruments).

A gender-responsive policy and guiding framework for safer markets and a manual based on the participatory by-laws development model were established in the Safe Markets Programme to enable local authorities to use a gender lens when reviewing the by-laws, policies and other regulatory frameworks that govern the operations of food, vegetables, and fruits markets. Thirty-one (31) participants from the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the City of Harare Council, and the Epworth Local Board, involved participated in the development of the gender-responsive regulatory frameworks.

Under the Spotlight initiative, the **Innovators Against Gender Based Violence (IAGs) brought new energy, creativity, knowledge, and skills of university graduates to programming**, while also addressing youth unemployment during their deployment. The IAGs have supported the design of innovative programmes and campaigns that address SGBV/HP/SRHR in the districts where they have been stationed. UN Women oriented the IAGs in various professional soft skills as well as the expected results of the programme before deployment. The youth Innovators Against Gender-Based Violence also replicated the #HeForShe Movement in 4 Spotlight Provinces.





9. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



UN Women strengthened advocacy for improved health service delivery for women and girls living with HIV and AIDS through the support to various civil society groups working with women living with HIV and disability, such as the Zimbabwe Women Living with HIV National Forum (ZWLWHNF).

The Forum members 16 organisations and 36 community activists were trained to use the social accountability toolkit, which allowed for active participation of women in key decision-making processes; and they were capacitated to monitor the quality and delivery of HIV services in order to hold public officials, elected officials and health care providers accountable to the commitments made for HIV and other Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) service delivery.

Consolidating our gains on HIV prevention, as part of our Spotlight Initiative and HIV prevention programme we are **supporting the implementation of the SASA! Together Methodology**, a gender transformative GBV and HIV prevention model reaching over 12 000 people in 2022 in partnership with Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT), Katswe Sistahood and Hope for a Child in Christ (HOCIC) in Hopley, Mbire and Matobo districts.

To **boost advocacy capacities within the HIV response space**, UN Women has supported the participation of 11 adolescent girls and young women to attend a leadership and mentorship programme with one participant presenting Zimbabwe at the International Conference on AIDS at UN Women's satellite session on "Investing in Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Leadership and Voice in the HIV Response.

Male engagement is being used to promote improved HIV health service seeking behavior by men and promote positive masculinities in HIV





prevention and treatment. UN Women provided technical support to the development of Faith Based Organisations (FBO) Toolkit on Male Engagement In Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)/Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) led by UNAIDS.

16 organisations and 36 community activists including those led by Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) were trained to use a Social Accountability toolkit which enabled them to engage with service providers in demand of effective, quality, and affordable HIV services.

Using a Film toolkit titled **Pili**, we **trained Civil Society Organisations** and government officials in all ten provinces to apply gendered programme intervention in the national HIV response targeting 35 government officials, 20 civil society leaders and 15 community members and activists being trained in the process.

Working with the National Aids Council UN Women **trained 37 stakeholder representatives** from, National Aids Council , ZACH, HOCIC, Katswe Sistahood, SAYWHAT, Bantwana, and Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development in the Support phase of the SASA Together Methodology enabling them to implement the third phase of the SASA Together Methodology which focuses on building skills and encouraging community members to join power with others to prevent violence against women. Katswe Sisterhood's community activists, an implementing partner, of UN Women were trained by the National AIDS Council to generate and enter SASA Together data into the District Health Information System (DHIS2).



10. GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Under the Japanese government funded project '**Prevention of COVID-19 infection among vulnerable women and girls in drought-affected districts (Guruve and Mbire) of Mashonaland Central Province in Zimbabwe**', a cumulatively COVID-19 vaccination reach of 64,977 was achieved.

According to Ministry of Health and Child Care data, **26% increase for women and girls receiving COVID-19 vaccinations** was attained in Guruve and Mbire during the 1st half of the year (April - September 2022). Vaccination of **17560 for measles** and **11411 children for Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Vitamin A** when women were receiving their COVID-19 jabs was also attained. bringing vaccinations closer to the communities made it easier for women who are overburdened with unpaid care work.

Over 100 000 people were reached with COVID-19 information in Guruve and Mbire districts facilitated by the use of a multimedia approach in communications, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials produced and **119 village health workers trained** to support community mobilization and awareness raising efforts on the COVID-19 pandemic.

500 women in Mbire and Guruve districts were trained in the production of face masks and liquid soap to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other infections in the local community. The initiative generated the much-required livelihood and income for women as it also contributed to peacebuilding within households addressing issues of GBV in humanitarian settings.

Empowering women through **Safe, Resilient, Gender-Responsive Food Markets and systems** in response to COVID-19 in Zimbabwe was also a focus for UN Women in the humanitarian sector in 2022.





UN Women jointly implemented the **Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Safe Markets Programme** with UNDP and ILO as part of the UNCT's coordinated response to COVID-19, funded through the MPTF COVID-19 Response Fund. Vulnerable women traders were supported to ensure their resilience and recovery from socio-economic and humanitarian shocks which negatively affect their informal trading. Three Safe, Inclusive and Violence-Free Markets in the low-income urban settlements of Mbare, Highfields and Hartcliffe, in Harare, were rehabilitated.

In addition to the infrastructural developments at the markets, **120 women vendors were trained to run and manage their businesses in a sustainable way** and the women learnt how to utilize digital financial services, e-commerce and entrepreneurship skills to expand their businesses. An E-based national knowledge centre to generate, process and share market-oriented information with small holder farmers was created and 810 women vendors were trained on how to use this platform.



11. WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUTH



Working with our partners, we continued mainstreaming youth throughout our programmes, engaging them as active participants and beneficiaries of development and humanitarian interventions, directly reaching a total of 14,005 youth (9,332 Female and 4,673 Male). UN Women contributed to the drafting of the UN Zimbabwe Joint Framework on Youth and provided technical and financial support to nine youth-focused and youth-led CSOs. In addition, we continued to champion youth-focused programmes chiefly the Innovators Against Gender-based Violence (IAG) programme and the African Women Leaders Network Zimbabwe Youth Caucus (AWLN Youth Caucus).

Working with the University of Zimbabwe under the IAG programme we facilitated the **production of critical knowledge on Gender, GBV, Harmful Practices and SRHR**. 5 research reports, 5 journal papers and 10 policy briefs awaiting publication and dissemination to stakeholders where produced.

To offer programme and administrative support to identified civil society organisations, UN Women deployed 25 Field-based Innovators Against GBV (17 Female and 8 Male) to 5 provincial offices managed by our Implementing partners (Matabeleland South, Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central), as part of the Graduate Internship programme.



12. PARTNERSHIPS



In 2022 UN Women leveraged its convening power, bringing together industry leaders, private sector strategic development partners, UN Agencies and Government organisations to engage in peer-to-peer learning through sharing best practices and innovative approaches being implemented to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Believing in the power of collective action, UN Women also strengthened key alliances and partnerships with the European Union Delegation, Heads of Missions and Heads of Agencies through the #HeForShe Campaign Group of Diplomats; launched the Inaugural session of the Gender Café with UNDP and supported the chapter 12 Commissions and the Ministry of Women Affairs Small and Medium Enterprises Development to carry out the government mandate in pursuance of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

Partnerships with civil society organisations, academic institutions, local communities and the media continued in the implementation of our gender equality mandate. To elevate grassroots voices of women, UN Women supported the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and other women's rights organisations form a coordinated voice that spoke to policy makers, various arms of government and local authorities. Engaging women's rights activists, social influencers and Traditional leaders was critical to influencing social, transformative change, strengthening movement building against GBV in private and public spaces. Partners in the media and on digital platforms such as celebrities and social influencers remained essential in standing in for the marginalised and giving visibility to women's voices.



13. LOOKING FORWARD



We will intensify our initiatives to provide technical coherence to the mainstreaming of gender in UN Joint Programmes and UN system-wide actions; and play a greater role in convening the stakeholders in the gender equality and women's rights sector in Zimbabwe to create stronger synergies.

To establish ownership and support for projects focusing on issues that are not clearly understood or considered sensitive by stakeholders such as 'peace and security', requires adequate time for stakeholder orientation and engagement to ensure full appreciation of the purpose and objectives.

Promoting and scaling up Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) initiatives is critical in enabling women, and in particular young women, to effectively participate in decision-making processes. Increased participation of women in leadership processes requires financial backing that most young women have limited access to.

There is need for continuous collaborative action to strengthen the National Gender Machinery in Zimbabwe. Strengthening state accountability to gender equality is key to archiving SDGs. A draft framework for the National Gender Machinery developed together with a one-year implementation plan needs to be urgently finalised and rolled out.

Strengthening UN Women's communication with stakeholders on its strategic approach and mandate is key. UN Women in Zimbabwe's advocacy and communications efforts will be embedded across all thematic areas and programmes, to ensure transparency, accountability and wide ownership and engagement is achieved.

Ongoing capacity building and training to implementing partners on programme delivery and accountability aspects is critical to ensure quality programme delivery and reporting. We will enhance our interventions focused on youth and foster inter-generational leadership and collaboration as a way of harnessing the existing youth bulge and fulfilling the commitment to leaving no one behind.





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