

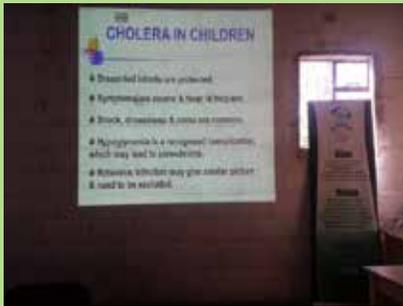


National Association
Of Non-Governmental
Organisation

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Strengthening the voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe





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Acronyms

AIPPA – Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
CBOs – Charity Based Organisations
CSO NIP – Civil Society Organisations National Indicative Program
CSOs – Civil Society Organisations
FNF – Fredrick Nauman Foundation for Freedom
IBP – International Budget Partnership
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
MDC Alliance – Movement for Democratic Change – Alliance
NANGO – National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
NGOs – Non Governmental Organisations
NPRC – National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
OBS – Open Budget Survey
PBO – Parliamentary Budget Office
POSA – Public Order and Security Act
RTGS – Real Time Gross Settlement
SADC – Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SAPST – Southern Africa Parliamentary Support Trust
SMS – Short Message Service
UNICEF – United Nations International Children’s Fund
USA – United States of America
WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ZAN – Zimbabwe Aids Network
ZANU-PF – Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZBC – Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation
ZEC – Zimbabwe Electoral Commission

About Us

The National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO) was founded in 1962, it is a non political, nonprofit making, and non-denominational official body of NGOs in Zimbabwe. NANGO is committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe and the full realization of human rights, democracy, good governance and poverty alleviation. The association amongst many of its objectives exists to promote, co-ordinate and organize, where necessary, the participation and contributions of non-governmental organizations in Zimbabwe in the social, economic and political development and promote and support all social, political and economic activities by organizations aiming at the benefit of a substantial or significant part of the Zimbabwean community including a special focus on such other activities that are meant to promote directly or indirectly, the well-being of the disadvantaged groups of the community.

Vision

To be a pro-active community of NGOs responsive and committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe and the full realization of human rights, democracy, good governance and poverty alleviation.

Mission

To strengthen, represent and coordinate the work of NGOs in Zimbabwe through creation of dialogue and engagement spaces that promote networking, building of synergies and knowledge sharing for the ultimate fulfillment of member's different mandates.

Governance structure

Membership: NANGO is a membership umbrella body of NGOs comprising of NGOs, CSOs and CBOs countrywide. The membership mandates NANGO to coordinate the activities of NGOs, represent the sector and strengthen the voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe.

The National Executive Committee: The supreme organ of NANGO is the National Annual General Meeting, convened to discuss policy and constitutional issues of the association. NANGO National Executive Committee is made up of 5 Regional Representatives. A board member is allowed to stand for elections for two consecutive three -year terms of office. The current board was elected in 2015, and its term of office comes to an end this year.

The Secretariat: The Secretariat operates from five offices located as follows: Harare (Northern Region: Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Harare Provinces). Gweru (Midlands Region: Midlands Province) Bulawayo (Western Region: Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South Provinces). Masvingo (Southern Region: Masvingo Province). Mutare: (Eastern Region: Manicaland Province). A total of 21 staff members constitute the secretariat that is responsible for the daily core mandate of the association.

From

The National Chairperson



Ronika Mumbire

The period January to December 2018 has been tumultuous for civil society and the nation at large as characterized by repressed civic spaces, high political polarization, economic melt down, skyrocketing inflation, contested election result, impunity and corruption within both public and private sectors. This comes amidst a renewed wave of online and offline protests whilst state authorities have continued to harass, and arbitrarily arrest those exercising their rights to assemble and voice dissent.

The writing on the wall was very clear following the November 2017 military assisted transition of power within ZANU-PF that it was not going to be business as usual for both Civil Society and communities. Unfortunately, Human rights defenders have not been spared from state brutality, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances. While the ‘new dispensation’ had pledged to prioritize economic and social reforms and greater international cooperation, the government has moved slowly to repeal the draconian Public Order and Security (POSA) Act, and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) that continue to hinder the existence and operations of CSOs in Zimbabwe. With further diminishing hope of government implementing the human rights recommendations, that it committed to at the 2017 Universal Periodic Review.

The pre-and post election period presented serious challenges for both Civil Society and the communities at large, bringing about an increase in security threats for Civil Society, unprecedented harassment, detainment and unilateral arrests of human rights defenders by state security agents. It is unfortunate to note that a number of our members countrywide have fallen victim to the overt and covert forms of violence in the last 12 months, with possibilities of an escalation of these human rights abuses as the economic trajectory continues on this downward spiral. At the same time, the July 2018 elections, had a number of electoral challenges that sadly spilled over post election leading to the violent demonstrations and loss of life- a dark moment in our elections history that will forever haunt us as a nation. Hence the urgency to create an inclusive Violence Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism in order to avert escalation of violence in the future.

On the economic front the President has been very active using his presidential powers in unprecedented ways, firstly announcing that Zimbabwe is to be a mid economic country by 2030, insisting on the 1:1 rate for United States dollars and RTGS balances/bond notes.

Directors Remarks



Leonard Mandishara

The year 2018 has been very difficult for most Civil Society Organizations in the country and beyond. Donor funding has been shrinking hence organizations have been operating on shoe string budgets, amid an increase in the demand for social economic and human rights services by the general populace. NANGO was not spared from this challenge, as Zimbabwe is going through a myriad of socio-economic and political challenges with very little opportunities for an average man and woman on the streets. The much-awaited hope that was brought in by the adoption of the new constitution in 2013 that was regarded as progressive in terms of promotion and protection of human rights is fast fading due to continued abuse of human rights and non-adherence to the constitution.

The 2018 elections ushered in a new government administration that committed to provide good governance based on the rule of law, opening up of democratic spaces, fighting against corruption and impunity and effective economic recovery measures, tenets that are at the heart of all Zimbabweans. However the lived experiences in just one-year portray a completely different picture. Instead, the opposite has been true.

Members continued facing both regulation and registration challenges, posed by selective application of the law especially at district levels by local authorities. Reports throughout the year indicate that establishing MoUs with a local authority particularly by CBOs has not eased in the last year as well. With local authorities tightening requirements, thus frustrating smooth implementation of programs and projects on the ground.

In 2018, there were four programs, and two projects that directly supported realization of the national strategic plan and these include Civil Society's National Indicative Programme Monitoring and Advocacy programme (CSO NIP) supported by EU. The project is being implemented in partnership with focal sectors of governance and institutional building, health and agriculture based economic development. The implementing partners, who are NANGO members are, ZICHIRE, ZAN, SAPST and Sam Moyo Institute of Agrarian Studies coordinated by NANGO. The lifespan of the project is three years that is 2018-2020. The programme seeks to strengthen CSOs watchdog role in the implementation of NIP through capacity enhancement to enable CSOs and communities to monitor, effectively participate, evaluate, document and make public the implementation results of NIP.

The second program is on Improving Budget Openness in Zimbabwe: Enhancing Transparency and accountability of public finances supported by UNICEF focusing on budget transparency and accountability. Thirdly, the Non State Actors Apex Alliance fund that ended in December that prioritized coordination and capacity development of non state actors coalescing and consensus building. The fourth program supported by SAVE the Children focused on Child Rights and Governance, ensuring that children and their issues are not left behind. Whilst the CIVICUS supported evidence-based advocacy and the FNF supported leadership consensus building platforms.

10th NGO Directors Summer School



2018 in Retrospect

In 2018, NANGO managed grants from the European Union, Save the Children, UNICEF, CIVICUS, FNF and the International Budget Partnership (IBP). Details of which are in the financial report. The Association successfully responded to five service delivery areas for members namely: capacity building and skills exchange, policy engagement and member meaningful participation, coordination and consensus building, Information dissemination and evidence based advocacy. Through these service delivery programs NANGO was able to offer the following services and programs to benefit members:

1. *Capacity building of members in:*

- ◆ Conflict Prevention Management Resolution Transformation
- ◆ Election observation
- ◆ Fund management and tax compliance
- ◆ Monitoring and Evaluation
- ◆ Public Social Accountability,

2. *Policy Engagement through multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings:*

- ◆ EU Roadmap for engagement with Civil Society
- ◆ Economy dialogue platforms
- ◆ Elections 2018 and Human rights watch
- ◆ Stakeholder response to epidemics
- ◆ Investment in Children and child participation

3. *Coordination of members and consensus building*

- ◆ Through participation on Government and Development Partner meetings and processes
- ◆ CSO Monitoring of the National Indicative Program

NGO Directors Summer School

Results in Scale

- a. NGOs influenced the Transitional Stabilization Programme Process
- b. NGOs executed the 2018 election roadmap
- c. The 10th NGO Directors Summer School resolutions adopted for implementation in 2019
- d. Baseline on the State of Transparency and Accountability Barometer on the National Indicative Program.

Impact NANGO has made

A. To strengthen institutional and program coordination by 2019

1. Enhancing CSO capacities

a. Election observation training

A total of 364 (184 females and 180 males) CSO representatives were trained in election observation in order to prepare them to effectively participate in the July 2018 harmonized election. The CSO personnel were trained in election observation through five two-day trainings from 16 to 24 July 2019 that were done in the Harare, Midlands, Bulawayo, Masvingo and Mutare provinces. The main objective of the trainings was to equip observers on how to effectively observe elections and to orient them on the reporting template. The NANGO's Election Observers Training Manual guided the election observation training, and experts from member organizations that program on elections were engaged to facilitate the trainings. Participants were drawn from NANGO's five regions as shown on figure 1:

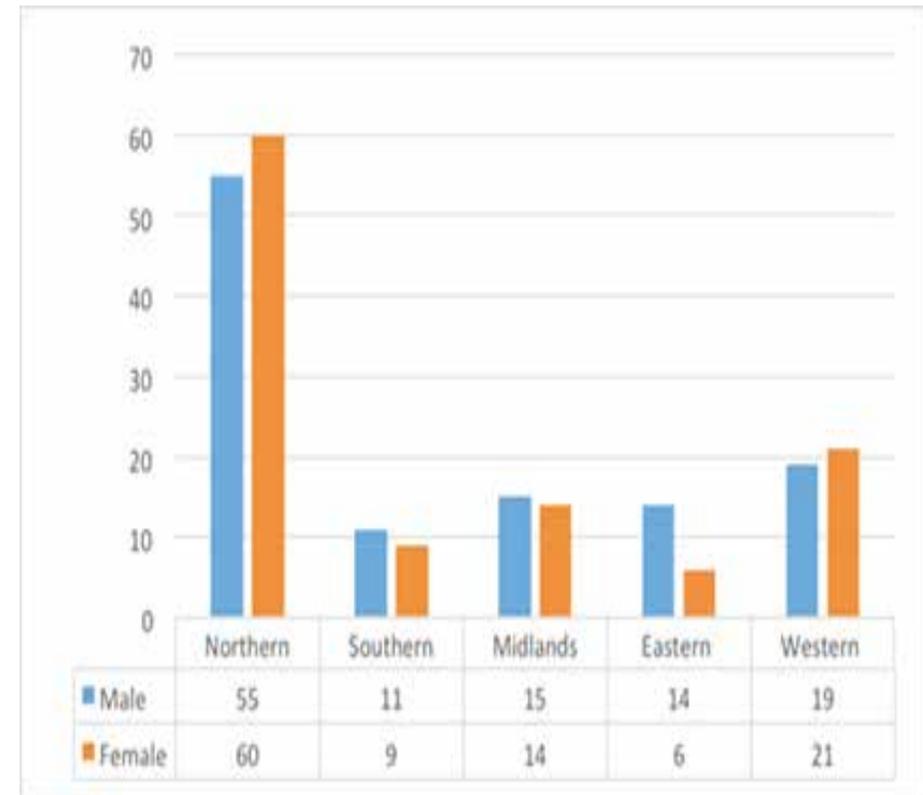


Figure 1: Number of people trained in election observation disaggregated by sex and region



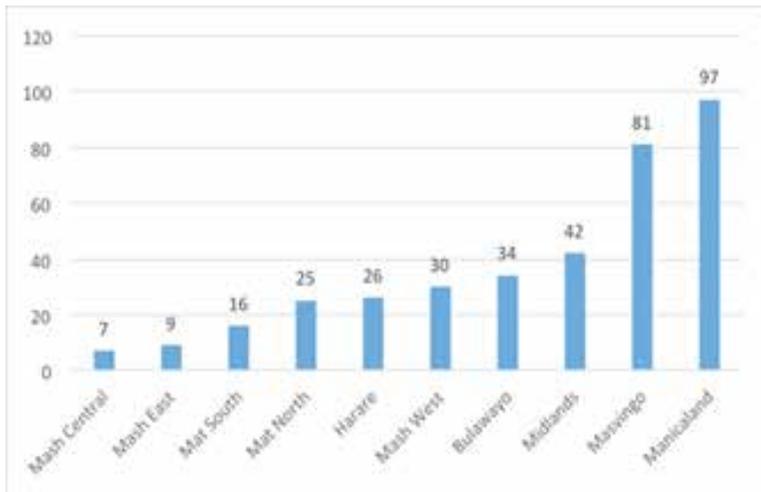
2018 Harmonized Elections



c. Public Social Accountability

A total of 395 (186 males and 209 females) CSO pool of experts from 367 organisations from across the country’s ten provinces were trained in evidence based advocacy, results based management, state party reporting, performance monitoring and evaluation and social accountability and able to train other CSOs and communities. Some of the experts are now also leading in training other CSOs during the downstream trainings that are being done in selected districts around the country. Through the capacity building initiatives for civil society experts, NANGO’s ten sectors have started monitoring the NIP implementation after being trained in results based management, social accountability, policy advocacy and communications.

Figure 2: Total number of people trained during downstream trainings



The participants were drawn from organisations in the NANGO’s ten thematic sectors as shown on the chart below:

Figure 3: Sector representation during downstream trainings

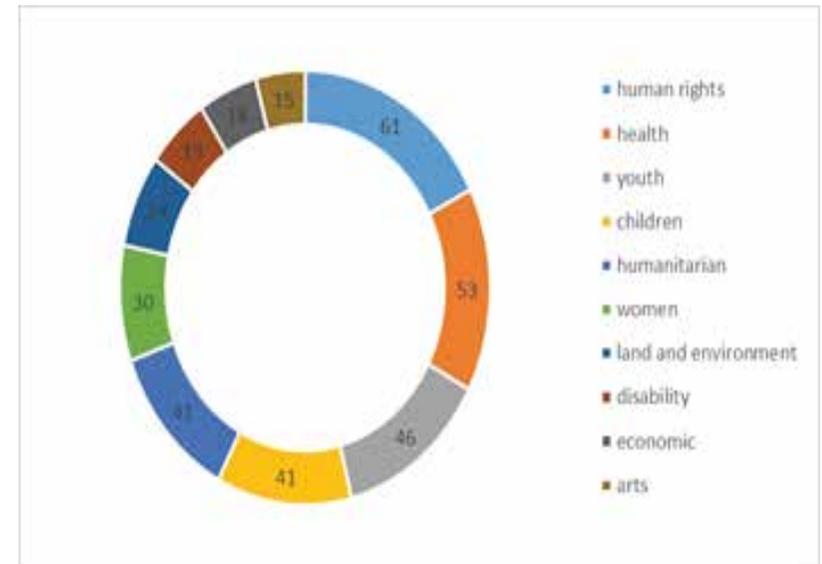


Figure 4: Distribution of the pool of experts trained to monitor, and report on NIP implementation

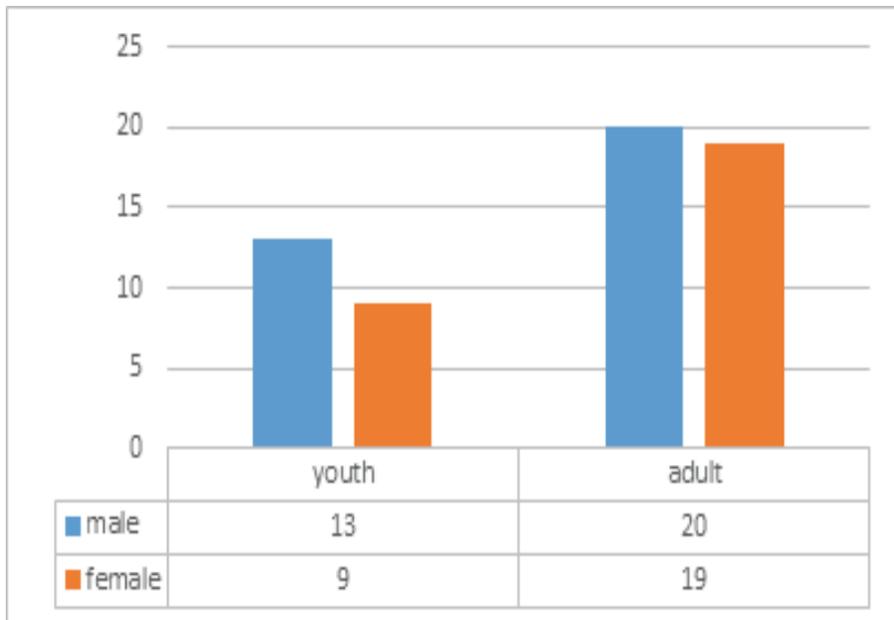
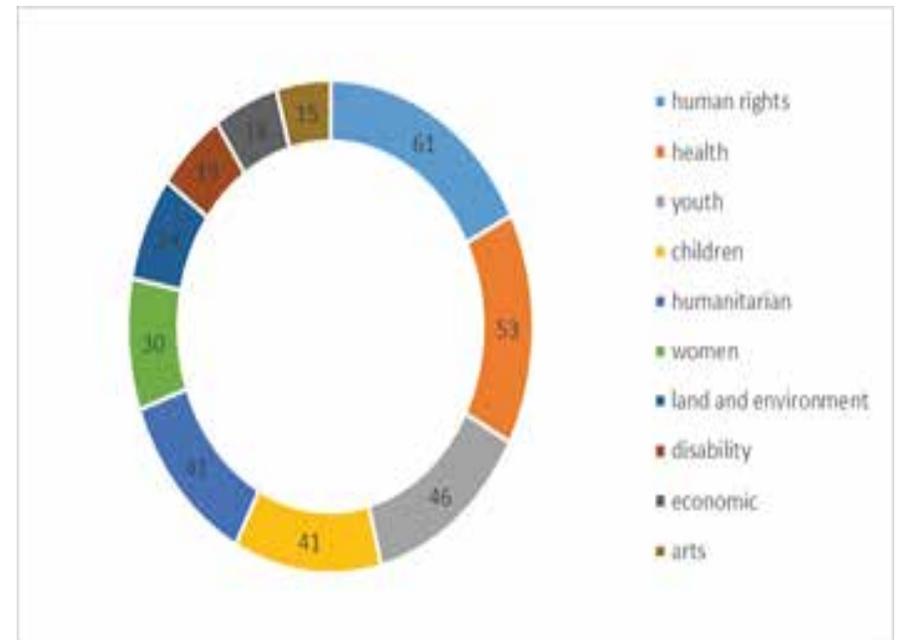


Figure 5: Sector representation during downstream trainings



Hence, CSO experts were trained and observed the harmonized elections as static observers for a period of three days i.e. the day before elections, during the elections day and the day after the elections. Prior to the deployment the election observers met with other external observation missions such the African Union, European Union, SADC, Common Wealth, USA observation Missions where local observers shared their experiences, lessons and concerns on the electoral phase.

Table 2 below shows the deployment of the 364 accredited observers in the 135 Constituencies as follows:

Table 2: Distribution of constituencies where NANGO observed elections

Province	No. of Constituencies
Bulawayo	15
Harare	25
Mashonaland Central	11
Mashonaland East	13
Mashonaland West	9
Masvingo	12
Matabeleland North	10
Matabeleland South	9
Midlands	12
Total	135

NANGO published a preliminary statement on the 2018 Harmonized Elections. The statement covered the pre-election phase, polling day, counting and tallying of the votes, announcement of results, and the post-election phase and also offered recommendations for future elections.

NANGO's position was that true democracy should reflect the voice of the people where credible elections are a foundational element. The preliminary statement was shared on the NANGO E-News platform that at the time had over 5000 recipients comprising of various stakeholders all with vested interests in the development of Zimbabwe. The election statement was presented in the form of a press conference by the NANGO National Board to the state broadcaster (ZBC), a radio station (Capitalk FM) and four privately owned media houses (News Day and Daily News, Zimbabwe Sentinel and the Source).

a. EU Roadmap for engagement with Civil Society



NANGO members from the Eastern Region identify issues that are specific to Manicaland that should be highlighted in the EU Roadmap of Engagement.

b. Economy dialogue platforms



An economist from one of NANGO's Northern Region member organizations sensitizes civil society leaders on the implications of financial policies on civil society programming.

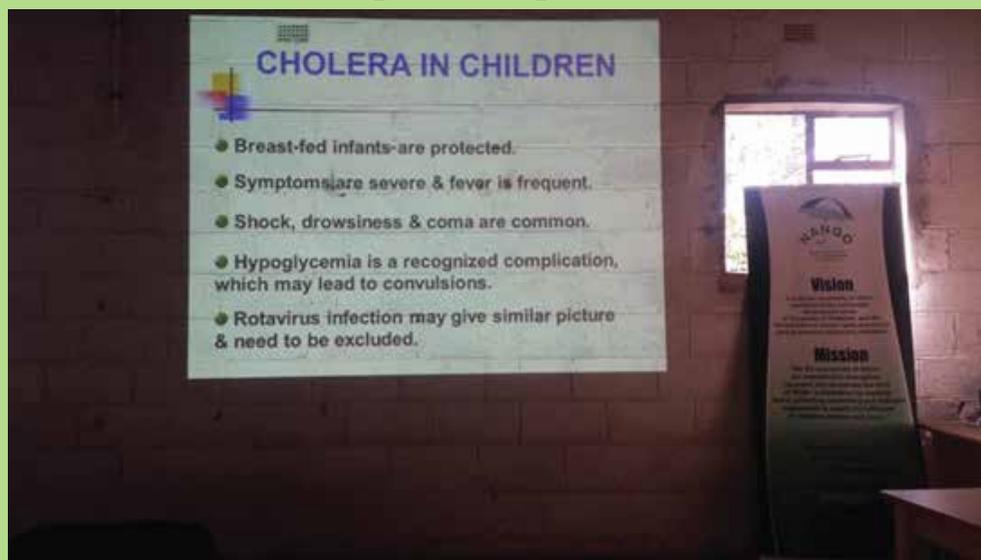


Organisations implementing different projects in Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and South had the privilege of discussing the EU Roadmap with all the member states of the EU delegation.



Pupils from schools in and around Harare came together to consolidate their national budget expectations.

c. Stakeholder response to epidemics



As part of efforts to combat the cholera outbreak ZiCHIRe invited a medical doctor to sensitise members of the health sector on the role that civil society could play in ensuring that no more lives are lost to cholera.

d. Service Delivery and Public Social Accountability-

In-order to promote public social accountability by government to the general citizenry the Association created safe platforms for CSOs and citizens to engage with duty bearers and discuss on the implementation of the NIP. NANGO utilized the spaces that were created by the non-state actors alliance program to continue carrying out dialogues that help citizens to hold government accountable for their rights and foster improvements in service delivery. During the period under review

CSOs produced an independent analysis of the 2018 national budget which informed their advocacy for improvements in the 2019 budget. Engagements prior to the 2019 pre-budget consultations yielded positive results where government agreed to improve access to devices for people with disabilities by removing import duty.

e. Investment in Children and child participation

On Child Friendly policy changes for child rights

NANGO in conjunction with the Parliament of Zimbabwe held a Parliament budget analysis and advocacy workshop in Kwekwe intended to equip Parliament staff and Auditor General's office staff with skills for budget tracking and analysis for the benefit of marginalized groups like women and children as well as the citizens at large. During the workshop NANGO presented on child friendly budgeting, the objective of the presentation was to equip parliament officers with skills on child friendly budget analysis and advocacy. A total of 31(21 males and 10 female) people attended i.e. 14 committees' clerks, 5 Researchers, 5 Parliament Budget Office staff, 2 Parliament Management representatives (Assistant Clerk and Principal Director Finance), 2 NANGO representatives 1 Director from Ministry of Finance and 1 protocol officer.

NANGO supported 58 Junior Parliamentarians to participate in the Provincial Junior Parliament session for Mashonaland East Province that was held at Kushinga Phikelela which was attended by the then Provincial Minister for Mashonaland East Province, Provincial Director from the Ministry of Education and three senior members of Parliament.



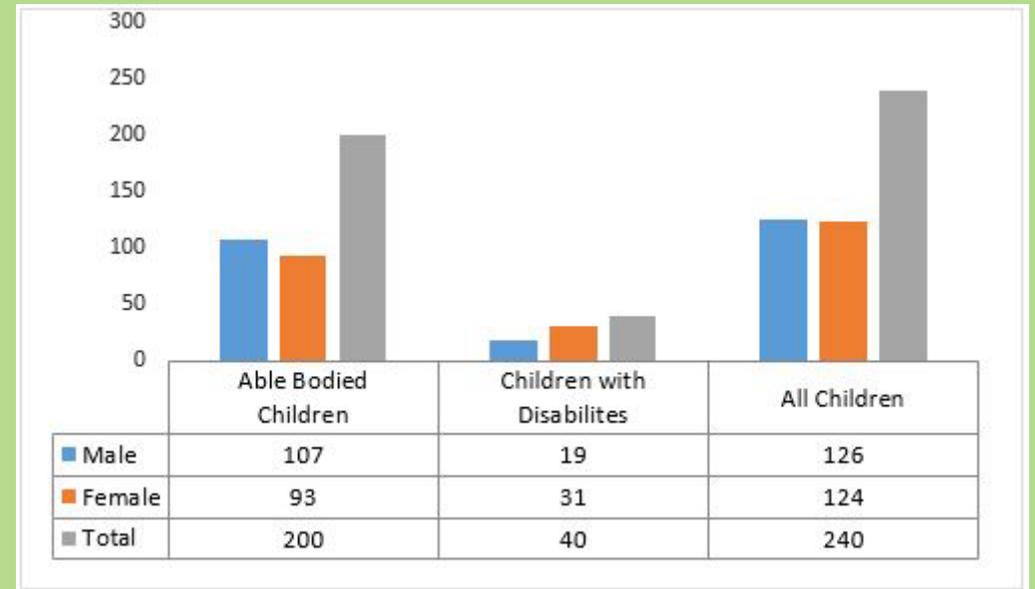
NANGO presenting the importance of child participation in budgeting processes.

Children presented issues affecting them in their constituencies and got feedback from the Provincial Minister who pledged to support the Junior Parliamentarians in-order to enhance their work.



Consultations with 240 children towards the development of the Children’s Ten-Point Plan was carried out with a special session for 58 children with disabilities reached. Distribution according to sex of the children reached tabulated below:

Figure 6: Number of children reached through Pre-Budget Consultations by gender





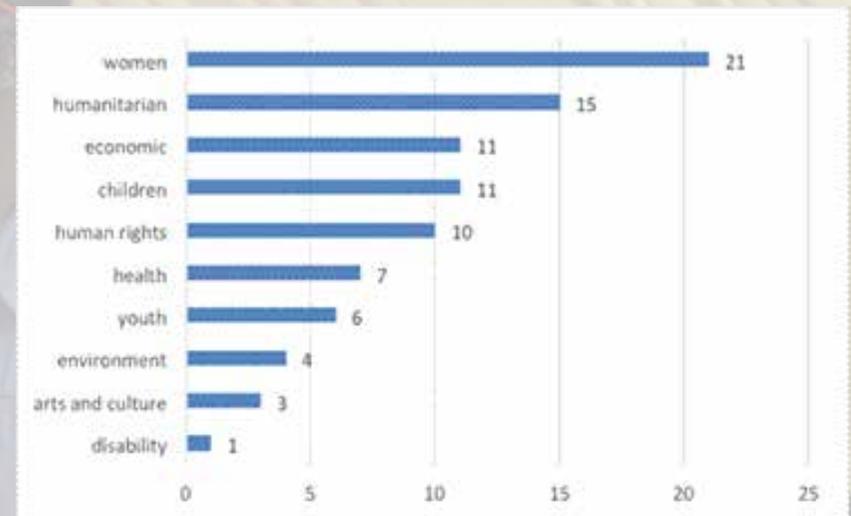
Networking and interface

g. 10th NGO Directors Summer School

The 10th NGO Directors Summer School was held in Bulawayo with a total of 114 CSO leaders (58 Females, 56 Males) from NANGOs 5 regions attending the consensus building meetings. The CSOs shared knowledge, challenges and opportunities for NGOs' with regards to working towards an inclusive Zimbabwe and how to strengthen multi stakeholder engagements and partnership, develop a common engagement plan with government, development partners and business that will strengthen multi stakeholder engagements and partnerships. Six Faith-Based Organizations, 12 Junior Councillors, 4 Independent Commissioners and 6 Development Partners and Private Sector representatives also attended the meeting.

The CSO leaders engaged in policy dialogue sessions where participants organised themselves into three sectors, health, governance and agriculture. The sectors critically reviewed the social service delivery focusing on health and critically evaluated the state of human rights in the country. Suggestions were also put forward on how to improve agriculture effectiveness and efficiency. The three sectors came up with action points which included engaging with government on implementation of programs in the three sectors.

Figure 7: Number of CSOs participating at the 10th NGO Directors Summer School disaggregated by sector



The major outcome of the meeting was a 2019 plan of action that informed collective Civil Society actions towards holding duty bearers accountable to the public. Civil Society was tasked to advocate for improved provision of social services like health, education, food. Civil Society was inspired to continue to demand their space as well as call for the upholding of human rights by the government as enshrined in the constitution of the country.

C. Membership Recruitment and Retention

2018 witnessed a slight increase in the number of organizations renewing their annual subscriptions with the Association, at the same time the year saw a marked increase in the number of organisations participating in NANGO activities.

Table 3: Membership Distribution

REGION	NO: of Organisations
Northern	73
Western	23
Midlands	11
Southern	14
Eastern	8
TOTAL	129

D. Communication And Networking

In 2018 there was a marked improvement in communication and visibility for member activities and programmes through various media platforms as follows:

Table 4 : Media Platforms

Media	Frequency	Publication/followers
Newspaper Column	Weekly	40 publications
Facebook	Daily	4 985 followers
Twitter	Daily	2 956 followers
Website	Weekly	48 publications 93 posts
Magazine	Bi-annually	2 publications
E-Newsletter	Weekly	47 E-Newsletters

Print Media

Weekly Newspaper Column

Since 2015 NANGO has published an analysis in the weekly Standard newspaper. The articles that are published once a week pertain to development issues and serve to raise awareness inform or educate readers. The articles related to health, agriculture based economic development as well as governance and institution building.

In 2018 there was emphasis on the need for members in the Eastern, Western, Southern and Midlands regions to also fully utilise the platform and increase publicity of programming in these regions that are often sidelined by mainstream media houses. 40 articles, analysis and feature stories were published through the newspaper that had a readership of 45 000 in 2018. The articles were from children, health, media arts and culture, economy, women, human rights and environment sectors.

NANGO received feedback from readers that follow the column closely while in some meetings attendants addressed issues raised on the column. NANGO members like Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children, Zimbabwe Coalition on Dept and Development, National Association of Youth Organisations among others appreciated the visibility and acknowledged feedback received through email addresses included in the columns.

Bulk SMSs

Bulk SMSs were sent to a phone database with 2142 phone numbers. NANGO used these for voter education, to dissuade citizens from post election violence, to call for peace building and to raise awareness on cholera prevention during the cholera outbreak that was declared a national emergency. Over ten thousand SMSs were sent to Zimbabwean citizens across the country and to development partners that were operating within Zimbabwe during the elections.

Civil Society Magazine

Social media visibility

E-News platform

The E-News platform is key for sharing bulky information like position papers, analyses, researches, communiqués, press statements, change stories, Civil Society recommendations to government and policy dialogue write ups.

In 2018 the appearance of the newsletter was improved to include images, videos and links. The aim was to increase the platform's appeal, keep readers and gain new ones. The NANGO E-News platform had 5986 recipients by the end of 2018. 47 e-newsletters were sent once a week, every Thursday of 2018.



NANGO Website



Twitter

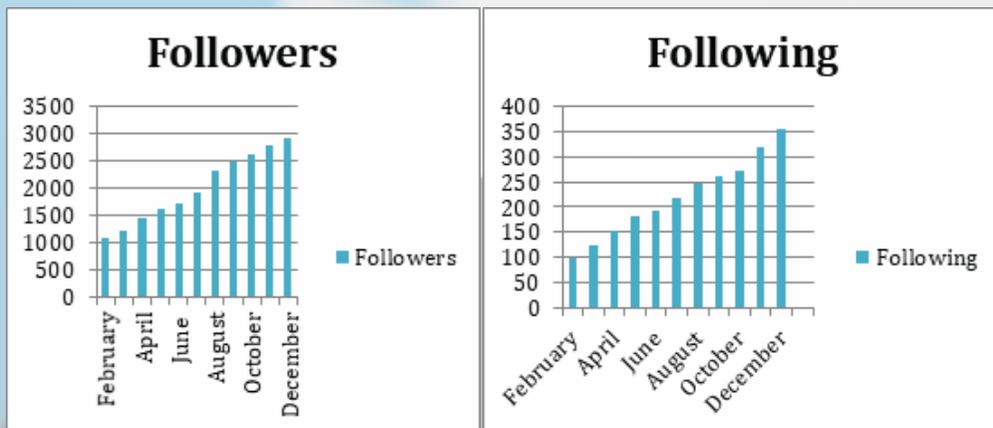


Figure 8: Twitter Followers

Figure 9: Twitter Follows

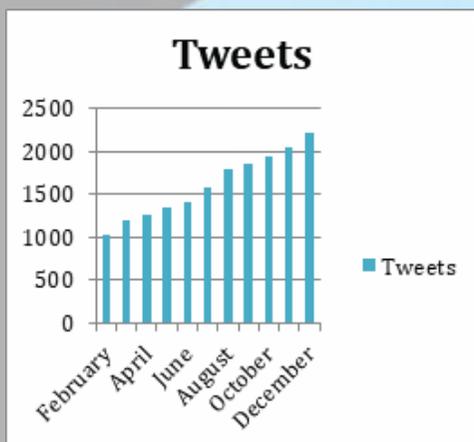


Figure 10: NANGO Tweets

NANGO twitter growth catapulted from 1032 tweets to 1191 between 5 February and 5 March 2018. The frequent twitting had a domino effect as this grew the number of people that followed NANGO. The number of followers increased from 1062 to 1223 during the same period.

There was a growth spurt again between 5 July and 5 August 2018 as followers increased from 1933 to 2316. At this point the frequency of tweeting had doubled. 1788 tweets had been recorded by 5 August 2018. During this period NANGO was tweeting information shared by election observers before and after the harmonised elections. NANGO was a reputable source sharing verified information and this resulted in a significant increase of followers in and outside Zimbabwe.

Another surge was recorded during the cholera outbreak in October and NGO Directors Summer School from 15 and 16 November 2018. In October NANGO gained 116 followers and had disseminated 94 cholera related tweets. During the two days of the Summer School 42 followers were gained and 58 tweets briefing Zimbabweans of the Summer School discussions were shared. Tweeting consistently about a certain subject enhances visibility.

YouTube

The NANGO YouTube channel works as the platform to archive videos produced by NANGO. This ensures that members of the public can access this information at their convenience. NANGO published seven videos. These were regarding NPRC national consultative meetings, NANGO membership visits, election observation and violation of protesters. The videos clearly state the position of NANGO on various issues of national interest.



NANGO Information Desk

8 subscribers

SUBSCRIBED



HOME

Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



NANGO Press Statement
17 views • 9 months ago



NANGO Preliminary Statement on Zimbabwe...
34 views • 1 year ago



Election day statement
40 views • 1 year ago



Pre-election statement
22 views • 1 year ago



NANGO at 56
8 views • 1 year ago

Facebook

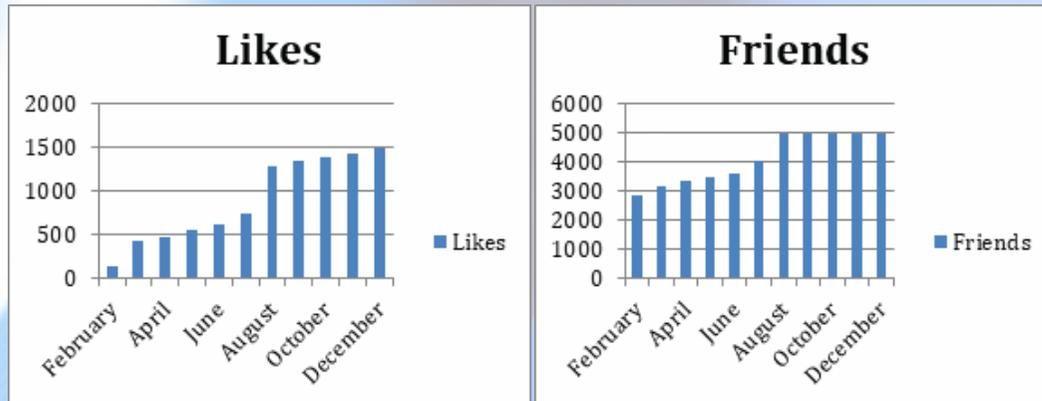


Figure 10: Facebook Likes

Figure 11: Facebook Friends

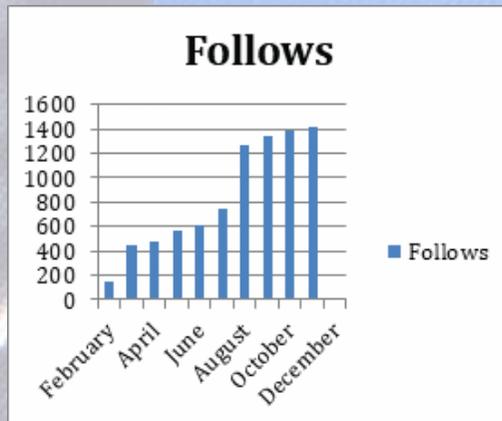


Figure 12: Facebook Follows

NANGO Twitter Handles

Nango Western Region
1,135 Tweets



Nango Western Region
@nangowest

National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (Western Coordinator, intermediary, convener & above all the voice of Civil Society)

Bulawayo Joined September 2013

514 Following 1,017 Followers

Following

nangosouthernregion
382 Tweets



nangosouthernregion
@nangosouthern1

Joined September 2017

227 Followers

Followed by franklin mukwaira, Hudson, and 6 others you follow

Tweets & replies Media Likes

Follow

nangozim
3,099 Tweets



nangozim
@nangozim Follows you

The umbrella body of NGOs in Zimbabwe, creating platforms for dialogue between civil society, state and non-state actors.

Harare, Zimbabwe nangozim.org Born 1962

573 Following 4,524 Followers

Followed by franklin mukwaira, tatenda chiyaka, and 10 others

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

NANGO Midlands
260 Tweets



NANGO Midlands
@nangomidlands

facebook.com/NANGO-Midlands... Joined August 2017

226 Following 694 Followers

NANGO EASTERN
947 Tweets



NANGO EASTERN
@nango_eastern

Manicaland, Zimbabwe Joined August 2017

280 Following 797 Followers

Followed by franklin mukwaira, Hudson, and 9 others you follow

Following

2018 Dialogue Platforms

1. Meet your potential leaders

In the run up to the 2018 harmonized elections, the NANGO organized the “Meet Your Potential Leaders” community development meetings. The meetings were held in all the regions from 9 to 13 July and the final phase from 16 to 20 July 2018. The objective of these meetings was to provide a platform for aspiring leaders in local government and legislature to articulate their manifestos while giving an opportunity to the electorate to interrogate and critique these. The meetings were co-hosted with local Residents Associations in Harare, Bulwayo, Gweru, Masvingo and Mutare, bringing together 32 communities countrywide with 66 local government 15 members of parliament and representatives and 1207 citizens. Citizens were able to present their criteria and expectations from local authorities.

Figure 13 below depicts the number of meetings hosted in each province, where afterwards an analysis of the political party manifestos was done. Going forward this analysis will be used to monitor how the party in government is fulfilling the promises made to the electorate, special focus being on health, agriculture based economic development and governance pillars.

Figure 13: Number of Meet your potential leader meetings done per province

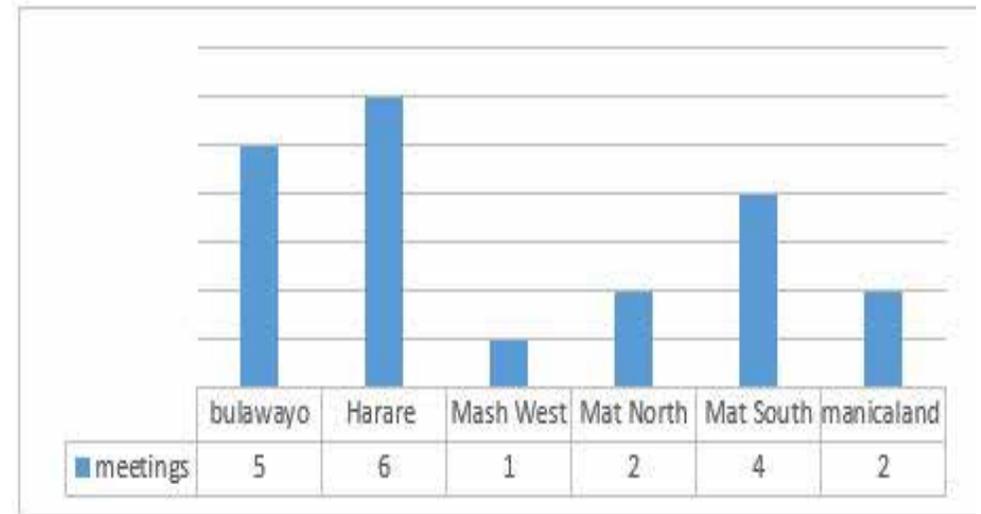
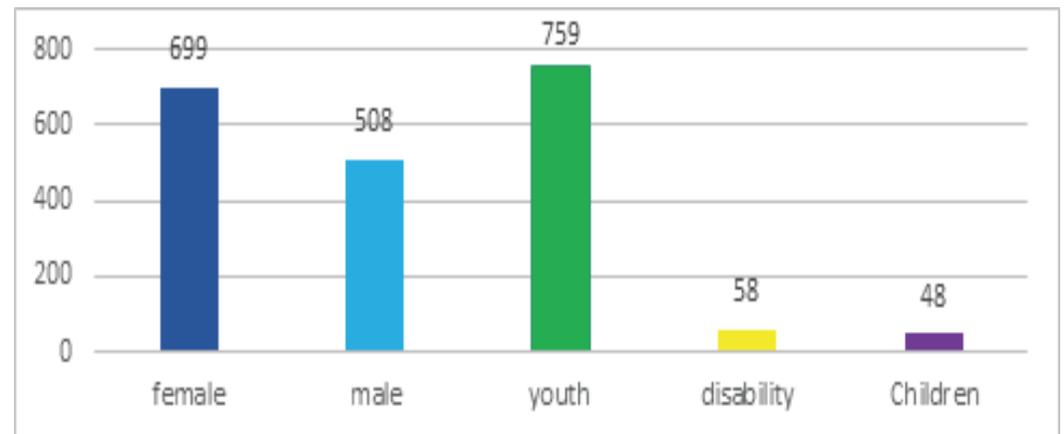


Figure 14: Ordinary citizens participating in meet your potential leader community development meetings



2. NPRC community peace meetings

A total of 10 NPRC meetings were held in the five regions around the country with the aim of enhancing stakeholder awareness of the NPRC, its mandate and functions, provide a platform for stakeholders to feed into and shape strategic priorities for NPRC and to map regional level capacities for peace, healing and reconciliation according to provinces. The deliberations focused on coming up with possible causes of conflict, identifying mechanisms that can be put in place to resolve conflict and identifying key stakeholders involved in peace building processes.

3. Carrying out social accountability

CSOs met as sectors in their regions to prepare their aspirations for the 2019 national budget. During these meetings sectors within the regions came up with a list of their aspirations for the 2019 budget after being oriented on the national budget process. The submissions were combined into a 2019 People's Budget Advocacy tool, which was submitted to government. Out of the submissions, the government adopted the recommendation of exempting devices for people with disabilities from paying duty. The CSOs also came up with a strategy to engage portfolio committees during pre-budget public hearings. A total of 80 CSOs participated in the 25 CSO sector meetings that were done in the country's five regions.

4. CSO Policy Engagements With National And Local Government

As part of CSO's strategy of fostering sustainable peace, NANGO engaged key stakeholders along the governance value chain. In this regard, NANGO members developed the Green Paper Series, which is a compendium of critical issues for consideration by key actors such as political parties, independent candidates, independent commissions, general citizenry, donor community and civil society amongst others. NANGO was able to use the Green Paper Series to interface with the following stakeholders:

a. Political Parties

The NANGO engaged ZANU PF, MDC Alliance, and People's Democratic Party, MDC led by Professor Welshman Ncube, Zimbabwe African People's Union, Mthwakazi Republic Party, and Alliance for People's Agenda as well as independent candidates. Attempts were made to engage MDC-T led by Dr Thokozani Khupe and the People's Rainbow Coalition but the meetings did not take place owing to other pressing commitments by the said stakeholders.

It was noted that political parties were committed to the electoral process and the openness of democratic space that allowed for political parties to campaign freely was a welcome development by many stakeholders. Key concern were on the uneven political landscape, the lack transparency from Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), selective coverage of political rallies by the state media and the low representation of women as candidates at all levels across all political parties.

b. Chapter 12 Commissions

The major role of independent commissions is to enhance constitutionalism by promoting transparency and accountability in public institutions as well as entrenching human rights and democracy. NANGO in consultation with the broader CSOs under the governance and institution building pillar presented key election environment related observations and recommendations to Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and Gender Commission. The Commissions indicated to NANGO the different roles that they were playing which were aimed at formulating consensus based pragmatic responses to emerging issues regarding elections. The independent commission unanimously pledged to create sustainable people driven infrastructure for peace building, investigate reports and give recommendations to relevant stakeholders, document actual cases where women are excluded from political office, encourage civil society to build capacity of women vying for public office, increase platforms of dialogue between citizens and commissions, engage journalists and encourage positive reporting of women as well as holding regular meetings to assess and document human rights violations.



NANGO Board Members and sector leaders present issues affecting citizens ahead of the elections

D. State of Civil Society -in 2018

Zimbabwe Civic Space Overview

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

- * Civic space repressed;
- * Polarizing politics that have divided society;
- * Divisions within Civic Society body weakened its voice;
- * Politicization of civic voices a threat to civic activism;
- * Poor funding for majority of Civil Society players;
- * Zimbabwe increasingly becoming a securocratic country;
- * Increasing crackdowns on journalists reporting on corruption and public protests;
- * Growing surveillance, fake news and manipulation of opinion is betraying the promise of social media;
- * Repressive laws hinder enjoyment of freedoms.
- * Selective application and interpretation of the law stifled public participation



Annual Feature: Zimbabwe Decided in 2018 on:

- Country's Political direction
- Economic trajectory “ Zimbabwe open for business”
- Social direction
- Technological advancements
- Legal infrastructure

NANGO's 2018 elections observation:

- a. The 2018 elections exposed deep-rooted social and political intolerance, largely directed at women in Zimbabwe. Women in politics were openly violated, demeaned, degraded and subjected to public humiliation on both public and private media, with limited rebuff from relevant stakeholders such as the Independent Commissions, Civil Society Organisations and Government.
- b. The Independent Commissions worked in silos during the election period, which reduced their influence pre, during and post elections as they did not develop a harmonized strategy to ensure that issues of rights, women, media and tolerance were properly reported, investigated, documented and addressed.
- c. Elections observation revealed, how all Independent commissions do not have a public strategy that ensures peace, tolerance, safety, security, upholding of human rights, and respect for the sanctity of life. Therefore, none of them, particularly the NPRC and ZHRC, did openly speak out against exclusion, repression and human rights abuses.
- d. Thus, in Zimbabwe elections are a socio-economic and political tsunami, they change much but in reality nothing much changes;
- e. They sustain the unexpected/unwanted/abnormal and;
- f. They crush hopes of some whilst others soldier forward, legit or not, it does not really matter.

On the political front

There is no political will power to address weak legal infrastructure for elections that includes:

- Laws that curtail hate and derogatory language especially against women
- Laws that promote media freedom and fairness
- Laws that support emancipation of women and youth in public offices

On the economy

- General turning a blind eye to illegal money markets and multi-tier pricing:
Implications have been the increases in demand of consumer and energy goods, with no local industry to support the demand.
- There is urgency to support a clear medium to long term socio-economic blue-print born out of a wider consultative process. The vision being for the country and not one political party.
- Government to address escalating public expenditure in order to reduce domestic debt and international debt. Government to address issues of multi-tier pricing and “burning” of money

Social rights

- Weak local government institutions and overbearing central government has led to extreme deterioration of WASH especially in urban centers-lack of these apart from being death trap are potential sources of conflict and human rights abuses.
- Thus there is need for improving urban WASH, provision of basic housing services in a transparent manner and government to deal decisively with land barons who are abusing state land.
- Urgency to strengthen existing policies e.g. free health services for the elderly in order to make sure that marginalized communities are not left out in accessing health services.

Technology development

- Last election saw an increase in use of ICTs and social media to share information, with positive and negative effects, however there is need to invest in use of multimedia as:
 1. A tool for public social accountability e.g community score cards on social media,
 2. Violence Early warning and early response
 3. Improved disaster and risk management

Legal

- There has been an increase in lawlessness, impunity and militarization of the state, with Government being implored to prioritize alignment of the outstanding laws to the constitution in order to promote rule of law.
- Prioritize reform of media space in order for citizens to engage and provide alternative sources of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government to embark on genuine comprehensive and inclusive electoral reform processes that consider all the aspects of an election. This should be done well ahead of the next elections to ensure that all the laws that need to be passed by Parliament are enacted in good time.
- ZEC should consider partnering with CSOs and other Independent Commissions throughout the election period so that there is a clear election roadmap, educating citizens and political parties on human rights and conflict prevention ahead of elections.
- The Gender Commission should honor its mandate of receiving and considering complaints from the public and to take action in addressing complaints and should also ensure that women are protected against patriarchal structures in political parties during elections and should timely intervene when women in politics are violated, demeaned, degraded and subjected to public humiliation.
- All the commissions need to formulate a public strategy that ensures peace, tolerance, safety, security, upholding of human rights, and respect for the sanctity of life. This should include putting in place conflict early warning and early response mechanisms that ensure protection of women and children ahead of the elections. The commissions are reminded to recommend prosecution for criminal violations.

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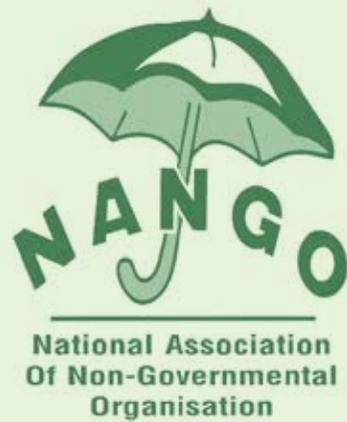
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