



The National Association of  
Non-Governmental Organisations

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GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
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***National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO)***

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CPMRT  | Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, and Transformation |
| CSNIP  | Civil Society National Indicative Programme                     |
| CSOs   | Civil Society Organisations                                     |
| FATF   | Financial Anti-Terrorist Financing                              |
| MoFED  | Minister of Finance and Economic Development                    |
| MoHCC  | Ministry of Health and Child Care                               |
| MoUs   | Memorandum of Understandings                                    |
| NANGO  | National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations          |
| NDSI   | National Development Strategy I                                 |
| NGOs   | Non-Governmental Organisations                                  |
| NAYO   | National Association of Youth Organisations                     |
| OBS    | Open Budget Survey  |
| PBF    | Peace Building Fund   |
| PVO    | Private Voluntary Organisation                                  |
| SDGs   | Sustainable Development Goals                                   |
| TSP    | Transitional Stabilisation Programme                            |
| UHC    | Universal Health Coverage                                       |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                                  |
| UPR    | Universal Periodic Review                                       |
| WCOZ   | Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe                                   |
| WHO    | World Health Organisation                                       |
| WLSA   | Women and Law in Southern Africa                                |





## **MESSAGE FROM NANGO'S BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

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The Covid-19 Pandemic has largely directed and dictated operations, actions, and outcomes for the past year. We saw several changes in ways of doing business but largely in the manner in which programming was conducted by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Despite the shortfalls and grave detriments of the pandemic, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) Board, its Members, and the Secretariat for the tremendous work that they have done throughout the year 2020.

As Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), we exist to contribute towards sustainable development through various ways at both the local and national levels. This has seen a significant number of citizens benefitting from programmes supported by NGOs in the area of social and humanitarian interventions. In the year 2020, NANGO was driven towards programmes centred on the sensitisation of the public on various developmental issues, community resilience building through offering life skills and livelihood programmes as well as coordination of civil society to efficiently and effectively play the watchdog role and; speak in a unified voice.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been a major priority and may continue as such for a while, we should not be blind sighted to the current worsening socio-economic and political challenges the general public has been facing even before the advent of COVID-19.

It is against this background that as NGOs we

labour to serve and contribute towards national development to avert the plight of the communities we serve who bear the brunt of poverty and underdevelopment. With this, we cannot over-emphasise the importance of national policy development and implementation as the key to facilitating sustainable development.

Cognisant of the fact that the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) time frame was elapsing end of year 2020, our bone of contention was the lack of citizen participation in its development which we indeed voiced out with the Government. In this regard, we want to acknowledge the efforts that were made by the government in the development of the successor of the TSP, the National Development Strategy I 2021 -2025 (NDSI), where there were platforms set to engage and gather the aspirations of the public. Submissions were also sent to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the final blueprint mirrored to a greater extent the contributions made by various stakeholders.

This is the first step towards the success of the NDSI. The success of the strategy is also hinged on the support from the national budget as such, adequate national resources need to be raised to support the implementation of NDSI. All this ultimately contributes towards the attainment of the Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Universal Periodic Review amongst others, which Zimbabwe is part of.



An enabling CSOs environment is paramount as it facilitates the smooth implementation of programmes countrywide. Civic space is continuously under threat from state and non-state actors pushing for more layers of statutory regulations through different pieces of legislation. Whilst Zimbabwe has regulatory legislation, lack of a CSO Self-Regulation Mechanism within the laws on the part of NGOs has recently become an urgent issue of concern. We are committed to delivering our mandates at all levels and all we ask for from the Government is an enabling environment that does not hinder our interventions but rather promotes them.

Regarding Governance and Institution Building, it is important to note that good governance is a key enabler for sustainable peace and development. As such we need to ensure that we are guided by

our Constitution and we all thrive to live under it. Against this background, I want to urge all stakeholders to ensure that we play our part in creating a transparent and accountable Government.

In conclusion, our hope as CSOs and indeed my hope is that we all work together to contribute towards the **Zimbabwe We Want** which is characterised by prosperity and peace. NGOs, believe that a better Zimbabwe is possible in our lifetime and that all people should have access to better services across all aspects of life. I encourage all of us to embrace a multi-stakeholder approach, play an active watchdog role, and work towards creating an enabling CSO environment that facilitates operations of diverse stakeholders contributing toward the sustainable development of Zimbabwe.



## A STATEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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As 2020 unfolded, and life so drastically altered for us all, the programming approaches and operating environment for CSOs were tested in unprecedented ways. The scale of decisions that had to be actioned, and the uncertainty that lay ahead, made for a uniquely challenging environment. Recognising our role, as NANGO secretariat, to ensure the essential stewardship of the agency, ensuring that the governance structures and functions of the membership are optimised, COVID-19 has presented more challenges to us. This pandemic, while exacting such a toll, has also served as a test - a test of the resiliency of our governance, our systems, and ourselves. For every sector, for every undertaking, indeed for every corner of our lives, 2020 has been a year like no other. We are a year into this tumultuous pandemic that has caused such loss of life, trauma, chaos, and stress at home and abroad, while upheaving every aspect of our daily lives. No matter who you are, no matter where you are, no one has been left untouched by the impact of Covid-19. Against all that the pandemic has wrought, this year gives me such pride to share some milestones that were achieved in very difficult times. CSOs have been complementing the frontline workers through dedicated emergency response to Covid-19, including in-person educational messaging and awareness-raising. In addition, NANGO and its members have assisted communities with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), increased access to water, and built the capacity of over a thousand health facilities to protect populations from the Covid-19 outbreak.

Civil Society in Zimbabwe under the leadership of NANGO was concerned about the potential spread of COVID-19 which has social, economic, and security threats for the country. Further, taking into National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

consideration that the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) will be severely disrupted by disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 if there are no measures for timely coordination, collaboration, and communication of bold decisions. NANGO is therefore committed to coordinating CSOs' efforts and collaborating with other stakeholders, government included, in the response to COVID-19. CSOs continue to ensure effective communication and community engagement by sharing correct, apt, and timely information concerning COVID-19. In light of this, NANGO has launched the Country COVID-19 Campaign aimed at creating awareness to the public on the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regards to national development work, NANGO conducted national consultations to gather the developmental aspirations of the general citizenry, for consideration during the development of the National Development Strategy I (NDSI) (2021-2025). This followed a series of CSOs sector consultations which informed the development of a CSOs Model of the NDSI, with seven key strategic pillars identified. The NDSI community consultations were carried out during the period 14-18 September 2020 covering all the provinces and selected districts. Deliberately the consultations were carried out in the hard-to-reach areas, which are more often left out during most democratic processes owing to their geographic locations, economic condition, and state of public infrastructure amongst other reasons. The consultations were carried out in the following areas: Siakobvu, Magunje, Mhangura, Mukumbura, Mudzi, Mutoko, Chibuwe, Mutare rural, Penhalonga, Mbire, Victoria Falls, Chiredzi South, Silobela, Gwanda, Zaka, Mudzi, Chitungwiza, Gokwe, Kwekwe, and Plumtree.

These consultations were aimed at gathering the aspirations and views of communities for inclusion in the NDSI. This was motivated by the need to ensure participation of the general citizenry and particularly those that are most marginalised during national development processes. As NANGO, we are alive to the fact that national development programmes should contribute towards addressing the development needs of the general citizenry, as such, it is imperative to consult them and capture their voices during the process of policy formulation. This was key in galvanising community efforts and ownership during the implementation phase which is crucial for the success of the development strategy. The consultations were informed by the 14 priorities that have already been agreed upon by the government. NANGO is grateful that community voices informed the development of the Community based NDSI model. This has been lacking during previous national development strategies thus NANGO is set to redress these challenges from the NDSI going forward. NANGO extends gratitude to all the community leaders and NANGO members who facilitated these consultations and the UNDP, UNICEF, and EU for providing financial backstopping that enabled this engagement with the communities possible.

It is worth noting that, the year 2020 has seen CSOs continue to be subjected to restrictive legal, policy, and administrative instruments promulgated by the Government at both national and local levels. The restrictive environment is further compounded by the selective application of the law. As a result, the progressive realisation of civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms are compromised. In addition, multiple regulatory instruments are targeting NGOs

varying from compliance with financial reporting, ethical procedures, good governance, and other requirements. This context continues to make CSOs more vulnerable to express their freedoms of expression, association, and assembly. Ultimately the spaces for CSOs become more constrained and inhibitive. Of particular importance is the call by the regulatory authority to review the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Act. The review of the PVO Act has been motivated by various reasons chief among them being the need to include the Financial Anti-Terrorist Financing (FATF) recommendations to do with Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism. Shrinking of development partner support has been one of the most challenging issues of concern for CSOs. The intention by the government to push for the PVO Act amendment which is supposed to be used in monitoring and regulating the activities of NGOs in the country among others, civil society operating space demonstrates the desire to shrink civic space. As we pay attention to the membership, it is therefore imperative to defend the civic space at the same time creating an enabling environment for the members to be able to fully achieve their mandates.

May I point out that the successes and milestones we achieved in 2020 would not have been achievable without the resolute support of the NANGO member, our National and Regional Executive Committees, my staff members, and esteemed development partners who provided the much needed financial and technical support.

I pray for a brighter and more prosperous 2021. With teamwork and determination, I believe 2021 will be a better year.





## REGIONAL OVERVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2020



**NANGO Northern Region  
Chairperson, Ronika Mumbire**

In the year 2020, the Northern Region facilitated public engagement within the provinces. These processes culminated into the development of CSO and Community led NDS Models that were used to input into the development of the NDSI. Through this platform NANGO members in the region managed to influence pro-people and pro-poor policy development that are inclusive and sustainable. The voice of the members and communities found a way to influence policy development. Given, that the year 2020 was characterised by COVID-19, the region contributed in a huge way in the processes around community sensitisations on the COVID-19. This to some extent contributed to the national response mechanisms where the curve was not only flattened but prevented

to occur. COVID-19 was the generally impacted the actions by CSOs within the region and had other spiral effects on the programming implementation, resources mobilisation and we lost some of the committed Cadres within the region. We continue to say May Their Dear Souls Rest in Eternal Peace. As we look ahead, we continue to urge our members to adapt to the current operating environment and embrace the new ways of doing business to continue with programming.

# REGIONAL OVERVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2020



NANGO Western Region  
Chairperson, Sikhathele Matambo

The year has been fraught with epic operational challenges for CSOs. COVID-19 caused several disruptions and the work of CSOs in the region was not spared. The imposed nationwide Lockdown(s) which restricted the movement of citizens and introduced various other measures to curb the spread of the virus greatly affected the work of CSOs. In addition, some members' failure to access communities was due to numerous reasons including bureaucracy and administrative requirements such as Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) which are required for organisations to work in particular communities. Most organisations resorted to social media platforms such as WhatsApp,

Twitter, and Facebook as well as traditional text messaging for information dissemination and communication. It is, therefore, apparent that these urgent times call for us to move with speed and intention, ensuring that the future of CSOs reflects the insights and opportunities the pandemic has revealed. As NANGO, we need to help shape the way CSO work evolves and deepens in the future, supporting CSOs so that they can continue to serve communities during crises.



NANGO Southern Region  
Chairperson, Godfrey Mtimba

The year 2020 came with a lot of difficulties where NGOs were subjected to extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. With a close dialogue, in a spirit of trust, NGOs aim at keeping development partners updated on how the operations are impacted, where reallocations are needed, where flexibility should be ensured. This is a time where we call on the diverse NGO community, on development partners, and on other partners to put in place exceptional measures for quick decision-making, flexibility, and a real risk-sharing attitude. NGOs are critical to the delivery of effective, principled humanitarian assistance. We are challenged today, probably more than ever, to ensure we remain able to stay and deliver across the system. This can only be done with global support

translated into solidarity in delivering principled humanitarian assistance. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our members to work together, share ideas, and improve complementarity mobilise resources as a team. It is sad to tell you that a lot of organisations are folding off because of a lack of resources.



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2020



NANGO Midlands Region  
Chairperson, Donald Tobaiwa

Due to the high unemployment rate, the informal sector has increased with approximately 90 percent of the population in the Midlands region belonging to this sector. Service delivery also continues to be affected by the increasing levels of poverty and unemployment as most residents are not able to pay for their bills to councils. As if challenges faced by the general citizenry are not enough, the COVID-19 came at a time when the Zimbabwean economy was on a free fall. The Civil Society sector has not been spared from the harsh environment particularly during this COVID-19 era. There are inconsistencies in COVID-19 related policy implementation and some of the statutory instruments are not

clearly understood by the general citizenry. The emergency or disaster management plans are not up to standard and the consultations on the Civil Protection Act were conducted with a public who did not know nor understand the Bill. Social media and online platforms were the advocacy and monitoring tools that had become popular for civil society. The year 2020 was a difficult one that taught us to improve on our work as a region. **“The new normal”**. The region will work to ensure that it adapts and adopts new ways and strategies as we are living in a highly dynamic and evolving society. If we do not adapt, we risk becoming like Kodak.



NANGO Eastern Region  
Chairperson, Joachem Nyamande

The year 2020 was a difficult one for the whole country, even the world at large, and the Eastern Region was not spared as we felt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The year saw the advent of Covid-19 which greatly affected and halted operating environment of the civil society and further cascade down to the beneficiaries who benefit from various programs and interventions implemented by CSOs. For the Eastern region, the scourge of COVID-19 was even worse from the realisation that the pandemic came in the midst of recovery from the effects of Cyclone Idai, which greatly affected the Eastern Region mainly in the Chimanimani and Chipinge districts in 2019. The COVID-19 induced measures have had different impacts on CSO operations and programming, with 'Virtual programming'

having becoming the 'New Normal'. Instead of convening physically, organisations have resorted to online platforms in particular Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook Live and Twitter. Organisations were not prepared to this adaptation hence its implications on projects management and servicing of constituencies. Poor network connectivity has somewhat affected the effectiveness of the virtual platforms coupled with high cost of securing internet data. Despite all these challenges, I would like to applaud and appreciate NANGO members in the Eastern Region for complementing the government in the fight against COVID19 and vibrancy to operate under very difficult circumstances and conditions set forth by the COVID19 pandemic.





# ANALYSIS OF THE MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN 2020

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## a) Coordination and Networking

In view to meaningfully contribute towards the development of the five-year National Development Strategy I, NANGO facilitated community development meetings across the five regions covering all the provinces. These meetings targeted mostly the hard-to-reach areas to ensure that their development aspirations are taken on board during the process of NDSI development. In total, twenty (20) community meetings were conducted facilitated and led by community-based organisations. Further, post the launch of the NDSI, feedback meetings were conducted to the same areas where consultations were carried out. These aimed at demonstrating how the inputs from the communities were taken on Board by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the Strategy and at the same time sensitise them on the NDSI.

Deliberately the consultations were carried out in the hard-to-reach areas, which are more often left out during most democratic processes owing to their geographic locations, economic condition, and state of public infrastructure amongst other reasons. The consultations were carried out in the following areas



Siakobvu, Magunje, Mhangura, Mukumbura, Mudzi, Mutoko, Chibuwe, Mutare rural, Penhalonga, Mbire, Victoria Falls, Chiredzi South, Silobela, Gwanda, Zaka, Mudzi, Chitungwiza, Gokwe, Kwekwe, and Plumtree. These consultations were aimed at gathering the aspirations and views of communities for inclusion in the NDSI. This was motivated by the need to ensure participation of the general citizenry and particularly those that are most marginalised during national development processes. This was key in galvanising community efforts and ownership during the implementation phase which is crucial for the success of the development strategy. The consultations were attended by the community namely the Chiefs, Village Heads, Councillors, Line Ministries, and communities. In attendance were the youths, women, and men and in other areas, we had persons with disabilities.

**Table 2: Community development meetings distribution**

| Province              | Districts/Wards covered                | No. of Meetings |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Manicaland            | Mutare Rural, Chipinge and Penhalonga, | 6               |
| Mash West             | Siakobvu, Magunje and Mhangura         | 6               |
| Mash East             | Mudzi and Mutoko                       | 4               |
| Mash Central          | Mbire and Mukumbura                    | 4               |
| Midlands              | Gokwe, Silobela and Kwekwe             | 6               |
| Mat North             | Victoria Falls                         | 2               |
| Mat South             | Gwanda and Plumtree                    | 4               |
| Masvingo              | Zaka and Chiredzi South                | 4               |
| Harare                | Chitungwiza and Seke                   | 4               |
| <b>Total meetings</b> |  | <b>40</b>       |

## Stakeholder Dialogues



Stakeholder dialogues are key for NANGO on its thrust to build relationships with the communities and groups that are pivotal to our work and create opportunities for decision-makers to hear from our beneficiaries directly on the challenges and their call for action. NANGO is alive to the fact that engaging with stakeholders means better policy decisions are made. Engaging partners and fellow CSOs and disabled



people's organisations is key as we involve them early in shaping our vision, goals, and objectives to ensure the organisation gets things right the first time. As NANGO, we involve local communities in our strategic planning. We do believe that our beneficiaries in communities are often the experts on what will and won't work for their area.

In the year 2020, NANGO has managed to conduct eight (8) successful engagement meetings with various stakeholders which include Government ministries and departments, Members of Parliament, Media, Local Authority officials, and community leaders. From these eight stakeholder engagement meetings, NANGO has reached cumulatively 195 representatives from the various institutions and departments which are key in advancing the development discourse of the country.



## Development Watch

In 2020, NANGO launched the Development Watch Program, a platform created for NANGO and its membership to regularly update the nation, communities, stakeholders, and partners on the work they are doing in different ways and mediums. This program was launched in adaptation to the new normalcy brought about by the COVID19 pandemic. The development watch programme came in form of biweekly newsletters produced by NANGO, a series of radio programs, and through documentary and visual formats. The development watch program featured national, continental, and international issues covering environmental, political, cultural, social, and economic development issues. The features predominantly focussed on national policies and laws, Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, and COVID19 situational analysis from the members and diverse communities. In 2020, 14 radio programs in assisted communities to understand their various rights and state obligations regarding service delivery, public accountability, and social protection is concerned as part of the Development Watch series. series assisted in cascading and improving the grassroots role in the fight against COVID 19 and implementation of SDGs. As part of these developments, NANGO has conducted 26 CSO virtual sector dialogue meetings focussing on: State of Civil Society operating environment in the wake of covid19 pandemic, NDSI CSOs consultation, priority setting and submissions, NDS I feedback session, sensitization, and development of the CSOs monitoring, advocacy, and reporting framework, UPR CSO Alternative Report consultations and validation meetings and the SDGs CSO Alternative Report Submissions and consultations. These meetings were conducted in the five (5) regions focussing on the sector-specific issues and submission in a bid to influence the national and community development discourse of the country.

## CSOs and Community Mobilisation for the Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 2

CSOs in Zimbabwe under the leadership of NANGO took part during the public hearings for the Constitutional Amendment bill no. 2. NANGO in close collaboration with CSOs developed a position statement in response to the proposed Constitutional amendments in view to safeguard and ensure that the process was premised on practices of good governance and enabling democratic space which does not violate or compromise the constitutionally provided rights of the people of Zimbabwe. Various sector lead organisations of NANGO have also developed their sector-specific positions which were tailor-made to respond to the needs of its constituency for example National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO) and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ). This follows parallel consultation meetings that were conducted by NANGO in Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, Mutare, and Harare to consolidate views of civil society across the country. CSOs needed to assess whether it's a true reflection of the inputs made by CSOs and communities and more importantly, to gauge if the process was conducted within the parameters and guidelines of the constitution or any other piece of legislation.



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## Press Statement

### CSO statement on the proposed constitutional amendments

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Zimbabwe are weary that the proposed Constitutional amendments compromise governance and democratic space. This follows consultation meetings that were conducted by NANGO in Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, Mutare and Harare to consolidate views of civil society across the country.

CSOs concurred that the “running dispensed as it cements authority of the selected would only be in office pleasure of the electorate. Also, more president compliant vice presidents are likely to be selected in office and may not necessarily carry the mandate of the electorate.

Regarding the extension of the President’s authority to appoint seven rather than five Ministers or deputy Ministers from outside Parliament, experience has shown that anyone chosen by the president for cabinet in most circumstances ends up aligning with the President’s political views rather than giving an honest and fair analysis based on his/her field of expertise. Since the president can hire and dismiss this quota of ministers, it compromises on their neutrality and function. This also increases the president’s voting power in cabinet issues.

While it is trite to say that census boundaries cannot fully speak to the issues peculiar to Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) up for the purposes of a census are blind to any electoral bias. ZEC may easily set up boundaries for the purposes of gerrymandering. Therefore, delimitation of election boundaries should not be a function of ZEC.

The appointment of judges by the President in consultation with the Judicial Service Commission without the need for public interviews removes public appointment of judicial officials. This the public for such appointments be appointed. This is a withdrawal of separation of powers that were guaranteed following the 2013 Constitution making process.

History has shown that the type of judgements passed and political inclination determine renewal of tenure, again, this withdraws separation of powers. Consequently the tenure of Constitutional Court and Supreme Court should not be extended beyond 70 years of age.

Establishment of the office of the President in consultation with the Judicial Service Commission Prosecutor General by the President after consultation of the Judicial Service Commission without a public interview remove accountable to citizens. Again separation of powers is discarded.

Through replacing ‘foreign organisation and entities’ with ‘international organisations’ state is limiting its responsibility to only state’s interface with international CSOs development of the country.

CSOs welcomed the extension of the women’s quota for two more terms and provisions for ten youth members to be elected from the party system to Parliament. As the objective of introducing the women’s quota for a limited period is not being met civil society urges women with capacity to take up leadership roles until gender parity need for political buy-in of the youths speculated that this amendment comes in void of genuine good will.

NANGO is the officially recognised coordinating body of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. NANGO, the largest umbrella non-governmental organisation in Zimbabwe established in 1962, is a non-partisan political, non-profit making organisation and non-denominational coordinating body of NGOs in Zimbabwe. It is mandated by its membership to coordinate activities of NGOs, represent the NGO Sector, and strengthen the voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe.





## CSOs Capacity Enhancement & Institutional Strengthening

### b) CSOs Capacity Enhancement on CPMRT and Peacebuilding

NANGO with support from UNICEF implemented the Building Trust in Zimbabwe's Transition Project, over 10 months from November 2019 to August 2020, which is under the Building Trust in Zimbabwe's Transition- Peace Building Fund (PBF). The overall goal of the project was to ensure meaningful participation of CSOs in peace-building programs, prevention and contribute towards addressing potential sources of conflicts. To achieve this, NANGO has engaged CSOs and communities to sensitize them on the Transitional Stabilisation Program (TSP) and to enhance their capacities to implement conflict prevention and management programs in their communities. The project conducted training in the provinces and districts which enhanced the understanding and capacities of communities on the TSP aspects specifically the pillars dealing with social service delivery in the TSP. Further, training on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, and Transformation (CPMRT) mainly focused on what the communities should do to deal with conflicts so that it does not degenerate into violent conflict. The project supported the production of two position papers focusing on national development policy development and implementation of community conflict prevention management resolution and transformation.

However, the national lockdown necessitated by the global fight against COVID-19 affected changes in the program methodology, from face-to-face pieces of training and information dissemination sessions to radio

programs where citizens and CSOs were engaged in national development processes and; conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The action further enhanced access to information by both CSOs and communities through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp platforms, to ensure the continued citizen public social accountability monitoring. CSOs reported increased citizen participation in policy dialogues with duty bearers between 2019 and 2020, with the main dialogues being on proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill (2), the service delivery, governance, health, education, and agriculture improvements under the Transitional Stabilization Program, Conflict Prevention Management Resolution, and Transformation. In as much as citizen participation seemingly increased, political polarisation at community and government levels in other areas, hampered meaningful realization of public social accountability. Oftentimes, government officials either did not avail adequate information or simply stalled the dialogue processes thus creating fatigue and complacency amongst citizens. The following information continues to be inaccessible: the citizen and child-friendly budgets, TSP Monitoring reports, Gazetted Bills in local languages, Statutory Instruments, and policies that are supposed to assist communities to hold the government accountable.

The project has to a greater extent contributed to the rise in levels of understanding of communities on TSP and the broader development process. The knowledge and capacity of communities to participate and influence national development processes has greatly been improved. Communities demonstrated their eagerness to participate in the formulation of the National Development Strategy and also to address conflict that can arise in their respective communities, as indicated in the key messages and recommendations to the government from the citizens.

The action supported a total of 40 CSOs to apply the skills they obtained during the CSO training in CPMRT in the communities they work in. All the 40 CSOs engaged with their respective communities and managed to identify key stakeholders in their communities to engage, convene a meeting to discuss CPMRT, and map a way forward in ensuring peace and harmony within the community. The initiatives also focused on sensitizing community leaders such as traditional leaders, community volunteers, and other organized community groups on CPMRT. The platforms also allowed NANGO to document major causes of conflict and to identify relevant stakeholders that need to be engaged at national and local levels to promote peace and cohesion. The information obtained is being compiled into a policy position paper on Conflict prevention in the country. The expected outcome of the training was to contribute towards strengthened community conflict resolution structures equipped with conflict resolution skills. The actions resulted in the development of work plans with clear strategies for resolving domestic conflicts in communities.



Three meetings were conducted on CPMRT and peacebuilding through National FM Radio where CSOs working in marginalised and hard-to-reach areas were given a platform to share localized CPMRT and best strategies for ensuring conflict prevention and peacebuilding at community level. Special focus was given to organizations that programme around Gender-Based Violence issues such as Musasa, WLSA, and Emthonjeni Women's Forum, amid increased cases of abuse during the COVID-19 induced national lockdown. A total of 11 radio episodes were done and reached out to at least one million citizens. Twenty-One (21) CSOs were engaged to participate in the discussions on CPMRT. In the long term, the action is expected to result in improved conflict resolution and peacebuilding throughout the communities especially in the context of the Covid-19 induced lockdown.

### Public Social Accountability in Development Processes

NANGO continued to foster greater accountability and transparency by the government at both central and local government through the facilitation of safe dialogue spaces between citizens and duty bearers and civic engagement on various issues that pertains to development at national and local levels. This has mainly been done through mobilization and sensitization of communities for the NDSI, and this was directly synchronized with the consultations for the 2021 national budget. Deliberate efforts were made to ensure that the voice of often marginalised communities who are often left behind in the development discourse of the country. The community development aspirations for the NDSI and 2021 national budget were submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development after which CSOs produced an independent post-2021 National Budget analysis as

well as the 2020 National Budget Performance Review which informed their advocacy for improvements in the 2021 budget. Engagements before the 2021 pre-budget consultations yielded positive results where the government agreed to continue improving access to sanitary ware by girls and young women in the country by financing their free access, the introduction of the standalone budget line for persons with disabilities, and a 2.9 percent increase in the health budget allocation which now stands at 12.9 percent,



following the launch of the NDSI, the action has provided feedback to communities where the consultations were done and through this, 269 CSOs and 1847 were reached. In light of COVID 19, the coverage has been significantly increased through the Development Watch radio series. NANGO members were oriented to assist in cascading down the feedbacks to the CSOs and communities on the NDSI priorities and 2021 national budget to ensure that they exercise their right to social accountability and perform budget monitoring and expenditure tracking.

## c) Lobby, Advocacy, and Policy Engagements

### **Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking for enhanced Social Accountability**

As part of the Public Social Accountability Monitoring under the Civil Society National Indicative Program (CSNIP), NANGO continued to conduct budget monitoring and expenditure tracking of the national budget for improved service delivery. Through these exercises, the efficiency and equitable allocation of natural resources has been assessed through the lenses of the extent to which Covid-19 impacted the same. This includes the post-budget analysis and the mid-term review analysis. In the 2020 Mid-Term Budget and Economic Review presented to Parliament by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), it was acknowledged that COVID19 impacted negatively on the domestic economy through lowering commodity demand and international commodity prices; reducing tourist arrivals due to travel restrictions; disrupting of global supply chains for both raw materials and final products and services; slowing down of global financial flows including credit availability, remittances, and portfolio investments; currency volatility; and high inflation. Due to the pandemic, the government may justify shortcomings in financial prudent to prioritisation in procuring goods and services to fight the pandemic thus affecting the equitable allocation of natural resources.

The results for the 2019 Open Budget Survey (OBS) were published in May 2020. Considering the role played by NANGO in influencing the implementation of the OBS recommendations from the 2017 OBS, it was found prudent for NANGO to analyse the OBS 2019 results in view to further improve our performance as a country on the state of transparency and accountability. While it is acknowledged that Zimbabwe has been ranked number three in Africa in terms of budget transparency by the OBS of 2019, with a Budget Index Score of 49, up from 23 recorded in 2017, which is a feature a government that is committed to addressing macroeconomic imbalances, removing structural distortions to facilitate resumption in growth and to re-engage with the international community including by clearing its external debt, Zimbabwe continues to face deep macroeconomic imbalances to date.





## COVID-19 AWARENESS RAISING, SENSITISATION, AND RESPONSE

COVID-19 has been declared a global epidemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020 and is spreading rapidly and causing untold mortalities. NANGO and its membership have been complementing government efforts in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 after realising its social, economic, and security threats for the country. The Zimbabwe health sector in the country has been severely disrupted by the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 if there are no measures for timely coordination, collaboration, and communication of bold decisions. CSOs have been at the fore of the responses in providing personal protective equipment and raising awareness and sensitisation of communities on COVID-19. NANGO remained committed to coordinating CSOs' efforts and collaborating with other stakeholders, the government included, in the response to COVID-19. CSOs continued to ensure effective communication and community engagement by sharing correct, apt, and timely information concerning COVID-19. In light of this, NANGO in collaboration with some of its members across the five (5) regions launched the country COVID-19 Campaign aimed at creating awareness to the public on the COVID-19 pandemic. Another series of campaigns have been conducted via radio platforms (national broadcasts and community radio stations). Awareness materials were produced and disseminated through members and social media platforms. A total of 80 messages in eight languages (English, Shona, Ndebele, Tonga, Kalanga, Nambya, Sotho, and Venda) were developed, translated, and recorded, and these were circulated using various social media structures and bulk SMS platforms. Further, 20 infomercials titled **COVID-19 REALITIES**, were produced and these identified the following key areas of concern: realities for women and girls; realities for persons with disabilities; realities

for informal traders; realities for Children; and realities for health workers amongst other first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deliberately the consultations were carried out in the hard-to-reach areas which are more often left behind during information dissemination owing to their geographic locations, economic condition, and state of public infrastructure amongst other reasons. The campaign aimed at raising awareness and sensitising communities with key information about the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, these communities were behaving like COVID-19 is no more and hence behaviour change against COVID-19 measures has been a cause for concern. This campaign, therefore, seeks to overturn the myths and misconceptions about COVID-19 by sensitising communities that the COVID-19 pandemic is still prevailing and people are infected and dying almost every day in Zimbabwe. The campaign availed simplified, accessible, and disability-friendly messages that can be understood by the communities. Key messages availed were as follows:

- Encouraging communities to continue to wear face masks properly, wash hands regularly with soap, use alcohol-based sanitisers in a gathering of fewer than 50 people, exercise social distance and observe any other measures put forward by the government through the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Communities were encouraged to use the information published by authentic sources such as MoHCC, WHO, and CSOs in the area and not to rely on the information on social media.
- Encouraging the communities to stay at home all the time and avoid unnecessary movements and groupings, and minimise travelling during this period of COVID-19.
- Sensitising the communities that they should report escapees from quarantine centres especially returnees to reduce the spread of the virus in their communities.
- Sensitising communities of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and encouraging them to self-isolate whenever they suspect COVID-19 and get tested.

### **Development of Infomercials for COVID-19 Awareness and Sensitisations**

The infomercials spelt out the challenges faced by marginalized communities and how they are made more vulnerable if people do not prevent the spread. The idea was to encourage people to stay at home and practice safe hygiene and distancing as not doing so has some consequences for other segments in the community. The radio platforms, both national and community radio platform, was used to disseminate information on wider coverage. A total of 15 radio programs in four (4) different radio stations were done in 2020. These shared broad information on COVID-19, updated on key service delivery issues and brought the discourse on accountability closer to communities, and enabled them to discuss issues that affect them directly even in the middle of fighting a pandemic. A total of 10,000 messages in 2020 disseminating information in 14 local languages focusing on prevention, safety, and symptoms of COVID-19.



# #HearMeToo



*It all begins at home, lets raise them to know how they deserve to be treated and how they should treat others. Lets all do our part in putting an end to GBV by starting the conversation*

## **16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**

*- Nothando Khumalo*

Est&Child Photograph

25 November marks the beginning of 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence. It was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the centre for women's global leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. NANGO's focus is on generating an increased awareness of the negative impact that violence and abuse have on women and girls, and the social fabric of our society.

This year the organisation joined the rest of the world in observing the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence; set to challenge cultures and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities and consequent abuse of women and girls with disabilities. NANGO observed these days under the global theme; Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect and the local theme '#HearMeToo Ending Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities.' The organisation took this as an opportunity to reflect on the prevailing challenges and gaps in the current initiatives to address gender-based violence and inequalities against women and girls with disabilities to transition from commitment to action. The 2020's observance came at a time when the world is battling under siege from the COVID-19 pandemic which has perpetuated gender-based violence among women and girls. NANGO reached more than 1000 women and girls through daily flash messages on social media platforms, bulk SMS, and dialogues facilitated by the NANGO women, youths, disability, and children sectors.

### **d) Research and Knowledge Management**

As NANGO, research, publication, and knowledge management remain one of the niche areas that we exploit for the benefit of our beneficiaries, stakeholders, and also to share the information with our partners. In the year 2020, NANGO has produced about six policy briefs and analysis, one position paper and one soft

research paper. The papers were disseminated and shared with our valued stakeholders and stockholders of the network mainly through our virtual social media platforms and the e-news platform. NANGO has been sharing the weekly alerts to partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries for them to keep informed of the different work we do as an organisation. The feedback we received from communities, members, stakeholders, and partners has been overwhelming.

### e) Communications, Information, and Visibility

In terms of communication, information, and visibility, NANGO has managed to increase its footprints on the electronic media that is through the radio (about 42 direct radio appearances and close to 23 times our interventions have been mentioned or referred to in major radio programmes); produced eight (8) videos uploaded on our YouTube channel (NANGOTV), social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook). NANGO website has been upgraded with new interesting features which makes it user friendly with a good interface. These platforms have become an integral part of our efforts to reach out to communities, membership, stakeholders, and partners who may otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in the NANGO facilitated meetings. In 2020, NANGO participated in some high-profile meetings and forums for instance the Engagement with Minister of State Affairs for Harare Province, Provincial Administrators Office, State security agency and Local authorities, **AND** CSO GFF platform-Building and Action Planning Meeting amongst others which allows the organisation to showcase its work. NANGO has a e-news platform to share real-time updates with members, partners, and stakeholders. To that effect, NANGO would like to thank stakeholders, partners, and members for the overwhelming response and feedback on the information that we upload and share through our social media platforms. The organisation has also recorded significant growth in the subscribers to our social media sites especially on Facebook and Twitter and this has widened our reach as an organisation in 2020. Meanwhile, we continue to improve our sites and platforms to increase visibility and communicate results in real-time as it happens. The association has three major social media platforms for information sharing which are Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. During the COVID-19 Awareness Campaign, NANGO has distributed branded face masks which also assist in increasing the visibility of the organisation.





**NANGO Midlands**  
 @nangomidlands Follows you  
[facebook.com/NANGO-Midlands...](https://facebook.com/NANGO-Midlands...) Joined August 2017  
 318 Following 1,013 Followers

**Nango Western Region**  
 @nangowest Follows you  
 National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (Western Region).  
 Coordinator, intermediary, convener & above all the voice of Civil Society.  
 Bulawayo Joined September 2013  
 533 Following 1,230 Followers

**NANGO EASTERN**  
 @nango\_eastern Follows you  
 Manicaland, Zimbabwe Joined August 2017  
 326 Following 1,089 Followers

## f) Membership Growth Analysis and Servicing

| Region   | Paid 2020 | Database 2020 |
|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Northern | 42        | 562           |
| Western  | 2         | 223           |
| Eastern  | 5         | 177           |
| Southern | 5         | 41            |
| Midlands | 8         | 58            |

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## ZIMBABWE CIVIL SOCIETY OPERATING ENVIRONMENT 2020 OVERVIEW

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Zimbabwean Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have evidently been subjected to restrictive legal, policy and administrative instruments promulgated by the Government at both national and local levels. The restrictive environment is further compounded by the selective application of the law. As a result, the progressive realization of civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms are compromised. In addition, there is worsening of the existing challenges with regards, NGO compliance with financial reporting, ethical procedures, good governance and other requirements are compromised. This context makes CSOs more vulnerable and weakened to express their freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Ultimately the spaces for CSOs becomes more constrained and inhibitive. The call by the regulatory authority to control CSOs has been louder by the day and the current process of reviewing the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Act and the intention to enact an NGO bill all work towards constraining the civic space. The review of the PVO Act has been motivated by various reasons chief among them being the need to include the Financial Anti-Terrorist Financing (FATF) recommendations to do with Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism. The Government launched the Aid Coordination Policy which regulates how CSOs will be accessing funding from various development partners. Shrinking of development partner support has been one of the most challenging issue of concern for CSOs. The intention by the government to push for the PVO Act amendment which is supposed to be used in monitoring and regulating the activities of NGOs in the country among others, civil society operating space clearly demonstrates the desire to shrink civic space. Government on several occasions has threatened to clamp

down operations of those CSOs who do not comply with “their mandates” with the most recent case being the President of Zimbabwe in his 2020 State of the Nation Address in which he announced that “...all NGOs who do not stick to their mandates shall risk being de-registered or facing the wrath of the law”.



## OVERVIEW OF GAPS AND MAJOR CHALLENGES

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1. Lack of funding for the association to broaden the scope and coverage of the projects implemented at the same replicating the results achieved for sustainability purposes. Feedbacks from the membership also revealed a limited funding base which affect their operations amid the COVID 19 and the shrinking of the funding from development partners.
2. Increased vulnerabilities for communities (rural and urban) with marginalised groups being disproportionately affected especially women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities coupled with the country's incapacity to meet the social protection needs of the communities.
3. Shrinking of the civic space evidenced by different pieces of legislation promulgated by the government and, the proposed amendments to the Private Voluntary Act.
4. There have been extra administrative and program-related costs brought about by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the likelihood of new waves and variants of the pandemic.



5. More community and CSOs sensitisation on the NDSI and other development processes is required in remote hard-to-reach areas which have often been left behind due to minimal understanding and appreciation of the national and local development discourses of the country.
6. Funding is required for institutional strengthening of the association and its broader membership.



## CONCLUSION AND TRAJECTORY MOVING FORWARD

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In conclusion, NANGO believes that a better Zimbabwe is possible in our lifetime and that all people should have access to better services across all aspects of life. In particular, the disenfranchised groups that are in the society look up to CSOs to deliver joy, hope, peace, and the fruition of their dreams. Thus, for the year 2021 and subsequent years, we call on all CSOs, partners, and stakeholders to:

1. Ensure that all Government institutions perform their work to the best of their capacities, and that they are autonomous as this is key to enhancing service delivery across all aspects of life for citizens and communities.
2. Ensure implementation of the various development programmes such as NDSI, SDGs, UHC, Beijing Declaration among others, to the book through prudent stewardship of the national resources, that will be used to transform the lives of all citizens.

3. Embrace the multi-stakeholder approach in addressing the development questions and challenges of the day through creating platforms where the Private Sector, NGOs, Government, and Quasi-Government, Church, Labour, Political Parties, Youths and Women seat on the table of decision making.
4. Create an enabling environment that facilitates operations of diverse stakeholders who would want to contribute towards sustainable development in Zimbabwe through the removal of some illegal and administrative bottlenecks that exist.

**Ends///...**

## **ABOUT US**

NANGO is a non party political, nonprofit making and non-denominational official body of NGOs in Zimbabwe that was founded in 1962. 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 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. Ultimately, NANGO ensures promotion, directly or indirectly, of the well being of 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.





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Resilient nations.*



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## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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NANGO PUBLICATIONS

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