



The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

Strengthening The Voice Of NGOs In Zimbabwe

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS
(NANGO)**

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January to December

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National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO)

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Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EU	European Union
FBOs	Faith-Based Organisations
FNF	Friedrich Naumann Foundation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HOA	Heads of Agencies
HRC	Human Rights Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MoPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
MoUs	Memorandum of Understandings
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
NEC	National Executive Committee
OBS	Open Budget Survey
PACT	Private Agencies Cooperating Together
PDC	Provincial Development Coordinator
PFFC	Public Financing for Children
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
REC	Regional Executive Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
ZNASP IV	Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan IV
ZNBC	Zimbabwe National Budget Coalition



'Now, more than ever, skills and capacity enhancement of our members must be a top priority as one of the most influential levers to create a vibrant civil society that is ready to serve vulnerable and marginalised groups in Zimbabwe' ~ Dr. Lamiel Phiri – 2021

NANGO Incoming Board Chairperson

2021 has been a challenging year for civil society in Zimbabwe but also a year of achievements and successes as we build back better from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The civic space environment in Zimbabwe has undoubtedly deteriorated over the past years, with more existential threats and attacks on civic freedoms. In Zimbabwe, we have seen the government moving ahead to amend the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Act. In short, we witness a great contestation of those civic actors working for human rights, democratic freedoms, and social justice. In many instances, civil society has not been spared from COVID-19-induced restrictions but has also succeeded in mobilising and putting solidarity into practice to provide help, share vital information and hold the government accountable for the COVID-19 response. The pandemic confronted us with the interlinked nature of the threats facing people and their livelihoods. The extent of consequences of this crisis will continue to unfold for many years and continue to change our societies for decades to come. In light of this, civil society needs to rethink and adapt continuously to the changes in various contexts. And more than ever, civil society organisations must exert their power to change things for the better.

As the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), we believe that civil society in Zimbabwe has a crucial role to play in our country which is facing increasingly complex challenges. We are convinced that movement building and collaboration will be determining factors to position civil society as a key actor of governance at all levels, to promote human rights, and to build an inclusive and sustainable world. The increasing restrictions on civic space highlighted by the NANGO members across the country give the necessity to develop sustainable links between civil society organisations and the citizens who are the beneficiaries of our interventions, the strengthening of collaborations between CSOs and the private sector when values are shared, and more importantly the ability to find each other between CSOs and government at all levels.

We believe that civil society organisations across the country have to find alternative ways of getting their messages across and to adapt to new ways of working and mobilising amid the new normalcy brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many organisations and NANGO members had to shift their activities almost entirely online. But our adaptive capacity and resilience sit at the core of what we do.

We are happy to share with you our 2021 Annual report, focusing on some of the milestones yielded during this past year. Under our key pillars of Coordination, Capacity Enhancement, Research and Knowledge Management; Networking and Enabling Environment, we have focused on dialogues and engagements for better policy advocacy and agenda-setting to advance new models of sustainable development, under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) portfolio, strengthening networking systems and accountability in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and much more. We have developed several collective advocacy initiatives and policy briefs to promote alternative narratives and raise awareness on issues ranging from civic space to sustainable development and collaborating with members and stakeholders on various initiatives.

We have created new spaces for dialogue through our publications and Development Watch Platforms and the People's Assembly platform, reinforcing our partnership with members and other CSOs, non-state actors, and development partners. Finally, we have developed practices to increase our accountability and transparency within the association with anticipation to cascade it down to members. The achievements documented in this annual report are a testimony to the power of joint action and collaboration. We are inspired by our increasingly diverse membership and want to take this opportunity to thank them for their support throughout this year. The power of collective action has been proven, let us keep up our efforts harnessing collective energies to enable civil society to thrive, everywhere.

Yours in Service



Dr Lamiel BK Phiri
National Board Chairperson





'Our dream is for this generation is to bequeath a peaceful Zimbabwe to the next generation and be accounted for as the generation that left an indelible mark of peace that will not be erased.' ~ **Leonard Mandishara – 2021**

NANGO Acting Executive Director

2021 was one of the hardest years. Civil society was tested like never before. However, the COVID-19 pandemic proved the need for civil society. We have witnessed trends of intensifying restrictions on civic space, increasing poverty and inequality, deteriorating democratic institutions, and attacks on human rights defenders, to name a few. Many economies have been brought to their knees by the COVID-19 pandemic and Zimbabwe has not been spared. So, the work that we do at NANGO in collaboration with our members has never been as needed and impactful as during the past year. The publications, online events, convenings, and representations have been so well appreciated and so timely. NANGO has played a leadership role in the dialogue, denunciations, and actions in response to COVID-19 and anticipation of a post-COVID-19 world. I am very proud to be associated with this work and hope each one of you is too.

Donor funding continues to shrink hence organisations have been operating on shoestring 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 few opportunities for an average man or woman on the streets. Members of NANGO continued to face both regulation and registration challenges, posed by the selective application of the law, especially at district levels by local authorities. Reports throughout the year indicate an increase in demand and requests for clearance letters and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) by local government structures, especially local authorities. With local authorities tightening requirements, this is frustrating the smooth implementation of programs and projects on the ground. This fluid operating environment requires the association to chart a bold new path that is consistent with an evolving operating environment. There is a definite need for a firm and clear path cognisant of the fluidity of the operating environment. It is also imperative for NANGO to adopt mechanisms for enhanced flexibility and responsiveness to issues emerging in the operating environment.

In 2021, four main projects directly supported the realisation of the NANGO strategic plan (2020 – 2022) and these are: i) Civil Society's National Indicative Programme Monitoring and

Advocacy; ii) CSOs Enabling Environment; iii) CSOs influence on SDGs in Zimbabwe and; iv) Budget Openness and Fiscal Transparency in Zimbabwe. The **Civil Society's National Indicative Programme Monitoring and Advocacy** project sought to strengthen CSOs watchdog role in the implementation of the European Union (EU) supported National Indicative Program in Zimbabwe through capacity enhancement to enable CSOs and communities to monitor, effectively participate, evaluate, document and make public the implementation results of the program. The project adopted the public social accountability monitoring techniques and tools which were used by trained CSOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) who were part of the project. Results of the project include the development and operationalisation of a civil society-driven monitoring and evaluation system of tracking, monitoring, and reporting development programmes at all levels of governance in Zimbabwe for improved transparency and accountability; CSOs capacity enhancement in tracking the performance of development-oriented programmes; and strengthen citizen participation in governance and institution building for upward and downwards accountability.

The **CSOs Enabling Environment Project**, supported by PACT, was designed to achieve improved legal, policy, and legislative instruments regulating CSOs' operating space and environment. Through the project, NANGO envisioned strengthening the voice of CSOs for improved accountability and democratic governance in Zimbabwe through; the creation and promotion of an enabling environment; strengthening peer accountability and sectorial reputation; increased civil society advocacy and representation of all citizens in socio-political and developmental issues.

The **CSOs influence on SDGs in Zimbabwe Project** sought to positively influence the Zimbabwe 2021 Voluntary National Review processes as well as provide a platform for CSOs to reflect on the outcomes and recommendations from the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The project largely informed the development of an Action Plan for CSOs on accelerating the implementation of SDGs in Zimbabwe based on recommendations and reflections from the 2021 HLPF. Through the project, NANGO mobilised members across the regions to take part in the 2021 Global Week of Action, especially the People's Assembly processes. The focus of the People's Assembly was to put individuals in the picture and drive home the message that there is hope beyond the pandemic and that we can all be part of the solution, inviting everyone to play their part in turning it around. The initiative placed marginalised voices such as persons with disabilities, women, children, and youths at the centre to analyse crucial issues, plan together and develop key demands and messages for decision-makers to take proactive policy decisions to address the gaps identified in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. This was key in the spirit of Leaving No One Behind. A demand charter was developed and presented to the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and

Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) for the government's consideration of the country's SDGs implementation efforts. The action was implemented in line with the NANGO SDGs Platforms theory of change which seeks to ensure the effective contribution of CSOs in Zimbabwe to the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, **Budget Openness and Fiscal Transparency in Zimbabwe Project** is an ongoing project which seeks to ensure that public financial resources are managed with integrity, transparency, and accountability for effective and efficient service delivery, sustainable growth and development. It is key for the treasury and other fiscal policy authorities to share knowledge and to take a common position to provide credible information when elaborating and executing the national budgets. On the other hand, CSOs can play an instrumental role in encouraging grassroots participation through better public education on the public finance management systems in particular the budget cycle. Thus the project seeks to enhance the state of transparency and accountability in the prioritisation and utilisation of public resources in Zimbabwe. This is an ongoing programme that is being implemented, leveraging the experience and knowledge accumulated through the Open Budget Survey (OBS), Zimbabwe National Budget Coalition (ZNBC), and Public Financing for Children (PFFC) Initiatives.

Throughout the year 2021, NANGO continued to be regarded as a source of technical and policy advice to the government, development partners, academia, and the private sector in Zimbabwe and beyond. In light of this, it is imperative to expedite capacity enhancement and adaptation for high-quality convening and events. Your expectations reflect the strength of the NANGO brand as a trusted source for an independent opinion from the civil society sector. Towering high behind this brand is the professionalism and commitment expected of us, as staff members. With these high expectations from our members, partners, and stakeholders, we always prepare for the present and the future. NANGO, like any other CSO, is operating in a space that is increasingly shrinking, becoming globally competitive for ideas and resources. To stay relevant, we need to maintain top-notch quality standards, build the right partnerships across different sectors and spaces, and explore fully the opportunities created by technology, effective communications strategy and our capacity to convene. The development landscape in which NANGO operates is profoundly affected by global regulatory challenges and new forms of development focus, especially, the SDGs, African Agenda 2063, treaties, and conventions. For NANGO to remain afloat, it is important to embed and integrate the new development focus at national, regional, continental, and global levels.

We are grateful for the results we have achieved in 2021 despite the very complex and restrictive conditions faced. I would be remiss to conclude this overview without expressing my profound gratitude to the National Executive Committee, Regional Executive Committees, Membership

as well as members of the staff. I acknowledge the commitment and efforts during this difficult time that has made us yield the milestones which shall be presented henceforth in this annual report. Migrating to the new ways of working was not easy but it is the dedication, commitment, and appetite for results and impact during the pandemic which kept us going.

Yours Faithfully



Ernest Nyimai

NANGO Acting Executive Director



In Loving Memory of Leonard Mandishara, Former NANGO Executive Director.

Condolence Messages Snaps

'With our heartfelt sympathies, our condolences go to the Mandishara and @nangozimbabwe families on the passing on of Leonard Mandishara.

May you find comfort in the memory of the work he did for the country. May his soul rest in peace' ~ **UNDP Zimbabwe**

'SYS would like to convey it's sincere condolences to the Mandishara family following the death of NANGO Director, Leonard Mandishara! His death comes as a shock to the nation. He leaves behind a stellar legacy of hard work and strong resilience. May his dear soul Rest In Peace' ~ **Shamwari Yemwanasikana**

'@NAYOZimbabwe has learnt with a deep sense of shock and sorrow of the sudden and untimely passing on of Leonard Mandishara, the Director of NANGO. Its a dark cloud in the country, we have lost a visionary leader. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE' ~ **NAYO**

'The @ZimHRNGOForum is deeply saddened by the untimely death of prominent human rights defender, Leonard Mandishara. By the time of his passing on, he was the director of NANGO. May the Lord comfort & strengthen the Mandishara family at this difficult moment' ~ **NGO Forum**

'@euinzim expresses its deepest sympathy on the passing of Mr Leonard Mandishara and hopes that the Mandishara family and @nangozimbabwe will find comfort during this difficult time. May his soul Rest In Peace' ~ **EU Delegation to Zimbabwe**

'Our heart goes out to the Mandishara family, @nangozimbabwe and the entire civil society of Zimbabwe family on the passing of Mr Leonard Mandishara. May the cherished memories of Mr Leonard Mandishara bring peace to all of us in this difficult time' ~ **Jointed Hands**



The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (NANGO) is sad to announce the passing on of the NANGO Executive Director

Leonard Mandishara

on Wednesday, 16th February 2022

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

1: Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

2: He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up.

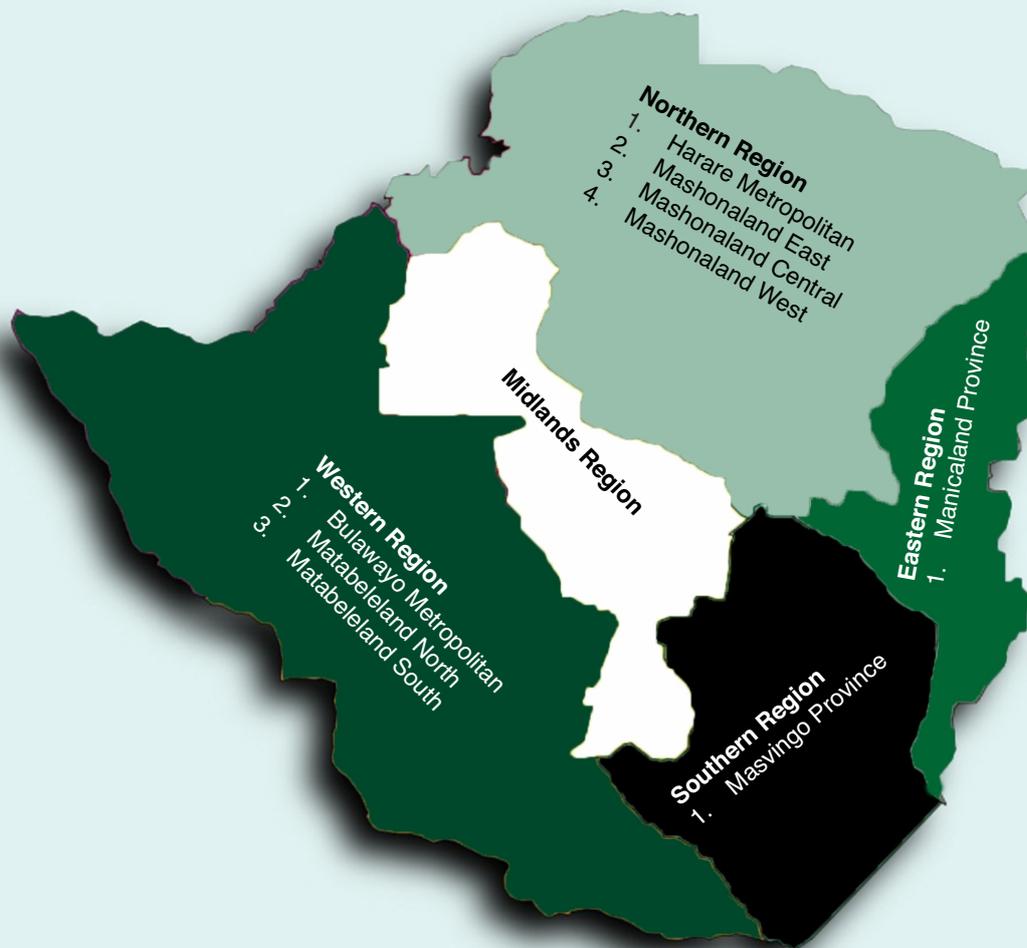
Romans 14:8

If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

We continue to say '**May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace**'

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Northern Region

The year 2021 continued to be a difficult year that saw Northern Region like any other NANGO Regional office across Zimbabwe affected by Covid-19 and its effects. Covid-19 affected most of our member's operations during the year as the country had to undergo a national lockdown with very minimal movements during the first half of the year. As a way of adjusting to the new normal, most of our engagements with members were mostly virtual which also posed a challenge as some members could not afford the exorbitant charges for data. Again in some areas that are far away from the main cities they experienced connectivity challenges thereby further alienating them from networking and dialoguing with others virtually.

Furthermore, members continue operating within the context of macroeconomic meltdown due to alarming inflation rates caused by expansionary monetary and fiscal policy measures and administrative challenges among other drivers. Limited and redirection of funding to Covid-19-related programming also affected most of our members as some had to change focus to be in line with Covid-19-related programming. Revenue to the region during the first half of the year

declined because members could not travel to the bank or NANGO offices due to travel restrictions. However, this later improved during the year when the travel restrictions were eased. We would like to acknowledge all members who supported the region. It is because of your efforts to be where we are today.

During the last quarter of the year under review, the Government moved forward with the amendment of the Private Voluntary Organizations Act Amendment 2021. NANGO as the coordinating body of NGOs was poised to create an enabling environment for NGOs operating in all its regions. The operating environment for the NANGO Northern Region membership was highly influenced by evolvments in the socio-economic and political development discourse of the country. It was therefore imperative for the region to understand and safeguard the CSOs operating environment in a constantly evolving operating space. Members, through the CSOs movement-building and consensus-building meetings that were held during the year, contributed to the CSO position paper on the PVO amendment that was shared with key stakeholders. The region encouraged members to stick to their mandate and adhere to their registration requirements.

It is during the reporting period that the region ushered in a new regional governance body. The elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held during the last quarter of the year democratically and transparently. The new Regional Executive Committee will steer the regional operations for the next three years. We would like to render them all the support they need for them to effectively discharge their duties. Special thanks go to the outgoing Regional Executive Committees who despite the challenges caused by Covid-19 executed their duties diligently.

Northern Region continues to raise the NANGO flag high and discharge its coordination role with integrity and principles that set the tone of what regions should emulate. The region believes in a vibrant, well-coordinated membership that is peaceful, lives in harmony and respects human rights while at the same time adhering to its mandate in complimenting government efforts for sustainable development. To achieve this, there is a need for consorted effort from our funding partners, stakeholders, and members in general.

We are calling all our current funding partners, stakeholders, and potential partners to join hands as members in the regions are trying to build back better. Northern Region is committed to coordinating its members but can successfully do so with support from everyone. Fragmentation amongst members is further dividing their efforts, making the region weaker by the day. As we approach 2022, I hope that the Lord Almighty God protects us, and instill in us a positive spirit to give to those most in need. Have a prosperous, peaceful, and Covid-free 2022.

Western Region

Following the operational difficulties faced in the year prior due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the year 2021 was characterised by similar challenges for CSOs in the Western Region. COVID-19 caused several social and economic disruptions and the work of CSOs in the region was not spared. The nationwide lockdown(s) restricted the work of CSOs and in some instances, the lockdowns were utilised to restrict operating space for CSOs and to violate the rights of the citizens. The reported number of cases of domestic violence escalated, school-going children and pass rates were affected as children could not attend classes regularly, whilst inflation and poverty rates spiked. Communities could not receive the support they are accustomed to receiving from CSOs for several reasons including the lockdowns, but in some instances, CSOs failed to source the necessary resources to provide their usual services; funding partners redirected more resources toward Covid-19 mitigation measures. Reducing the impacts of Covid-19 in the region was slowed down by the slow uptake of vaccines, whilst the region remained most at risk due to its proximity to countries that had been reported to have new variants (Botswana) and high rates of infection (South Africa). In the year under review, access to justice was highly restricted and the proposal to introduce the Integrated Electronic Case Management System by the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) was both timely and welcome, although it is noted that the service comes with its restrictions as it may not be user friendly for all, and will reach the lower and most frequently accessed courts in due time.

The NANGO Western Region Secretariat was unable to reach and access some members from the region due to the lockdowns, and membership servicing was restricted due to funding constraints. The funding constraints were most highlighted by the low number of members who paid membership subscription fees despite 2021 being an elective year. The region was unable to reach the minimum required number of seven participants required to form a board since a large number of the paid-up members have their directors based in other NANGO regions and they, therefore, could not sit on the NANGO Western regional boards. Concessions and resolutions were made during the AGM to ensure the region was not left without a Regional Executive Committee. This year's elections highlighted the need to review some of the provisions in the NANGO [Constitution](#) as the applicability of some provisions has become difficult with the constantly fluid and changing context for NANGO in regions.

Despite the many challenges faced in the regions, including the change of regional coordinators mid-year, many organisations continued to utilise innovative platforms such as social media (WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook as well as traditional text messaging) and virtual platforms for information dissemination and communication. The use of these platforms was most

apparent following the gazetting of the PVO Amendment Bill, a Bill with provisions that threaten the very existence of CSOs. It quickly became apparent that there was an urgent need to move with speed and intention, to ensure that CSOs responded effectively to the challenges and opportunities the pandemic had revealed. As NANGO Western Region, we are inadvertently tasked with helping to reshape the way CSO work evolves and adapts so that organisations can continue to serve communities during crises and beyond.

Eastern Region

Civil Society work in the year 2021 faced several difficulties both at the regional and national levels. Challenges were heightened by the increasingly severe third and fourth waves of the pandemic, and global COVID-19 vaccine inequity which prolonged the “lockdown period”. The NANGO Eastern Region had been hit by the devastating Cyclone Idai and the affected areas were still in a humanitarian crisis, experiencing food shortages and other developmental needs that would require NGO work and physical presence. Dominant negative impacts include low programme implementation, transition to virtual meetings, a decline in capacity building, and staff burnout/pressure in most organisations. The virtual means of doing business then restricted program beneficiaries to receive the interventions they were accustomed to, more so funding was redirected towards covid-19 interventions.

However, there was a remarkable presence in terms of communication and visibility of CSOs programmes in the region through WhatsApp and Twitter platforms and the community radios (Diamond FM, Muganga, and Kumakomoyo Community Radio Stations), that reach a wide audience, even in the hard to reach areas. Since cases of **child marriages** and **environmental conflicts** were rampant in the region due to its proximity to the Mozambique border and the mining communities (Marange, Penhalonga), several CSOs programmed around GBV cases and conflict prevention, management, resolution, and transformation cases.

Facing all this, the NANGO Eastern Region Secretariat made use of the vibrant NGO Network WhatsApp group platform for easy coordination with member organisations especially on issues to do with the CSO operating environment (PVO Shadow Bill and the Self-Regulation Mechanism) as well as sharing of development issues and ideas. This year, the region was privileged enough to have visits from the British and the Canadian Embassies, having discussions on the CSO operating environment. With the coming in of a new NANGO Eastern Regional Executive Committee. We surely hope the voice of CSOs in the region will be strengthened and CSO engagement will continue even during the advent of disasters, we believe that is when our voice and presence as CSOs are mostly needed.

Southern Region

The year 2021 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, and where flexibility should be ensured. This is a time when we call on the diverse NGO community, development partners, and other partners to put in place exceptional measures for quick decision-making, flexibility, and a real risk-sharing attitude. We believe NGOs are critical to the delivery of effective and 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 achieved 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 mobilise resources as a team.

In such a time as this, it is sad that a lot of organisations in the Southern Region are holding off because of a lack of resources and failure to carry out programmes during the advent of Covid-19. Despite the challenge to have a smooth transition from the previous NANGO Southern Region Coordinator, CSO members in the NANGO Southern Region aim to work together to ensure CSO developmental work is recognised and remains relevant as we complement the government efforts and work with diverse communities.

Midlands Region

The year 2021 will forever be synonymous with tragedy, loss, and chaos. Through this difficult time, we kept our focus on our mission, knowing that the daily developmental problems we face are more enduring than either a pandemic or political upheaval. And we saw wins, especially from a CSO Coordination perspective. Most notably, the region has been host to several significant national dialogue processes between civil society and key partners especially government ministries, development partners, and the international community on various issues including the alignment and amendment of laws, national elections, relations building, and skills transfer.

Currently, Midlands Region membership stands at approximately 62 members with organisations varying from CBOs, Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), and CSOs. The number of members who paid subscriptions during the reporting periods is only 12. The major challenge

that has resulted in low membership subscription payments is a lack of funding and also some organisations halting operations during the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the operations of CSOs. Therefore, members are finding it difficult to pay up their subscriptions despite the opportunity for making part-payments.

In terms of communications and visibility activities, the regional office partnered with the 98.4 FM Midlands radio station to which members got the opportunity to speak on various issues, especially on the contribution of the CSOs to the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) which helped increase the visibility of the organisations and the association. The Development Watch Newsletter is up and running as it is produced on a bi-weekly basis. The regional social media platforms are active with the Twitter page growing from 946 followers in 2020 to 1081 followers and the Facebook page growing from 193 followers in 2020 to 535 followers in 2021.

Deep Dive into the Outcomes of the 2021 Elective Annual General Meeting

In line with Section 5 of the NANGO Constitution which provides for the renewal of leadership after every three (3) years; the association held Elective AGMs at regional and national levels. The previous national board was ushered into leadership in 2018 during an elective AGM held in Bulawayo and served its term of office for the period from January 2019 to December 2021. Regional Elective AGMs were held physically in the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Midlands regions of NANGO. New Regional Executive Committees (REC) were ushered into leadership across the four (4) regions. NANGO Southern Region could not hold their Elective AGM as they could not reach a quorum as required by the Constitution and as such the Elective AGM was deferred to a later date. On the 10th of December 2021, the association held a virtual national elective AGM which saw the unanimous election of Dr. Lamiel Phiri (Chairperson), Charles Mazorodze (Vice Chairperson), Michael Ndiweni (Secretary) and Frank Mpahlo (Treasurer) as the new management committee of the association. The newly elected board members will serve the association for the period January 2022 to December 2024. The sector representatives were nominated to the board in line with the Constitution and sectors terms of reference.

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NANGO's 2021 Key Achievements

a) Coordination and Networking

Following the meaningful involvement and participation of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and communities in the development of the National Development Strategy 1 in the previous year, NANGO facilitated more engagement development meetings at the beginning of the year. Further, NANGO coordinated the participation of NANGO members in the Treaty on the Prevention of Nuclear Weapons. The aim was to lobby the government of Zimbabwe to sign and ratify the treaty.

NANGO coordinated CSOs' contributions toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review Process by facilitating CSO Scorecard Administration Meetings. The meetings managed to build consensus among CSOs on progress made, gaps and lessons learnt so far in achieving the SDGs in Zimbabwe. NANGO produced a report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from members' contributions, "[CSO SDG Spotlight Report](#)".

NANGO organised Donor Roundtable meetings and CSOs were mobilised to attend these meetings with development partners which were held virtually via zoom and at a national level. NANGO members were able to interact with development partners such as the EU, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Heads of Agencies (HOA). These meetings aimed to allow NANGO members to discuss their needs and challenges with development partners. The meetings also provided NANGO members with an opportunity to engage collaboratively with development partners on issues affecting them.

b) CSOs Capacity Enhancement and Institutional Strengthening

Following the Government's launch of the NDS1 in November 2020, NANGO strengthened CSOs to play a watchdog role in monitoring the implementation and results of the NDS1 for improved, accountable, and effective development outcomes as well as sustainability. This was achieved through capacity enhancement making use of NANGO thematic clusters for the creation of effective result-monitoring frameworks across all sectors.

CSOs across the country were taken through public social accountability monitoring training and sensitisation on key priority areas identified by the government in the NDS1 and the tenets

of the strategy. To enhance CSOs' ability to monitor and advocate for the full implementation of the NDS1, NANGO highlighted specific projects implemented countrywide and how CSOs can effectively monitor them. Emphasis was put on sensitising the CSOs on the commitments made by the government to improve social service delivery targeting education, health, food and nutrition, and social security. CSOs were sensitised on the need to develop and use their monitoring framework for the NDS1 for key indicators that speak to their programming to enable them to effectively and collectively feed into the NDS1. A total of 121 members participated in the sensitisation and formulation of a result monitoring framework.

NANGO also facilitated sensitisation meetings with CSOs in NANGO Northern and Western Regions on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle. The meeting's objective was to come up with CSO UPR's contribution to the UPR report to the Human Rights Commission (HRC). The CSOs UPR report was developed and shared.

c) Lobby, Advocacy, and Policy Engagements

As part of the State of Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Initiative, NANGO continued to spearhead budget credibility assessment for Zimbabwe through the Open Budget Survey (OBS). The OBS is a global initiative that helps countries measure their budget transparency and accountability.

d) Research and Knowledge Management

The association continued with its work towards research, publication, and knowledge management as a value addition to our beneficiaries, stakeholders, and other interested individuals. In the year 2021, the organisation managed to produce policy briefs and analyses, a shadow bill, and position papers. The papers were disseminated to our diverse stakeholders and stockholders mainly through our digital communication platforms such as the NANGO e-news, website, and WhatsApp. The association has continued to play its role of keeping its stakeholders and stockholders informed of the various work of the organisation and other key documents/information by sharing random updates via WhatsApp regional groups and weekly alerts via email. The organisation managed to conduct various feedback meetings throughout the year as a way to share information with the members, community groups, government agencies, and other partners.

e) Communications, Information, and Visibility

The year 2021 was a difficult one in the context of media engagement due to the lack of adequate resources and, with most activities being implemented through online platforms. More attention was put towards maximising our available organisational communication channels, both internal and external, to continue improving our visibility and sharing information with different key stakeholders. Therefore, with more efforts directed toward new information and communication technologies, the association enjoyed a rather gradual growth of its social media platforms. The NANGO website has become pivotal in storing, educating, and sharing updates, publications, and other key information with various stakeholders due to the increase in internet use at the local, regional and international levels. With the Covid-19 pandemic still among us, it provides an opportunity to harness our online platforms to enhance our target audiences' understanding of who we are, our key focus area, and the programmes we are currently undertaking. The virtual world opens up new spaces for us to reach even those stakeholders across national boundaries with ease. The organisation has adapted to the new changes brought forward by digital technologies and the pandemic as it pursues to harness a strong digital footprint.

Print Media



In May 2021, the organisation released its first issue of the development watch digital bi-weekly newsletter. By the end of the year, the organisation had published 13 newsletter issues. The newsletters were focusing on six (6) key topics; political environment, economy, social issues, Covid-19, legal, and environment. In this regard, we managed to cover most of the issues that characterised civil society. Contributions from our membership also helped and this in return also improved our members' work visibility. The country produced its UPR Country Report with CSOs making contributions to the final report. In collaboration with other CSOs, we published CSOs Spotlight SDGs Report which was also submitted to the UPR. All in all, the organisation managed 20 publications which were shared extensively via our social media platforms, website, e-news platform, and other external channels.

Broadcast Media

With the covid-19 pandemic still wreaking havoc, this decreased our presence in broadcast media since the organisation had to rely mostly on online platforms for most of its engagements. However, the organisation continued with its implementation of the Civil Society



National Indicative Programme Monitoring and Advocacy which saw a total of 14 Development Watch Radio programmes successfully conducted. 12 episodes were held on the National FM due to their huge listenership and multi-linguistic, and speakers highlighted their proposed contributions towards the achievement of the NDS 1. Also, NANGO was invited three (3) times by radio stations to be a guest speaker on issues to do with the NGO sector. The year also bears witness to the revamp of the YouTube channel ([NANGOTV](#)) which saw an increase of 11 new subscribers (from 53 to 64 subscribers) by year-end. A total of 10 videos were posted on the channel with the videos gathering 741 views in total.

Social Media



The year saw a huge growth in the association's social media platforms which can be attributed to the increase of Internet users in the country exacerbated by the advent of the covid-19 pandemic and the need for information by our members. The organisation Twitter handle reached the 7k followership mark and is continuing to grow. Also, our Facebook page saw an increase of 453 new followers ending the year with 4 786 followers and 5 000 friends on our profile to make it 9 786 followers in total. In addition, the organisation embarked on a new adventure in June and created new accounts on Instagram and LinkedIn. The pages have gained followership within a few months of their existence with Instagram amassing a followership of 112 and a LinkedIn page with 800 followers. NANGO e-news platform underwent cleaning and this resulted in the database having a total of 4 625 email subscriptions. The process was necessitated by email communications on the platform failing to reach their intended target audiences. However, 423 new emails were harvested through the zoom online meetings that were held throughout the year.

f) Membership Growth Analysis and Servicing

Region	Paid 2021	Database
Northern	54	576
Western	7	229
Eastern	11	178
Southern	3	41
Midlands	6	62

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ZIMBABWE CIVIL SOCIETY OPERATING ENVIRONMENT 2021 OVERVIEW

It is no secret that CSOs play an important role in supporting democracy and human rights, and working to improve the lives of their members in Zimbabwe. CSOs' work has been key in complementing the government on several interventions, programmes, and actions that include social protection support in the health, education, and vulnerable groups, and civic education among others. However, while CSOs are often recognised as important voices in society, their operational environment can be challenging as was the case throughout the year 2021 in Zimbabwe.

To note, the year witnessed an increased issuing of Memorandums by the local government structures across the country namely in Masvingo, Harare, Manicaland, Matabeleland North, and other areas. The issuing of a communique by Harare Provincial Development Coordinator (PDC) Tafadzwa Muguti asking CSOs to seek operational clearance through his office, an action that we felt was meant to criminalise the operations of CSOs in Zimbabwe. Further, we noted reports from our members of state surveillance and continuous monitoring and interference of CSO activities. Thus, the year has seen the relationship between the state and CSOs continue to sour as the state has continuously reiterated its view of NGOs as “agents of regime change” peddling political and electoral-related activities they are not mandated to carry out.

For members to implement their various interventions, there is a need to sign an MoU with the local government authorities. However, we noted that local governments charged exorbitant fees for these MoUs with some members reporting amounts of up to **US\$500.00**. It is crucial to bear in mind that such amounts are out of reach for most CSOs looking at the funding challenges being faced across the sector and hindering their ability to carry out their interventions. Thus, an enabling CSOs operating environment is important as it facilitates the smooth implementation of programmes across the country as we work towards Vision 2030 and the success of the NDS1.

The presence of legal and administrative instruments has been one of the major challenges hindering CSOs' interventions and development and yet the sector is key to the sustainable growth and development of the country due to the complementary role it plays. We continue to note the challenges posed by the proposed PVO Amendment Bill that is already set for public hearings. The PVO Amendment Bill intends to overhaul the registration process and regulate how CSOs operate in Zimbabwe. This entails the need for our members registered as Trusts to re-register as PVOs once the Amendment Bill ascends into an Act hence this poses a greater threat of other organisations being de-registered.

FINANCIAL REPORT OVERVIEW

Total Income Overview

2021 Total Income Composition		
Source of Income	Amount (US\$)	% of the Total Income
Membership Subscriptions	7 799	2%
Consultancy and Social Enterprises Income	34 440	10%
Grants Disbursements	316 884	88%
Total Income Received for the Year	359 123	100%

Total Expenditure Overview

2021 Total Expenditure Composition		
Expense Item	Amount (US\$)	% of the Total Expenditure
Projects Activities	195480	60%
Staff, Employment Costs, & Administration Expenses	132 460	40%
Total Expenditure for the Year	327 940	100%

OVERVIEW OF GAPS AND MAJOR CHALLENGES

1. The shrinking of the civic space is evidenced by different pieces of legislation promulgated by the government and, the proposed amendments to the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Act.
2. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most organisations were affected in terms of programming and there were low funding opportunities which crippled most of the organisations, making it difficult to operate to their full capacity.
3. Funding is required for the institutional strengthening of the association and its broader membership.
4. Low membership subscriptions as members are facing funding challenges coupled with deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe.
5. NANGO constitution is failing to accommodate the changing working environment and demands of the membership.

2022

2021

CONCLUSION & TRAJECTORY MOVING FORWARD

In conclusion, the association reiterates its belief that a better Zimbabwe is possible in our lifetime and that all people should not only be guaranteed their fundamental rights but enjoy and realise their rights in their everyday life. In particular, the disenfranchised groups that are in society look up to CSOs to deliver joy, hope, peace, and the fruition of their dreams. The association will continue to work towards this end and urge all CSOs and Zimbabweans to work together for a brighter, prosperous, and peaceful Zimbabwe. It is only through the concerted efforts of all Zimbabweans that we can realise this goal. The association would like to thank the international community and private sector for their continued support and urge that this support continues to ensure the realisation of human rights and sustainable development in Zimbabwe. Thus, for the year 2022 and subsequent years, we call on all CSOs, development partners, private partners, the government, and stakeholders to:

- Ensure that CSOs comply with rules and regulations in their areas of operations to avoid antagonistic relationships with government ministries, local authorities, and development partners.
- Ensure the adaptation of the sector to the new normal and foster co-existence among each other for there to be unity between the NGO Sector and other sectors.
- Create an enabling environment that facilitates operations of diverse stakeholders that want to contribute towards the sustainable development of society through the removal of illegal and institutional bottlenecks that exist.
- Ensure the implementation of various development strategies such as the Vision 2030, Agenda 2030, ZNASP IV, NDS1, and UHC among others in the utmost transparent and accountable manner to transform the lives of every Zimbabwean citizen
- Ensure the inclusion of different stakeholders and sectors in the development discourse of the country by continuing to embrace the multi-stakeholder approach that enables ownership of development programmes by everyone in society.
- Ensure the provision of feedback to members and communities to bridge the information gap and improve their understanding and participation in development processes at the community, provincial and national levels.
- Ensure the Constitutional Amendments are made before the next elective AGM with input from members.

WHO WE ARE



OVERVIEW

The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) is the official voluntary coordinating body of registered NGOs in their diversity operating in Zimbabwe. It is a non-partisan, non-profit making and non-denominational organisation mandated to strengthen the voice of NGOs for the betterment of the people in Zimbabwe. Administratively, NANGO is decentralised into five regional offices that coordinate the activities of the CSOs in all ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

Cognisant of diversity of membership, members are clustered into 10 thematic sectors in line with their programmatic focus and these are; Media, Arts and Culture, Children, Disability, Economic, Health, Human Rights, Humanitarian, Land and Environment, Women, AND Youth. Concomitantly NANGO bears the responsibility of unifying these various sectors by creating spaces for collaboration, networking, knowledge exchange, mutual support, and the development of common best practices.



OUR OBJECTIVES

The association exists to fulfil the following objectives:

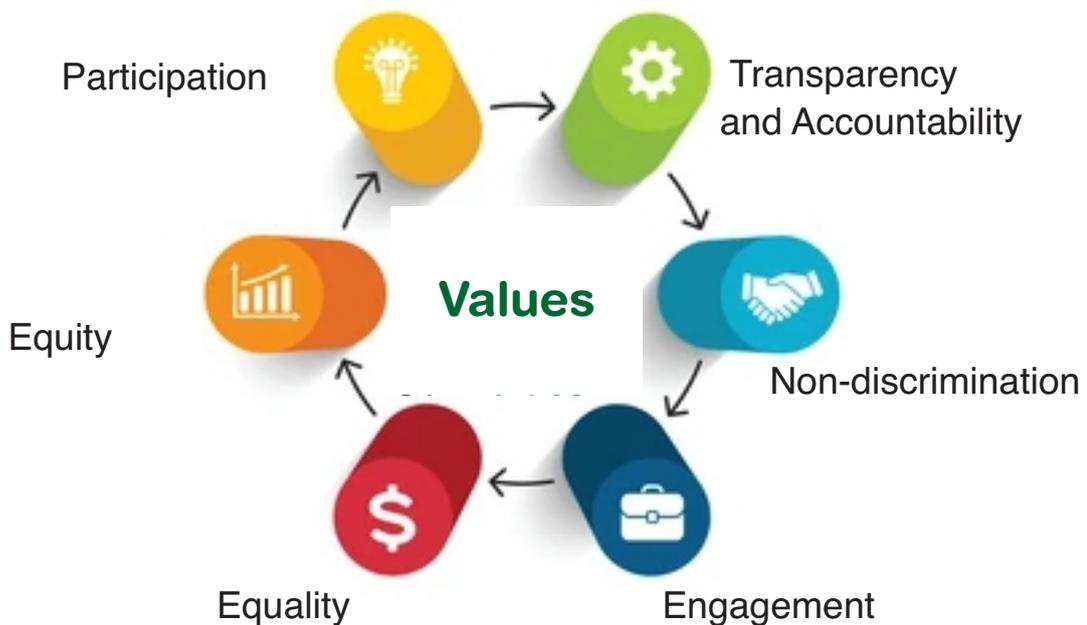
1. To promote, coordinate and organise the participation and contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations in Zimbabwe in the development discourse of Zimbabwe.
2. To promote and facilitate the collective agenda-setting, interaction, consultation, and exchange of information and experience with and among NGOs operating in Zimbabwe.
3. To create an enabling and conducive operating environment for NGOs necessary in ensuring sector independence, improved accountability, and fulfilment of institutional mandates.
4. To create and identify opportunities for NGOs to pursue their visions and missions at the same time building members' capacities, resources, and synergies.

Mission

We, the community of NGOs, are committed to strengthening, representing, and coordinating the work of NGOs in Zimbabwe by creating space, promoting networking, dialogue and engagement to enable the fulfilment of members' visions and missions.

Vision

A proactive community of NGOs responsive and committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe and the full realisation of human rights, democracy, good governance, and poverty alleviation.



Our Partners

Thank You For Your Support

NANGO’s development programmes, initiatives and influencing work has consistently been made possible by the support of various partners worldwide – visiting our offices, making donations, support through grants and responding to crisis appeals. Our partners include foundations and private companies as well as larger national and international institutions. Those listed here are our largest institutional partners during the year under review. However, big or small, every contribution makes a difference to our work and to the lives of those we seek to support.





NEWLY-appointed commissioner of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Obert Gutu, courtesy visit to the NANGO Head office.

Annual Feature

CSOs' Post High Level Political Forum SDGs Call to Action

30 September 2021



Presented to the Ministry of
Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare

PREAMBLE

We ACKNOWLEDGE that Zimbabwe adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together with other Heads of State and Government in September 2015.

CONCERNED that there are significant challenges militating against the achievement of SDGs in Zimbabwe. These challenges have manifested in various forms in particular macroeconomics instability, climate change related disasters, human rights violations, increased inequalities and deepening poverty levels.

COGNISANT of concerted efforts being made by the government, development partners, private sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the general public in accelerating SDGs implementation demonstrated by the multi-stakeholder approach and partnerships adopted countrywide. This has seen the country employing effective public engagement during the development and implementation of national development, sectorial, and fiscal policies. The National Development Strategy 1(2021-2025), National Budget, and Vision 2030 bear testimony to this trajectory.

In this regard

AS CSOS IN ZIMBABWE

We **COMMIT** to compliment government efforts in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through SDGs focused programming, monitoring and evaluation, lobby and advocacy, resource mobilisation, awareness raising, sensitisation and capacity enhancement as well as localisation of SDGs.

We thrive to **PROVIDE** alternative information through research and knowledge generation that can assist juxtapose government reports on SDGs progress. In this regard, we developed the Zimbabwe CSOs' Perspectives SDGs Progress Voluntary National Review (VNR) Spotlight Report 2021. For more details, visit [CSOs' SDGs Progress Spotlight Report 2021](#)

DECLARATION

We, a group of Civil Society Organisations under the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), organised a series of national-level People's Assembly dialogue meetings from the 17th to 28th of September 2021. 232 representatives of various marginalised groups participated and raised their voices and concerns. The groups of people include persons with disabilities, women, children, youth, residents' associations and informal traders.

Through NANGO, CSOs in Zimbabwe shared lessons and recommendations on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable communities and its impact on the SDGs agenda. The dialogues raised key issues, opportunities and proffered strategies which we are submitting to the government on three themes: **Healthy, Green Economy and Just Society** in the context of building back better from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit hardest the poor and marginalised people and it has further widened existing inequalities while affecting the wider social, economic and environmental fabric of the world.

We therefore, **CALL UPON** the Government of Zimbabwe to consider the following recommendations:

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- To invest more in psycho social support systems to ensure mental health and wellness amongst citizens.
- To financially and technically support sexual reproductive health programmes across the country, inclusive of hard-to-reach communities and marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities, women, youth, children and indigenous groups.

- To enforce the implementation and adherence of pieces of legislation and mechanisms to combat environmental pollution.
- To continue ensuring availability and accessibility of vaccines by all.
- To support local pharmaceutical companies scientific research and innovation in manufacturing of essential medicines and drugs key to responding to Covid-19 and any other emergence pandemics.
- To achieve progressive budget allocation to the health sector to support domestic financing for health as well as exploring earmarked taxes to support the health sector.
- To enhance transparency and accountability mechanisms within the health sector with regards to procurement and issuing out of tenders for health goods and services.
- To strengthen health institutions through availing of adequate equipment, motivated human resources, and drugs and medicines.

TOWARDS A GREEN ECONOMY

- To increase investments in clean and green sources of renewable energy such as solar, wind, biogas and hydro.
- To enhance policies, legal instruments, and incentives that promote zero-carbon emission.
- To spearhead awareness campaigns on environmental protection and climate change in collaboration with private sector and CSOs.
- To preserve and protect wetlands by enforcing stiff penalties on wetland invaders.
- To put in place punitive measures for land degradation through mining.

BUILDING A JUST SOCIETY

- To promote social contract through spearheading multi-stakeholder engagements and dialogue for a collective national agenda setting.
- To ensure financial support reaches those who are most in need by prioritizing resource support to women, children, young people, persons with disabilities, ethno linguistic minorities and other most affected groups.
- To adopt alternative measures such as e-justice to ensure human rights and access to justice are not limited by natural disasters and pandemics.
- To improve infrastructure which allows for the improvement of food security such as dams, irrigation facilities, pfumvudza strategy in an inclusive manner.

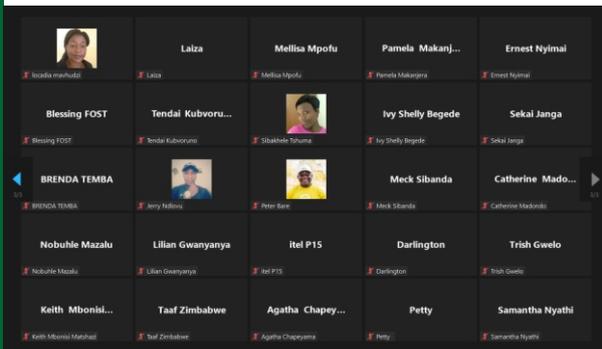
**The Charter Presented on Behalf of CSOs in Zimbabwe under the leadership of
NANGO**



NANGO Executive Director, Leonard Mandishara (far right), posing for a photo with the Ambassador of France to Zimbabwe, Laurent Chevallier (Centre).



NANGO Staff members listening to the NANGO Executive Director's presentation during the NANGO Staff Orientation.



Screenshot of Participants during the Post High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) CSO Reflection Dialogue Virtual Meeting.



NANGO Programmes Officer, Ernest Nyimai, participating during the Zimbabwe NDS1 – Integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Meeting.



NANGO Executive Director, Leonard Mandishara, presenting during the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee Capacity Building Workshop on the PVO Amendment Bill



NANGO Staff posing for a group photo after the conclusion of the NANGO Staff Orientation.



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NANGO Publications