In Case You Missed It

Strengthening The Voice of NGOs Operating in Zimbabwe

Monthly MAGAZINE
Series 03*

In Case You Missed It

A Look Back At Developmental Issues That You May Have Missed In The Previous Month.

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CONTENTS:

Introduction
01 Editor’s Note

Updates From NANGO
03 NANGO-Intellectus Campus sign MOU to strengthen capacity building

Trending Developmental Issues
06 Transparency International Statement on Al Jazeera documentary Ep 01
07 Mhakwe Heritage Trust International Day of Forests call out
10 “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"
13 Water is a common good, not a commodity. UN Experts
15 To end déjà vu on debt, strengthen accountability systems
19 ZESN joins the world in commemorating IWD 2023
22 FODPZ’s Statement on World Down Syndrome Day Commemoration

Opportunities
23 Scholarships, Open Calls, Jobs

Who We Are
28 Overview and Objectives of NANGO
29 Vision, Mission, and Values of NANGO

Designed By
Chris Katsaura
In Case You Missed It

Editor’s Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest issue of our magazine, brought to you by the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO). We are thrilled to bring you the latest news, views, and insights from the world of local, regional, and international development within the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector.

As mentioned in our previous issue, the PVO Amendment Bill has been passed by both the National Assembly and Senate at the Parliament level on the 1st of February 2023 and is currently waiting for Presidential assent. However, an analysis of the Bill by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has revealed that if passed into law in its current form, there will be various restrictions and threats that will compromise the independence and autonomy of the sector. The proposed PVO Amendment Bill clauses give the Government greater control over CSOs’ activities and grant discretionary power to the government over the operations of CSOs. As CSOs, we continue to engage the government to reconsider the Bill in good faith for the benefit of the country. We hope that the President will consider recommendations made by CSOs.

In this issue, we reflect on the major developmental issues that you may have missed in the month of March, which are of great importance to the NGO community. Our contributors offer their perspectives on various important topics, sharing their experiences, insights, and recommendations for the future.

We also take a closer look at the contributions of NGOs towards women empowerment in line with digital technologies through the commemoration of International Women’s Day celebrated annually on March 8th.

As NANGO, we take great pride in representing the collective voice of our members and advocating for positive change in the communities we serve. Our mission is to inspire, challenge, and encourage individuals to join us in our efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable development of our nation. We believe that through collaboration and collective action, we can make a significant impact on the lives of those we serve. We hope that this issue of our magazine will serve as a catalyst for change and inspire you to join us in our mission. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy this issue.

Ernest Nyimai
Executive Director, NANGO
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The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at enhancing the capacity building of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe, especially NANGO members.

The MOU was signed between NANGO, the coordinating body of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe, and Intellectus Campus, a registered and accredited training provider operating in five countries currently, namely South Africa, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The first phase of the MoU is expected to run for three years (2023 – 2025), and both parties are committed to ensuring its successful implementation.

The purpose of this new partnership is to build on existing capacity development initiatives in view to strengthen the NGO sector's ability to effectively deliver on its mandate. The partnership will focus on the provision of technical assistance, broadly ranging from financial management, and project management to transformative leadership. Through this partnership, it is anticipated that the capacity-building initiatives to be rolled out will help CSOs build stronger internal systems that enable them to deliver quality services to communities in need throughout the country.

As NANGO, we acknowledge the significance of enhancing the skills and abilities of our members, and as such capacity development of member organisations is one of the strategic thrusts under the newly ushered strategic plan (2023-2025).
The organisation aims to position itself as the primary resource for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) seeking to improve their capacity through training, mentorship, knowledge management, and operational assistance.

To achieve this goal, NANGO will focus on providing comprehensive and tailored support to its members, leveraging its expertise and experience in the field. By becoming the go-to hub for CSO capacitation, NANGO aims to foster a culture of continuous learning and development within the civil society sector, ultimately contributing to the growth and sustainability of these organisations. Concomitantly, Intellectus Campus is in a drive to build a diverse community of career beginners and seasoned professionals through offering high-quality education, training, and development opportunities to transform themselves as scholars, practitioners, and researchers so that they can effect positive social change.

At the centre of NANGO's objective to capacitate its membership lies the crucial need to establish strategic partnerships with various partners from different sectors. While NANGO may not have the necessary skills, tools, or resources (technical and financial) to enhance the capacities of its members, forging partnerships can help bridge this gap. This new partnership with Intellectus Campus aligns with NANGO's new trajectory and comes at a critical time when the association is rolling out its new strategic plan. The civil society sector is in need of organisational development and capacity building, and this partnership can help address these pressing needs. It is also imperative to invest in building stronger and more vibrant NGOs in light of the repression and shrinking civic space where the accountability and legitimacy of NGOs are questioned.

This partnership will, therefore, enable NANGO to provide its members with the necessary tools and skills to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the civil society sector. It is a significant step towards achieving NANGO's objectives and ensuring the adaptability, resilience, and sustainability of the civil society sector in Zimbabwe. The partnership marks an important milestone in the efforts of NANGO to enhance capacity-building efforts in the NGO Sector and create a more skilled and empowered workforce necessary for NANGO members to deliver on their mandates and missions.

Under the MoU, Intellectus Campus and NANGO will jointly develop and implement a series of capacity-building activities, including workshops, seminars, webinars, coaching sessions, and other forms of training. The training programs will cover a wide range of topics, including proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, thought leadership, and project management among others, and will be tailored to the needs and interests of CSOs including students with a passion for humanitarian work.
Are you an activist, Civil society Organisation, advocate, or interested individual based in Botswana, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, DRC Congo, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles? Apply!

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Harare, 28 March 2023. The Al Jazeera documentary: Gold Mafia: Episode 1-The Laundry Service, released on 23rd March 2023, exposes alleged illicit financial flows from Zimbabwe, including serious allegations of abuse of diplomatic immunity, illicit gold trading, corruption, and money laundering in the mining sector. Transparency International calls on the Financial Intelligence Unit, Zimbabwe Republic Police, and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate further and cause necessary reforms to end such activities in the country.

The documentary comes after the release of the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index which revealed ongoing endemic corruption in Zimbabwe, with a score of just 23 out of 100. New scandals of grand corruption and abuses of public office continue to emerge, which damages the country from the perspective of investors and development partners. Along with the shocking findings of the documentary, these results make clear that it's time for the government to take stronger action against corruption and money laundering.

As the documentary highlights, more and more cartels work with individuals and institutions in Zimbabwe to move dirty money using anonymous trusts and shell companies in tax havens and other secretive jurisdictions. This insidious relationship facilitates organised crime and huge outflows of gold and other precious minerals. In particular, the documentary exposes incidences of alleged under-invoicing and under-declarations by registered gold dealers to Fidelity Printers and the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, alleging even higher losses than previously assumed. This reduces the country's ability to build critical infrastructure and support the needs of the population or respond to urgent challenges. To combat this, the government of Zimbabwe should strengthen mutual legal assistance with other involved jurisdictions to facilitate the exchange of information. They must also ensure that such institutions can manage mutual legal assistance requests.

It is also concerning that the documentary suggests that authorities do not complete sufficient due diligence on potential investors – including official gold traders. The revelations are a possible source of information to bust criminal networks that are actively engaging in gold smuggling and laundering money from Zimbabwe and other selected African countries. Law enforcement, anti-corruption agencies, and regulatory authorities should immediately revoke gold trade and export licenses given to the implicated individuals and corporations, pending an investigation into the allegations.

Transparency International will continue to follow the remaining episodes and provide additional recommendations as relevant.
Mhakwe Heritage Foundation Trust (MHFT) joins the world in commemorating International Forests Day.

Forests are a dense collection of trees covering a relatively large area but as MHFT, we question if that relatively large area is still covered. Food for Thought!

Forests have been and continue to be grounds for biodiversity. Not only that but forests are also home to Zimbabwe's lifelong heritage sites. With the massive change in the climate in the past century and with the expansion of human beings over the years forests have become immediate victims. In Zimbabwe, forests are disappearing with the move of the hour hand.

The expansion of mining activities, a massive change in climate, and human expansion have been the major triggers of forest vanishing. Forests have long been sources of organic life and they play a key role in balancing the ecosystem. Worryingly enough, reforestation or planting of trees in Zimbabwe proceeds without knowledge.

The climate is changing, the temperatures are getting hotter and rain is no longer dense as it was in the 20th or 19th century. As MHFT we advocate for the plantation of indigenous trees whenever reforestation is being implemented. Exotic trees suck a lot of water from the ground which creates an imbalance in the ecosystem. This harms the ecosystem which is already under threat from climate change. Let the protection of forests be a daily routine. Let's protect our landscapes with jealousy.

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Celebrate Women's HISTORY MONTH
MARCH 2023

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Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ), a non-partisan national network of women's rights organisations and activists striving for the rights of women and girls, joins the rest of the world in commemorating International Women's Day, in this women's month. This year's theme, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality" speaks to the need for institutions to invest in the drive for gender equality which is not only a fundamental human right but a keystone of a prosperous, modern economy that provides sustainable inclusive growth. In Zimbabwe and the world over, bridging the ICT gender gap remains prudent as a salient barrier:

- Women and girls are less aware of mobile internet compared with men, and this significantly limits their uptake. For instance, according to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in 2013, only 37% of all women were online, compared to 41% of all men. In 2017, the global internet penetration rate for men stood at 50.9% compared to 44.9% for women. This increased in 2019, with the proportion of women using the internet globally standing at 48%, compared to 58% of men. In 2022, 62% of men were using the internet compared to 57% of women, meaning that the global internet uses gender gap stands at 8%. However, this divide is more glaring in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), many of which are in Africa, where only 19% of women used the internet in 2020, compared to 86% in the developed world.

- Secondly, women's access to digital platforms is limited due to online violence. According to Plan International's report on the State of the World's Girls, 2020, more than half of girls (58 percent), said they experience online violence on social media, which impacts their continued participation in the digital space and consequently cuts them off from the benefits of using ICTs. Access remains critical to achieving digital inclusion.

- Last but not least, the high cost of data to access the internet and social media platforms makes it less attractive for women to fully engage on digital platforms.

As such, women and girls-designed gender-responsive approaches to innovation, technology, and digital education are urgent. Now is the time for advancements in digital technology to offer immense opportunities to address development and humanitarian challenges. This position is reinforced by several instruments such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), African Platform for Action, the Dakar Declaration of 1994, the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995, the Sustainable Development Goals call for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of women's rights and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Huma.
Therefore, this year as we join hands with the world to commemorate International Women’s Day, we urge:

1. The Government of Zimbabwe to urgently strengthen implementation, oversight, and adequate resourcing for legislative, policy, infrastructure, administrative, and practical measures to address the existing structural inequalities in income, education, and employment opportunities, and stem the political, economic, legal, cultural, technological, and social barriers that lead to the exclusion of women and girls from accessing and using the internet and ICT.

2. The Government of Zimbabwe, in particular, The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to Prioritize Education and tertiary education transformation to ensure enabling learning infrastructure, human-centered development-based curriculum, and mass human rights-based and gender-responsive digital literacy as it is an increasingly essential skill for business opportunities, employability and has been linked to higher earning potential and new economic opportunities for the country at large.

3. The Government of Zimbabwe in partnership with other stakeholders such as the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the justice delivery sector, and internet service providers to enforce the legal tenets of the Data Protection Act [Chapter 11:12], and address the increasing problem of online violence against women and girls.

4. Postal and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe to Monitor and regulate service providers in line with compatible data packages that are affordable and seek to address the gender-digital divide.

5. The Private sector and mobile service providers, industry, and tech companies: to strengthen their business model in pursuit of women and girls rights-centered strategies that promote women and girls’ digital inclusion and seek to bridge the gender-digital divide., including offering data packages that are affordable and responsive to the economic vulnerabilities of women, needs of women with disabilities and other marginalized groups in society.

6. All stakeholders (public and private): to collect, and share gender and age disaggregated data embracing intersectionality profiling on access and use of ICT to help track and evaluate progress and shape policies geared towards promoting the enjoyment of digital rights by women and girls in their diversities in the country.

7. Development partners and civil society: to ensure digital empowerment for girls, young women, and women in all their diversity through investing in awareness of laws, policies, and opportunities for access to ICT, strengthening response and access to justice to address online violence against women and girls, to invest in digital literacy programs for women and girls, and to prioritize development that seeks to promote women and girls’ digital inclusion.

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- Visit our website at www.nangozim.org
Water is a common good, not a commodity: UN experts

GENEVA/NEW YORK (21 March 2023) – Water should be managed as a common good, not a commodity, UN experts* said today. They urged States to ensure that human rights and water defenders be placed at the core of the discussions during the first UN conference focusing on water in nearly five decades. The experts issued the following statement ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference (22-24 March).

“The human rights to water and sanitation are clear illustrations of the indivisibility, interrelatedness, and interdependency of human rights and are vital for achieving an adequate standard of living. Whether looking at the physical security of women and girls, discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, peasants, and minorities, or the human rights to health, adequate housing, a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, education, and many others, all are intimately linked to water and sanitation.

For the first time in almost 50 years, the United Nations is convening a three-day conference in New York to consider the global water situation and the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We welcome the efforts by the United Nations, Member States, right-holders, and other stakeholders from all parts of the world to gather in New York and work together for advancing the global water agenda. Progress on SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation for all - can only happen effectively if communities and their human rights are at the center of the discussions, especially by hearing the voices of those that endure discrimination, marginalisation, poverty, and situations of vulnerability.

Water is a human right. It needs to be managed as a common good. Considering water as a commodity or a business opportunity will leave behind those that cannot access or afford the market prices. The commodification of water will derail the achievement of the SDGs and hamper efforts to solve the global water crisis, already further exacerbated by the triple planetary crisis: climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and toxic pollution, affecting the life and health of billions around the world.

The UN 2030 Water Conference is an opportunity for listening to and engaging with human
rights defenders, particularly water rights defenders, and other rights-holders. Instead of restricting the freedom of expression and association of human rights and water rights defenders, and even criminalising them, it is time to ensure their meaningful participation, especially for women and youth human rights defenders, in all discussions and any outcomes and water governance mechanisms at the international, national, and local levels. In this context, robust public access to information frameworks are needed to foster transparency, participation, and accountability.

It is time to stop a technocratic approach to water and consider the ideas, knowledge, and solutions of Indigenous Peoples, peasants, and local communities who understand local aquatic ecosystems to ensure the sustainability of the water agenda.

As mentioned in a recent open letter from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Member States, the UN Water Conference “is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goal 6 in particular, to address the root causes of this water and sanitation crisis” currently affecting two billion people without guaranteed access to safe drinking water and more than four billion without basic sanitation.

We reiterate our hope that the UN 2030 Water Conference will be the beginning of a genuine and long-term collaborative agenda to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and promote and protect human rights by putting water rights defenders and rights-holders at the center of all decision-making processes at an international, national and local level.

ENDS...///
To end déjà vu on debt, strengthen accountability systems

BY ANJALI GARG AND KRISTEN SAMPLE, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS

FILE – U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stands in the “Door Of No Return” on Goree Island, Senegal, Saturday Jan. 21, 2023. The Chinese government said Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2023, that the United States should stop pressuring it on debt relief for Zambia and get its own financial house in order to avert a default and possible repercussions for the global economy. (AP Photo/Stefan Kleinowitz, File)

As many countries face the crushing weight of unsustainable debt, calls for relief are mounting. The proportion of low-income countries in debt distress, or at high risk of debt distress, has doubled to 60 percent from 2015. The United Nations reports that 25 of the world’s poorest countries are now spending more on debt than education, health and social protection combined.

The status quo is simply unsustainable — and the world’s poorest communities are bearing the brunt.
In Case You Missed It

Both borrowers and lenders have a responsibility to be transparent over loan contracts, and doing so is good for everyone. Some lenders have improved their transparency standards, but others opt for opacity. While international pressure on creditors is essential and should continue, borrower governments must also fulfill their responsibility by informing and engaging the public about the debt being taken on in their name. To break the déjà vu on recurring debt crises, domestic accountability systems should be supported in borrower countries to ensure greater transparency and public debate around debt management.

Currently, we have a democratic deficit in the way many countries manage debt. Over the past decade, public debt across the developing world became more expensive and opaque as new lenders emerged, pushing governments into more vulnerable fiscal positions. Yet debt negotiations have left little room for the public and oversight actors to have a say in how governments are managing these risks.

Borrowing governments face very limited domestic pressure when it comes to lending. Faced with an endless string of development priorities in need of financing, governments are often happy to accept offers of lending even when the conditions are not advantageous, pushing the cost of repayment to future governments — and future generations — with little accountability. In some cases, personal benefit provides a strong incentive for politicians to accept offers that they may otherwise refuse, especially when negotiations are opaque.

Calls for “debt transparency” by international financial institutions are important but have tended to be donor-driven and focused on a conception of transparency as simple disclosure. Little attention has been given to the role information could play in mobilizing domestic actors in holding governments accountable long-term.

Country officials provide little information about debt as part of regular budgetary processes. According to the Open Budget Survey, about half of the 120 countries surveyed provide data in their budget proposals on their total debt burden. Even fewer supply figures on the potential vulnerability of the country’s debt position, while just one-quarter contribute information on the long-term sustainability of government finances. Most worryingly, countries at higher risk of debt distress are most likely to have less transparency in their budgets.

Disclosure is an essential first step, but not enough on its own to change the incentives borrowing governments face. Civil society and formal oversight actors, such as legislatures and external audit institutions, play very limited roles in debt processes. While international actors have invested significant resources in improving debt management systems and building the capacity of debt managers, these efforts — focused on the executive arm of government —
have overlooked the broader accountability system and the political drivers of irresponsible borrowing.

To address this democratic deficit, we must strengthen the role and voice of domestic actors who have a legitimate stake in improved debt decision-making. To start with, governments should routinely include detailed and comprehensive debt-related information in key documents. This would allow the public and oversight actors to better scrutinize how borrowing decisions impact a government’s fiscal situation and its capacity to deliver services. They should also ensure that information on all aspects of public and private loans is made available through a single public portal so that it is easier to access and monitor. Similar transparency requirements should be demanded of creditors, especially given the rise of non-traditional lenders who use confidentiality clauses.

Most of all, we need to bolster the capacity and powers of domestic watchdogs — the public, legislators and national auditors to ensure that governments borrow responsibly. This could include mandating parliamentary approval on any new borrowing, requiring regular reporting by ministers of finance to legislators on the country’s debt position, and pursuing enhanced external audits on government debt.

As the United States and other host countries launch the second Summit for Democracy later this month, conversations around corruption and accountability will loom large. So far, commitments and cohorts have failed to connect the dots between debt accountability and the summit objectives of combating corruption, countering authoritarianism and promoting human rights. This omission is hard to understand, but it can still be corrected.

Bringing together governments, civil society, legislatures and the private sector, round two of the summit is the perfect opportunity to elevate the need for debt accountability, mobilize a new coalition of actors and develop common commitments that pave a sustainable and democratic path out of the current crisis.

Anjali Garg is the interim policy director of the International Budget Partnership. Kristen Sample is the director of democratic governance at the National Democratic Institute.

Source: https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/3916890-to-end-deja-vu-on-debt-strengthen-accountability-systems/
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8-March-2023 – As the World commemorates International Women’s Day today, running under the theme “#EmbracingEquality,” the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) reiterates its call for 50/50 gender parity across the divide to ensure women’s inclusion in all realms of economic, social and political activities. The 50-50 representation has remained a figment of imagination in Zimbabwe as women remain underrepresented in politics despite the Constitutional provisions on women’s rights, gender balance, equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination to enhance women’s participation in democratic electoral processes.

Furthermore, Zimbabwe is a state party of Regional and International instruments that recognize the need for having women in democratic governance processes and removing all barriers to female participation. Various Instruments like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol); SADC Protocol on Gender and Development all reiterate the importance of affording women political positions. These mandate state parties to eliminate all barriers that prevent women from actively participating in the political sphere. However, although Zimbabwe has ratified these, they have not been domesticated into our laws.

Section 17 states that, ‘the State must promote full gender balance in Zimbabwean society’. Section 56 also states that ‘women and men have the right to equal treatment including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.’ The Electoral Act has been amended to include gender mainstreaming and gender equality in electoral processes, which will in turn increase women’s participation in politics. However, ZESN has noted that the Electoral Act is not explicit on how this should be done to ensure women are equally represented in political spheres.

ZESN notes that 90% of the candidates for the major parties that contested in the 2018 harmonised elections, namely ZANU-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDC-A) respectively were male. Out of the 47 political parties that fielded candidates in the National Assembly, only 27 fielded at least one woman candidate. Of the 1,652 candidates that contested only 243 were female. 14.7% of women managed to contest the election. Of those who contested, only 26 managed to be elected versus 29 women who were elected in 2013. Not only is this figure low, but it falls short of the 50-50 regional representation mark.
In Case You Missed It

The proposed Electoral Amendment Bill currently before Parliament provides for the continued election of 60 women in the National Assembly under a party list as required by Section 124 of the Constitution. It also provides for the election of women on a party list basis to Provincial councils and local authorities, also in line with section 277 (4) of the Constitution. ZESN is of the view that the Women's Quota system does not meet the 50:50 prescribed by Constitutional Amendment No. 2 which requires Proportional Representation of women of not less than 30% at the local council level.

The proposed Electoral Amendment Bill does not speak to issues of inclusivity, in particular women with disabilities. The Network is of the view that the quotas in the Bill must expressly reserve some seats for women with disabilities to ensure their equal representation and participation.

ZESN notes with concern the perpetuation of violence against women in elections (VAWIE) manifesting in the form of hate speech, name calling and body shaming, cyberbullying, and physical violence. Furthermore, media reportage falls short of bringing to the fore the gender dimensions of elections. This can be attributed to a lack of understanding of the different roles of men and women in the elections, and actions being taken to ensure marginalized groups' participation. The Network thus implores the media to focus on the gender dimensions of elections with a bias towards women to enhance their participation in democratic electoral governance processes.

The Network calls for the political will of those in power to create an enabling environment for women to fully participate in politics and election processes ahead of the 2023 harmonized elections. Many women have been shying away from politics due to the toxic violent political environment that usually characterizes elections, hence the need for political parties to shun violence which impedes women's participation in elections. More so, political parties should meet candidate quotas which require a percentage of women on the candidate lists of parties when they submit them to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

ZESN believes that the essence of a fully functional democratic system is that which is underpinned by the idea that all those differently affected must be included in decision-making; their voice must be heard, and their interests dully represented. Women and young girls should identify opportunities for growth within the electoral spaces and participate as candidates, observers, voters, and electoral officers among others.

///ENDS
JUNE 2023 INTAKE

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Intelectus Campus Zimbabwe is a HEXCO & IAC accredited training provider.
The Federation of Organisations of Disabled People in Zimbabwe (FODPZ) joins the global community to recognize the existence and value of persons with Down Syndrome in Zimbabwe. 21st March was declared World Down Syndrome Day in December 2011. The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012 to observe this Day each year. As the Zimbabwe Down Syndrome Association (ZDSA) hosts an event to commemorate World Down Syndrome Day with the rest of the world, FODPZ stands in solidarity with them.

We acknowledge that on this day, persons with Down syndrome, and those who live and work with them throughout the world organise and participate in different activities. The commemoration aims to raise public awareness, create a unified voice as well as advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of persons with Down syndrome.

As enunciated by the 2023 theme; “With Us Not For Us,” THE RIGHT TO LEGAL CAPACITY, means that persons with Down Syndrome and their families demand total inclusion in all facets of life. Their right to education, sports, career, and family life cannot be overemphasized. Their mental and legal capacities are often undermined together with other human rights. Society does not understand persons with Down Syndrome because of stigma and negative perceptions.

We, therefore, call upon everyone, everywhere, in Zimbabwe and the world over, to create equal opportunities for persons with Down Syndrome. We encourage collaborations with organisations that represent them in facilitating such engagements. Let us remember to respect differences and accept persons with Down Syndrome as part of human diversity and humanity. Let us do everything with them and not for them always. They know what they want and if closely consulted and involved, we will all learn what we do not know and benefit from what they can do. They are citizens with the same rights who must enjoy equal recognition before and under the law. Indeed, with them and not for them!

#INCLUSION MATTERS!
In Case You Missed It

Consultancy: Review and Update of the NANGO Finance Policy and Manual

We are pleased to announce that the deadline for the Consultancy Review and Update of the NANGO Finance Policy and Manual has been extended to Friday, April 14th, 2023, at 23:59:59 Harare Time.


Deadline: 14 April 2023

Communication Officer

Closure Date: 21/Apr/2023, 11:59:00 PM
Organizational Unit: FAO Representation in Mozambique (FRMOZ)
Job Type: Staff position
Type of Requisition: Professional Project
Grade Level: P-2
Primary Location: Mozambique-Maputo
Duration: Fixed-term: one year with possibility of extension
Details: https://www.nangozim.org/vacancies/communication-officer/

ZIMBABWE REVENUE AUTHORITY STAFF RECRUITMENT

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) has begun its 2023/2024 staff recruitment

Interested Applicants Must Have Educational Qualifications.

**In Case You Missed It**

**Senior Program Officer (Regional Coordination) MENA Region**

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA /TTAN /FIXED-TERM UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2026/ REMOTE

Do you care about creating a better world, one in which the poor and marginalized have a voice and are empowered to change the status quo? If so, we have the perfect position for you:

Details: [https://jobs.lever.co/internationalbudget/0b233104-1f97-48af-8a37-8eb2bf980a37](https://jobs.lever.co/internationalbudget/0b233104-1f97-48af-8a37-8eb2bf980a37)

**HIV/AIDS Reporting Fellowship**

Opportunity alert! Apply now for the Mercury Phoenix Trust #HIVAIDS Reporting Fellowship! 10 fellowships (of $1,000 USD each) will be awarded to mid-career/senior level #health and #science reporters.

Read more and apply here: [https://healthjournalism.internews.org/opportunity/mercury-phoenix-trust-hiv-aids-reporting-fellowships/](https://healthjournalism.internews.org/opportunity/mercury-phoenix-trust-hiv-aids-reporting-fellowships/)

**UNESCO I Project Officer**

We are looking for the right candidate to provide support to #UNESCO & IICBA's work on #Education for #Health & #Wellbeing programmes in the Africa region.


**Deadline: 22 April 2023**
Call for Nominations - 2023 UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for Safeguarding & Management of Cultural Landscapes

Follow the link for additional Information and submission of nominations: http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize/
Deadline: 30 April 2023

CALL FOR PROPOSALS | We are inviting researchers & academics to submit abstracts and research papers to be considered for the 2nd African Philanthropy Academic Conference that will be hosted from 31 July to 1 August 2023 in Senegal.

Details: https://bit.ly/3yM2EAk
In Case You Missed It

Gender Equality Awards Call for Nominations
We have extended the deadline to 29 APRIL 2023. Apply!

Call for nominations: Gender Equality Awards

Background
The Zimbabwe Gender Commission is established in terms of Section 245 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to promote, protect, enforce and advance gender equality. The Commission will be hosting its inaugural Gender Equality Awards in 2023. The Awards are designed to recognize the valuable work being done by different institutions and individuals in advancing gender equality in Government, Private Sector, Local Authorities and CSOs.

Categories of Awards
a) Government - Ministry with Gender Sensitive Board appointments
b) Government - Outstanding Ministry with gender responsive programmes
c) Local Authorities – Outstanding Local Authorities with gender responsive programmes
d) Private Sector - Private sector organisations supporting Gender Equality Initiatives
e) Civil Society Organisations - CSO with outstanding initiatives to include initiatives on preventing and responding to GBV
f) Male Gender Champions - Individuals who have contributed in pushing for gender equality in the Country

The Nomination Process
Either individuals or institutions advancing gender equality can be nominated and self-nominations will be accepted. Nominees should have distinguished achievements in the above categories.

Eligibility Criteria
The award is limited to individuals and institutions advancing gender equality. Gender Equality Awards recipients will have made significant impact in the area of Gender Equality. The awards are targeted at excellence, outstanding and exceptional performance in Gender Equality initiatives by individuals or institutions advancing gender equality.

Application
Individuals and institutions meeting the stated criteria can submit their profiles to email address: awards.zgc@gmail.com
Alternatively, hard copies of nomination profiles can be submitted to Zimbabwe Gender Commission at:
- 1st Floor, Pax House, Number 89 Kwame Nkrumah Avenue, Harare,
- Office 8 Social Welfare Complex, 116 Fort Street and 10th Avenue, Bulawayo

Deadline for submissions: 29 April 2023

For more information visit zgc.co.zw or get in touch with the Commission on 0719554483 (Harare) and 0719554462 (Bulawayo).

@GenderZimbabwe
Zimbabwe Gender Commission

Zimbabwe Gender Commission – For Gender Equality!
GOAL NextGen Youth Programme

Applications for the 2023 programme are now open!

The GOAL NextGen programme brings together young people from all over the world to better understand global justice issues and deepen their understanding of Global Citizenship.

Send a CV and 1 page cover letter to nextgenyouth@goal.ie, or scan the QR Code below for further details.

Closing date for applications 5 May 2023.
The programme is run online, and stipends are provided.

Scan for further details
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.
Disclaimer
The contents of articles from independent writers do not necessarily reflect the position and resolve of NANGO. NANGO provides platforms that promote national dialogue on topical and contemporary issues that affect Zimbabweans in one way or another.