

2022



*Strengthening the voice of
NGOs operating in
Zimbabwe*

ANNUAL REPORT

NANGO Eastern Region

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National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) Eastern Region Annual Report 2022

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Table Of Contents

- i List of Acronyms**
- 01 NANGO Eastern Region Chairperson’s Note**
- 04 NANGO Eastern Region Coordinator’s Note**
- 08 Analysis of the Milestones Achieved in 2022**
 - 08 a) Coordination and Networking
 - 08 First EU-CSO Engagement
 - 10 Second EU-CSO Engagement
 - 12 Training on UN Human Rights Treaty Systems
 - 13 SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation Framework Review Workshop
 - 14 “I am for Zero” Campaign
 - 14 Open Budget Survey Workshop
 - 15 b) CSOs Capacity Enhancement and Institutional Strengthening
 - 15 GIZ BACKUP Health Project
 - 16 Youth Engagement in the National Constitution and Constitutionalism
 - 19 c) Lobby, Advocacy and Policy Engagements
 - 21 d) Research and Knowledge Management
 - 22 e) Communications, Information and Visibility
 - 23 f) Membership Growth Analysis and Servicing
- 24 Civil Society Operating Environment 2022 Overview**
- 26 Tribute to Fallen CSO Cadres**
- 27 Overview of Gaps and Major Challenges**
- 27 2023 Moving Forward**
- 29 Who We Are**

List of Acronyms

CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EU	European Union
FASO	Family AIDS Support Organisation
GFATM	Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HCC	Health Centre Committees
MOHCC	Ministry of Health Care and Child Care
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
NAYO	National Association of Youth Organisations
NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
OBS	Open Budget Survey
PWDs	People With Disabilities
REC	Regional Executive Committee
SPAD	Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNDP	United National Development Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WCoZ	Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association
ZCC	Zimbabwe Council of Churches
ZIMRA	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZLHR	Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
ZNNP+	Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV

NANGO Eastern Region Chairperson's Note



I would like to express my appreciation to all the NANGO members for electing me to the Regional Executive Committee (REC) and entrusting me with the position of Regional Chairperson. I do not take this opportunity for granted and I will strive to play my expected roles. NANGO Eastern Region began the year 2022 with a REC orientation for the newly elected REC members from the 2021 Regional Elective Annual General Meeting. The induction allowed for the orientation of the REC on NANGO governance and administrative structures, the role of RECs, and key expectations moving forward. As the REC, we have been playing our oversight role for the smooth implementation of NANGO programmes in the region as well as constantly improving the association's value proposition

to its members.

I am happy that we continue to see new members coming in to join the association. For the year 2022, the committee managed to approve three new members to make a total base of 135 NANGO members in the Eastern Region. With this, I would also want to acknowledge the membership retention efforts by the secretariat as well as all the support to the regional office, participation in NANGO and CSO programmes, and feedback. As REC, we are moved by the support we receive from members. We are proud that the 2022 NGO Directors Summer Retreat was hosted in our NANGO Eastern Region at Montclair Hotel in Nyanga District and we are also delighted that five of our paid-up members attended the Summer Retreat.

Although we have a high concentration of members in the Mutare District, there have been numerous interventions by members to support the Cyclone Idai Victims through resilience building and livelihoods programs in Chimanimani, Buhera, and Chipinge districts. Support for these victims of Cyclone Idai continues with some Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) conducting solidarity visits to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups in the affected areas are not left behind, bridging the gap between the rural and urban populace. The region has been a hotspot of child marriages and issues to do with natural resources governance, especially in areas like Marange, Penhalonga, and Odzi. Various women-led organisations like

the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), the Zimbabwe Women's Law Association (ZWLA), and the Musasa Project have been seen on board, in fighting child marriages across the region as well as educating their target groups on the recently passed Marriages Act.

Natural resource governance remains a pressing issue in the region due to the conflicts that arise in the extractive sector, particularly in Penhalonga and Chiadzwa. It is worth commending the efforts of organizations under the NANGO Land and Environment Sector for engaging stakeholders, including local authorities, traditional leaders, and community members, to promote environmental protection and citizen participation in natural resource governance.

The year 2022 presented unique challenges that all CSOs managed to navigate successfully. In contrast to the preceding two years, this year saw many organizations striving to recover from the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic after regulations were relaxed. I would like to recognise and applaud the tenacity demonstrated by all members in the region in the face of these challenges. Throughout the year, we have observed the government persistently attempting to impede the CSOs' operating environment with proposed amendments to the PVO Act and costly, burdensome administrative requirements at the local government level. This is likely to persist as we approach the 2023 National Elections.

The involvement of CSOs in crucial stakeholder engagements has been evident throughout the year. This was demonstrated through the meaningful participation of members in various processes coordinated in the region. We are grateful to our development partners for their support of member organisations at the regional level and for their commitment to engaging Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to ensure that no one is left behind. We are confident that, with the same spirit, it is possible to strengthen, coordinate, and amplify the voice of CSOs in the NANGO Eastern Region and across the nation.



REC Members posing for a group photo during their board induction

Other Topical Issues

Other pressing issues in the Eastern Region include the tragic disappearance of Livingstone Sunhwa, a former student at Saint Matthias Tsonzo, who had not been seen since the 6th of December 2021 and was later found dead, according to social media sources. This news was met with deep sorrow and grief from the community, with CSOs and other members of the public mourning alongside the family and friends. Additionally, there have been reports of escalating tensions between machete gangs and the residents of Penhalonga, due to the Penhalonga mining operations, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities. In response, CSOs have implemented various initiatives to promote Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, and Transformation, though much more needs to be done to address the situation.

On August 11th, 2022, the Zimbabwean government declared an outbreak of measles in the Mutasa district, after at least 80 children had tragically succumbed to the disease. Reports suggest that the outbreak was exacerbated by church gatherings in the apostolic sector. However, the government has since ceased to release any new information regarding the measles situation, making it difficult to ascertain the exact number of confirmed cases and fatalities without official figures.

This is not the first time Manicaland has experienced a measles outbreak; the last one occurred a decade ago and was attributed to religious sects that refuse to vaccinate their children. In light of this, it is essential for the government and other development partners, including CSOs, to continue engaging and encouraging the leadership of the apostolic sect to accept the measles vaccine to save lives.

The abuse of workers in the mining sector by Chinese companies continues to plague the region. A Chinese gold mining company in Odzi, a peri-urban area of the Mutare district, has been accused of flagrantly disregarding labour laws and regulations meant to protect workers' safety and their right to organise. The company, registered as Odzi Resource Zimbabwe Private Limited and trading as Mining Chang Sino Africa Investments, has been the subject of numerous press reports and CSOs investigations.

These reports have revealed a shocking pattern of human rights violations, including failure to pay workers their salaries on time and the lack of protective clothing for general hand workers until human rights lawyers intervened. It has also been reported that the Chinese company has been firing workers when they fall ill, despite Section 14 of the Zimbabwe Labour Act guaranteeing sick leave.

Human rights abuses have resurfaced in the volatile Marange diamond fields in, Manicaland province, jolting government to dispatch high-ranking officials and State security Chiadzwa agents to ease tensions. A highly secretive security indaba was held where Marange villagers, CSOs, and other stakeholders raised concern over alleged renewed human rights violations being perpetrated by State security agents in the diamond-rich area the source reported. According to the source, communities in Marange reported that they are hard hit by poverty even though there are living in the diamond-rich area. Foreign miners are not willing to contribute to the meaningful development of the Marange community be it by building clinics or constructing roads

Frank Mphahlo
Eastern Region Chairperson

NANGO Eastern Region Coordinator's Note

CSO coordination and capacity building remain a top priority to maximize the effectiveness of NANGO members in the Eastern Region. I am deeply grateful to the members, REC, Development partners, and the Head Office for their invaluable support in helping me fulfil my duties as Regional Coordinator. Without their assistance, the accomplishments of our region would not have been possible.



On January 10th, 2022, the NANGO Eastern Region opened its offices, coinciding with the relaxation of lockdown measures that had been adversely affecting CSO operations throughout the country. The region engaged with a variety of stakeholders, leading to a marked improvement in the visibility and value of the institution to its members. NANGO Eastern Region is deeply appreciative of the opportunities that arose, resulting in a strengthened voice for its members. Unfortunately, the region was struck by Tropical Storm Ana, causing damage to infrastructure in some districts. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported.

To strengthen CSO relationship with development partners and in line with NANGO's vision of being a proactive community of NGOs responsive to the sustainable development needs of all people in Zimbabwe, the regional office coordinated regional members for strategic intervention on creating platforms for interface with development partners which included the European Union (EU), British Embassy and Canadian Embassy. It was through these engagements that members got technical support on grant applications to the embassies as well as calls for proposals on regional-specific development issues. In the future, CSOs can greatly benefit technically and financially from such kinds of development partner engagements and this also gives value proposition to the NANGO members. The regional office will make efforts to be in constant touch with development partners and to continually facilitate such kinds of engagements.

NANGO coordinated and facilitated an engagement through the UNDP Training on UN Treaty Systems. The meeting was attended by 49 CSOs comprising 35 males and 14 females. Of the total number of participants, 10 were people with disabilities (6 males and 4 females). The training was also facilitated by Fiona Adolu, the Senior Human Rights Advisor in the Residence Coordinators Office UNDP, Ernest Nyimai, the Acting Executive Director of NANGO, Dr. Tarisai Mutangi and Independent Consultant and Edward Mushamiri, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Ministry of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

Moreover, throughout the year 2022, the NANGO Eastern Region office had numerous engagements with different stakeholders including government ministries. The regional office worked closely with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in planning and carrying out the National Clean-up Days that were observed every first Friday of the month. NANGO was then given the mandate to communicate with CSOs including those who work with People With Disabilities (PWDs) and resident associations on updates.

The 2022 NGO Directors Summer Retreat held in Nyanga district in the NANGO Eastern region was a success and it set a foundation for more similar programmes even at the regional level. The theme and Program focussed on experience sharing, strategic thinking, and identification of mechanisms to safeguard the CSOs Operating Environment. There are partners which expressed interest in supporting the follow-up actions. Due to its success, many NANGO members saw it as an opportunity to also do Regional Directors Schools which will focus mainly on regional-specific issues. The secretariat will be planning with the relevant stakeholders and partners towards this.

In the year 2022, the region faced quite several human rights-related challenges that included rampant early child marriages, especially in the rural districts of Manicaland province. The regional office has worked directly with its members in the fight against child marriages and

abuses. There were strategic engagements with key frontline responders such as Victim Friendly Units (VFU), the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Courts, and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) in view to collaborating and combining efforts to challenge child marriages. The efforts were further pronounced during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), amplifying the CSOs' voice in challenging early child marriages.

Through regional social media platforms, the regional office facilitated sharing of updates, opportunities, capacity-building programmes, and networking platforms for the benefit of members. Member organisations expressed appreciation for the critical information packs, calls, and capacity building shared by the NANGO Eastern Regional office. Going forward, the region should prioritise the capacity enhancement of members in the area of fundraising and resource mobilisation as well as unlocking funding opportunities for members. The region also coordinated several dialogue processes between civil society and key development partners e.g. the European Union Member States and the new EU Ambassador. Information on the PVO Amendment Bill and other critical development processes were shared among the members as well, including public hearings and budget consultations.

Sensitisation on the new legal provisions of the Marriages Act and the age of consent was made by different stakeholders including the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development and WCoZ. A summary of the provisions was presented by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and some of the recommendations raised during engagements include the need to use devolution funds to construct safe shelters for victims of GBV, the need for a legal literacy programme for the benefit of communities as well as a need for CSOs to work closely with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development in women and gender-related programming.

The Regional Office took part in the Provincial Sensitisation and Awareness Campaign of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. The Coordinator facilitated the sensitisation meeting held in the Zimunya community, which was hosted by UN Women, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), and WCOZ. The agenda of the meeting was to increase women's participation in decision-making processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding initiatives, and peacekeeping.

During the discussions, the major issues that were identified as fuelling conflicts and GBV in the region were climate change, unemployment, drug abuse, and shortage of transport. Women were said to be the most disadvantaged since after conflicts they are the ones who remain home and take on the burden of Unpaid Care Work. The key recommendations raised included the need to empower women to become self-reliant in order to reduce conflicts and GBV, as well as

the dissemination of information on climate change to ensure disaster preparedness and response, and the provision of psychosocial support to the victims.


The regional office also took part in the Provincial Sensitisation and awareness of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. The NANGO Eastern Region Coordinator facilitated the sensitisation meeting in the Zimunya community. The meeting was hosted by UN Women, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), and WCoZ, and the agenda of the meeting was to increase women's participation in decision-making processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding initiatives, and peacekeeping. During the discussions, the major issues that were raised as fuelling conflicts and GBV in the region were climate change, unemployment, drug abuse, and shortage of transport. Women were said to be the most disadvantaged since after conflicts they are the ones who remain home and take care of the family (Unpaid Care Work). The key recommendations raised include the need to empower women to be self-reliant to reduce conflicts and GBV, also, dissemination of information on climate change is important for disaster preparedness and response as well as the provision of psychosocial support to the victims.

Reflecting on the contextual analysis of the operating environment, the CSO operating procedures at the local level continue to be restrictive and limit CSO programming due to MOU payments and clearance letter requirements. There have been some efforts to influence the PVO Amendment Bill. Eight members attended the PVO Amendment Bill consultations in Makoni District, although it was not successful as the meeting was interrupted. However alternative radio consultations were also held on the Bill through the local radio station Diamond FM. In line with the above, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) undertook an awareness programme to ensure that PVOs are not used to raise, move or store funds which will be used to commit terrorist activities, or be used for recruiting and/or training foreign terrorist fighters. At the meeting, NANGO mobilised for the participation of CSOs in the region and a total of 57 organisations attended the workshop. The Inter-governmental body called the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) noted the PVO sector, as one which is vulnerable to being abused by terrorist and terrorist organisations, to raise and move funds, provide logistical support, and encourage terrorist recruitment or otherwise support. Plans to have the CSOs' engagement with key ministries (Public Service; Local Government and; Home Affairs) on the issues of MOUs are underway.

Regular meetings were conducted between CSOs and the government. After Cyclone Idai, the NANGO Eastern region is now a member of the Provincial Civil Protection Committee. Social media platforms were created and utilised for easier communication among Developmental Departments and Provincial Heads. The Regional Office was also invited by the office of the

Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution (then PDC)'s office to a preparation meeting for Independence Day. NANGO was put to be part of the committee as a way of involving CSOs in the process. Therefore, there is a need for continued engagement with the government for an improved CSO operating environment.

Franklin Mukwaira
Eastern Region Coordinator



ANALYSIS OF THE MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN 2022

a) Coordination and Networking

First EU-CSO Engagement

The region facilitated an EU-CSO Engagement meeting which sought to discuss thematic topical issues in the region as well as create a platform for CSO interface with development partners. The meeting was held physically at Manica Skyview Hotel, a central venue in Mutare CBD for the convenience of members. The meeting was attended by 43 CSO representatives from all seven districts in the province and the NANGO 10 thematic sectors.

Strengthening the Voice of NGOs Operating in Zimbabwe



Of the 43 CSOs, 27 were male and 16 were female. Out of the total, 17 were youth and there were 4 people with disabilities. There were 11 European Union (EU) Delegates from the EU member states; Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, and Switzerland, and the team was accompanied by Ms. Alexander Maseko – the Political Information Officer (PIO) of the EU Delegation. Since one of the objectives of the EU was to visit some EU and EU Member States' funded projects in the region, the

EU first paid a courtesy visit to the office of the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution.

Cluster presentations

Clusters were given time to peach their presentations in their respective areas of programming. The Disability Sector presented the gaps that exist within the sector that include limited resources on a larger constituency of PWDs across the districts of the province, lack of capacitation among organisations of PWDs to cascade further legal policy frameworks to grassroots levels to increase the participation of PWDs on governance issues and the impact of COVID-19 and Cyclone Idai that affected mostly PWDs as they are more vulnerable and exposed natural disasters and pandemics. Therefore, the sector recommended the need for emergency humanitarian response and recovery on the impact of the past Cyclone and the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for capacitation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to increase their interventions, especially in legal policy frameworks to increase the participation of PWDs in governance trends; and the need of capacitation of OPDs to continue working on advocacy, especially on disaster risk reduction in the province.

The Youth Sector presented the plight of young people in Manicaland who are facing diverse challenges that include but are not limited to substance abuse with its new dimensions of (i) abuse of prescription drugs; (ii) “**Bluetooth**” – that implies the use of injections in a group of young people. The Bluetooth phenomenon presents other health risks that include HIV transmission and possible complications posed by mixing blood from different groups); Unemployment and Poverty, Limited access to information and Information and Communication technology (ICT) for youth in rural communities compared to urban dwellers, Gaps in knowledge and management of menstrual hygiene.

Faced with these different challenges young people have engaged in the informal market. Many young men have joined artisanal or illegal mining activities (Penhalonga, Premier, Chisero, and Odzi) and some are immigrants in Mozambique and other neighbouring countries. Following the diverse challenges and experiences of the youth in Manicaland Province, the youth sector prioritised health and well-being, poverty reduction and economic justice, strategic information, and governance and institutional development.

The Children's sector presented the effects of natural disasters including Cyclone Idai highlighting that community preparedness for disasters and emergencies is an area that needs financial and technical support to mitigate the effects of future disasters on communities and in particular children. In the year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic also came with its disruptions to the education system through the prolonged closure of schools. Economic activities for most households were badly affected leaving households without income to support their children. The Children's Sector appreciates efforts by the government to pass the Marriages Bill as a legal remedy to the growing problem of child marriages but more advocacy work at the grassroots level is still needed to discourage communities from engaging in this harmful practice. CSOs in the Children's Sector concur that a lot still needs to be done to help the Government improve Public Financing for children's programmes. The momentum of the Child Friendly Budgeting Initiative seems to have been lost and that is eroding the gains made so far.

The EU-CSO engagement set a foundation for Civil Society engagement with development partners. In their remarks, the EU appreciated the coordination role played by NANGO and explained that the EU under the upcoming MIP project 2021 – 2027 will be expanding its support to smaller organisations, cascading to local CSOs through Partnerships. The project will reach out to communities through consortiums and there will be contracts with consortium leaders. Information on the call for proposals was said to be shared through NANGO and members were recommended to follow the development partner's social media handles for more information.

Second EU-CSO Engagement

During the year, the regional office also hosted a second EU- CSO engagement with NANGO members. For continuous engagement, participants who attended the previous EU-CSO engagement were invited to be part of the second meeting to make some follow-ups on the issues raised. The EU Member states visited the Eastern Region in November 2022 and NANGO facilitated the participation of 36 NANGO members at Simukai Child Protection Programme offices. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new EU Ambassador, H.E Jobst Von Kirchman, to the NANGO members. The EU Ambassador was accompanied by the EU Member States Ambassadors of France, Germany, Sweden, Greece, and the Netherlands.

Cluster presentations

The CSOs present gave sector presentations focusing on the women and children cluster represented by the Musasa Project and Simukai Child Protection Programme, the Land and Environment sector represented by Green Governance Zimbabwe, the Disability sector represented by Federation for the Disable Persons Zimbabwe and Quadriplegics and Paraplegics Association of Zimbabwe and the Human Rights sector represented by ZLHR. The sector presentations focused on the gaps, and challenges being faced by CSOs as well as opportunities that exist within the region.

During the plenary, the EU was interested in knowing how CSOs perceive the potential of the PVO Amendment Bill on the civic space. Many organisations in the region are registered as Trusts and the PVO Amendment Bill states that they should be registered as PVOs. There were reports that organisational registration process to be a PVO is difficult and takes a long time. CSOs also presented the restrictions that come with being a PVO including the interference of Ministers and government officials in CSO work, closure of enabling CSO operating space, and increase in state monitoring. Access to Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) through local authorities to operate in different districts was also presented to be difficult.

The engagement enabled NANGO members to showcase their work and programmes to the new EU Ambassador, allowing EU member states to become acquainted with the topical issues in the region, as well as the opportunities that exist in all seven districts of Manicaland province. In the closing remarks, NANGO was encouraged to share information on call for proposals when they become available, and member organisations were also advised to follow the embassies' social media platforms for further information.



EU-CSO Group Photo after the meeting



EU-CSO Participants during the meeting



The EU Delegates during the courtesy visit with the Residence Minister and the Local Authorities representatives.

The Regional Coordinator also accompanied the EU delegates on a courtesy visit to the Residence Minister and the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution. In line with the NANGO mission of creating space, promoting, networking, dialogue, and engagement to enable the fulfillment of members' visions and missions, this visit was important as it strengthened the CSO relationship with the local authorities. It also cemented the already existing rapport between the regional office and the local authority stakeholders. CSOs exist to complement the efforts of the government.

Training on UN Human Rights Treaty Systems

NANGO coordinated and facilitated an engagement through the UNDP Training on UN Treaty systems. The training had a hybrid approach with participants attending physically at Golden Peacock Villa Hotel and a few attending virtually via zoom. The training was attended by 49 CSO representatives comprising 35 males and 14 females. Of the total number of participants, 10 were people with disabilities (6 males and 4 females). The training was also facilitated by Fiona Adolu, the Senior Human Rights Advisor in the Residence Coordinators Office UNDP, Ernest Nyimai, the Acting Executive Director of NANGO, Dr. Tarisai Mutangi and Independent Consultant, and Edward Mushamiri, Inter-Ministerial Committee, Ministry of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The training managed to equip CSOs on the Overview of the UN International Human Rights System for effective and meaningful CSO participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as well as enlightenment on the role of CSOs within the UN Treaty Mechanism. Followup meetings and training were recommended to the NANGO secretariat as there is a need for CSOs capacity building on the Human Rights System as evidenced by the limited participation of CSOs and citizens during the UPR and other human rights consultations.



Fiona Adolu presenting during the meeting

Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Review Workshop

NANGO also coordinated the participation of its members to participate at the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Review Workshop held in Mutare. Five organisations for PWDs attended the workshop representing NANGO. The workshop served to review and update the status of SDGs indicators based on available quantitative and qualitative data from stakeholders; to identify any data gaps and challenges being faced in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Identifying gaps and come up with recommendations on the alignment of NDS1 to SDGs and document lessons learnt and any recommendations for accelerating delivery on the 2030 Agenda. In reviewing the SDGs, CSOs were recommended to have publications and research material that regularly monitors the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring inclusivity and equity. Below is a picture of the participants together with representatives from government ministries.



Participants and NANGO representatives during the SDG monitoring and Evaluation framework review

“I am for Zero” campaign

The region also took part in the “I am for Zero” Campaign organised by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA). It was a meeting to fight and have efforts to end corruption through the implementation of lifestyle audits, Corruption Risk Assessment Tool, investigations, and audits of tax evasion, illicit trade practises, smuggling, and sanctioning of proceedings of crimes. Recommendations were put forward and CSOs were encouraged to report corruption through the use of whistle-blower mechanisms and the use of electrical machines. There is also a need to improve technology to avoid hard cash handling which is somehow leading to corruption.

Open Budget Survey Workshop

NANGO in partnership with other stakeholders managed to facilitate an engagement on the Open Budget Survey (OBS) at Holiday Inn, Mutare. Some of the key stakeholders present were UNICEF, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and GIZ to mention just a few. It was aimed at mapping a way forward on how the country can attain the highest scores on oversight, participation. and transparency and accountability.



Participants during the Open Budget Survey

CAPACITY BUILDING



CSOs Capacity Enhancement and Institutional Strengthening

GIZ BACKUP Health Project

NANGO is implementing a project aimed at, “enhancing the CSOs coordination and capacity for health systems strengthening” under the BACKUP Health Project being managed and implemented by GIZ. This project was designed and guided by the BACKUP Health strategic objectives and priorities. The BACKUP Health is an initiative meant to provide technical assistance to public and civil society partners in implementing and coordinating funds. The Backup Health Project also focuses on international financing mechanisms, with a main focus on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Its main objective is to increase the capacity of government and civil society organisations to use global financing effectively and to build the capacity of CSOs to contribute effectively towards health systems strengthening through global health financing mechanisms.

NANGO through this project envisions strengthening the coordination and capacity of CSOs to contribute effectively towards health systems strengthening through global health financing mechanisms. The project design has integrated sexual exploitation and abuse; human rights; disability; gender equality and equity perspectives. This is based on the realisation that the highest attainable standard of health must be reflected in the standard of health of the most socially disadvantaged groups considering social disadvantage leads to unequal health opportunities.

NANGO Eastern region identified 15 monitors among its members and these were selected from six districts in the province (Chimanimani, Makoni, Nyanga, Mutare, Mutasa, and Chipinge). The identified monitors assisted in the refining and development of appropriate data collection or monitoring tools collaboratively guided by the project outcomes and scope of activities to be undertaken. Their capacities were enhanced in data collection as well as monitoring the project implementation. Quarterly meetings with the monitors to give feedback on the progress, challenges they faced, and proposed recommendations were held.



In line with the above, under the Backup Health Project, 15 HCCs were engaged quarterly to give their input as well as validate the gaps, challenges, and recommendations from the selected GIZ Backup Health Project monitors. Below are pictures from the feedback meetings with Health Centre Committees (HCC) under the GIZ Backup Health Project



Youth Engagement in the National Constitution and Constitutionalism

NANGO Eastern region also facilitated a Youth Engagement on the Constitution and Constitutionalism in partnership with the National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO). 91 youth participants from youth organisations in the NANGO Eastern Region were mobilised by NANGO to be part of the training. Among the youth, there were also people with disabilities.

The objective of the meeting was to raise awareness among youth to know the Zimbabwe constitution as well as evidence-based advocacy. Participants received certificates after the Youth School and the certification ceremony was graced by the NANGO Eastern Regional Board Chairperson and Vice Secretary. A follow-up meeting is going to be held in the region, targeting the same youth organizations and representatives for the continuation of ideas and discussions.



Participants during the youth training on constitution and constitutionalism by NAYO



One of the participants receiving a certificate from the NANGO Eastern Region Chairperson

YWCA Board Induction

NANGO facilitated the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Board Induction in Mutare, NANGO Eastern Region. The YWCA, a NANGO member, had recently opened a new branch in the area and the induction was attended by members of the YWCA and the new branch members. The NANGO Eastern Region Board Vice Chairperson was present to provide guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the board. Going forward, NANGO Eastern Region will collaborate with the newly-oriented board of the YWCA.

CSOs in the region attended and took part in Resource Mobilisation and Donor relations webinars hosted by NANGO. The meetings were held online and were open to all NANGO members across all the NANGO five regions. The objectives of the meetings focused on capacity building on donor engagement or relations and resource mobilization strategies. 12 NANGO members in the Eastern Region attended and appreciated the webinar on Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations organized by NANGO with support from FDP and Intellectus Campus. NANGO was applauded for this initiative and more platforms for engagements and training to engage development partners are being recommended.

NANGO took part in the Provincial Preparatory Meeting for the National Census and the meeting was chaired by a representative from the office of the Secretary for Provincial affairs and Devolution and Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT). The objectives of the meeting were to ensure decisions made by the National Census Committee are correctly and timely implemented at the provincial level; to coordinate all census activities at the provincial level; to promote and publicize census at the provincial level and sub-provincial levels and to support logistics during the census. Part of the meeting was to create committees that can spearhead activities that will meet the objectives of the census, and the committees include Coordination and administration, Human Resources, Communication and Publicity, and Training and ICT. NANGO represented by the coordinator volunteered to be part of the Communication and Publicity committee.

The regional office coordinated member organisations who were called for interviews on the local radio station (Diamond FM) to discuss the role of CSOs in Disaster Response with support from the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC). There were three panelists from NANGO Secretariat and ZCC. The region was represented by the Regional Chairperson, Mr. Frank Mpahlo, who is also the Land and Environment Sector representative. Messages were sent through the radio as listeners asked questions about NANGO and CSOs in the region. Another session was held on radio on the work of CSOs in Nation Building and Social Cohesion. The region was represented by the Regional Vice Chairperson, Agatha Chapeyama Chipunza who is also the Human Rights Sector representative. During these two sessions on radio, NANGO as an institution was well marketed.

The Regional Coordinator coordinated CSOs in the region to attend a CSO celebration workshop supported by the ZCC, CSO. The CSO Celebrations had the objective to bring about and appreciate the great work that the CSOs in the region are doing and working towards building Social, Economic, Political, and Environmental Justice as enshrined in the constitution of Zimbabwe. Further, the celebration sought to share positive narratives through success stories from agencies of change whilst solidifying the values of CSOs thus, inclusivity, transparency, and diversity. NANGO facilitated the meeting and most of the members who attended had a chance to present on the work they are doing in the region.



Organisations that paid their membership subscription fees in 2022 were rewarded with certificates, serving as an incentive for non-paid members to inquire further about their payments for the year. This proactive approach serves as a source of motivation for members to stay up-to-date with their NANGO subscriptions.

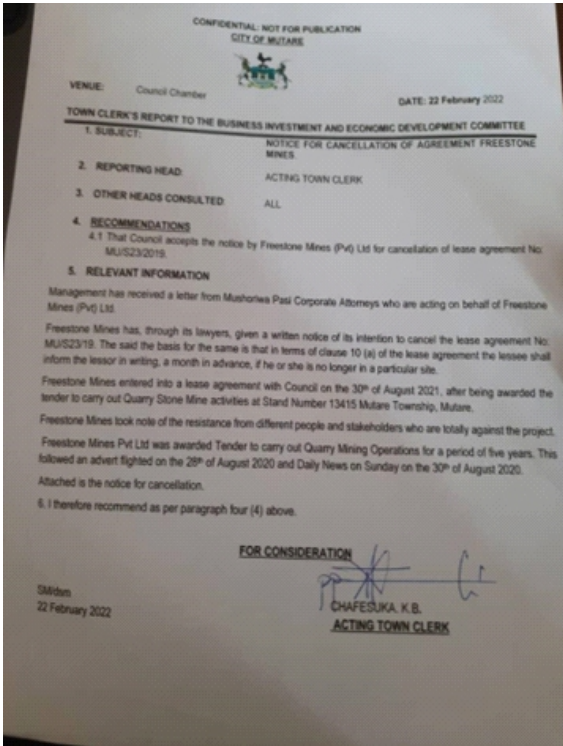
advocacy

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.

A Freestone mining Company that was engaged in mining activities on Dangamvura Mountain downed its tools due to the advocacy initiatives and the apparent disregard for the position of residents who were not in support of the proposed mining activities. On the 22nd of February, Freestone Mining succumbed to pressure and renounced their interest in the proposed quarrying on Dangamvura Mountain and accepted defeat through a letter to the city of Mutare where they announced their withdrawal. This is one of the rare cases where unrelenting public pressure and pressure from both CSO and CBOs has resulted in such deals being aborted. This could be because of the direct action of residents who publicly resisted the move resulting in the loss of social approval of the project even though Freestone now had all the other legal processes completed.

User fees were being charged by Mutare City council at its clinics and this was a deterrent to many individuals who required medical supplies including People Living with HIV (PLHIV), pregnant and expecting mothers as well as individuals suffering from other chronic illnesses. These user fees were continually disguised as administration fees and became a barrier for many in accessing health care services. Many lives were lost as individuals in some cases defaulted in taking up their medication and others died due to the lack of medical attention. This, however, changed due to pressure from several CSOs including the Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+) and Family AIDS Support Organization (FASO) and this was reversed by a letter from the office of the Provincial Medical Director dated March 15, 2022, stating that all health facilities should adhere to policies set out by the MOHCC.



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. Through regional social media platforms, the regional office facilitated sharing of calls for proposals, opportunities, capacity-building programmes, and development interfaces with development partner programmes amongst members. Members expressed their appreciation for the critical information packs, calls, and capacity building shared by the regional office. Some members in the region raised concerns that they require more training on resource mobilisation and more interaction with the donor community. Information on the PVO Amendment Bill and other critical development processes were shared among the members as well including public hearings and budget consultations.

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 critical updates via WhatsApp groups and alerts via email.



Communications Information And Visibility

There was a remarkable presence in terms of communication and visibility for member organisations' activities and programmes through Whatsapp and Twitter. The region now has 1503 followers from 1206 followers in 2021. The region made use of the vibrant Whatsapp group (NGO Network) platform for easy communication with members and issues discussed included the CSO operating environment as well as sharing of development issues and ideas. Information shared on these coordination and communication platforms include announcements, fundraising opportunities, meeting, and trending news updates. In addition, these platforms have also been used to share reports or the work that the members will be doing in their various communities and organizations. The NANGO bi-weekly e-newsletter constantly covered stories from the region across the seven districts in the province.

During Tropical Storm Ana, CSOs in the region were actively communicating and disseminating safety messages through various social media platforms. Fortunately, there were no reported fatalities in the region, though citizens are still being urged to take necessary precautions during

heavy rains such as Tropical Storm Ana and the anticipated Cyclone Batsirai.



The regional Twitter handle has been active and being used to engage development partners through tagging. Here is a screenshot of a tweet from the new EU Ambassador after a successful engagement with NANGO Eastern Region members during his visit with the other EU member states. This is an indication of the effectiveness of social media and communications and visibility of the region. However member organizations are encouraged to join NGO platforms that present funding opportunities, follow development partners' social media platforms as well as subscribe to all NANGO social media platforms for more information on programs and trainings.



Membership Growth Analysis And Servicing

Category	2021	2022	Comments
Total Members in Database	178	135 (After a thorough database cleaning exercise)	The region has 178 member organisations that are spread across the seven districts of Manicaland province. Of the 178, many are found in the Mutare CBD, hence more effort is still needed to reach out to other CBOs that are outside the Mutare CBD.
Paid up Members	5	11	Eight organisations managed to pay their membership subscription fees. Seven members paid in full and one paid part payment. There is an improvement in payment of membership fees as shown by CBOs who have put some efforts into making part payments. However, members especially CBOs are still being advised and encouraged to pay subscriptions even in instalments so that they will not be left behind in services provided by NANGO.
New membership applications		3	Three organisations applied for membership, DellaMercy Charity Organisation, Centre for Environmental Protection, Poverty Alleviation and Development Trust, and Chipinge Vulnerable Children Intervention Program
New members approved		3	The region has three new member organisations who joined NANGO, DellaMercy Charity Organisation, Centre for Environmental Protection, Poverty Alleviation and Development Trust, and Chipinge Vulnerable Children Intervention Program. The organisations were assessed by the REC and submitted the required documentation according to the application procedure. DellaMercy Charity Organisation falls under the Children sector, Centre for Environmental Protection, Poverty Alleviation and Development Trust falls under the Land and Environment sector and Chipinge Vulnerable Children Intervention Program falls under the children sector.

NANGO Indicator Matric

Indicator	Reach
Number of Coordination meetings conducted	6
Number of CSOs reached	1 st EU engagement- 43 2 ND EU engagement- 36 SDG M&E Review- 5 Youth- 34 (91 Participants)
Number of networking platforms created	7
Number of publications produced and disseminated	0
Number of CSOs members visited – membership support visits	9
Number of CSOs engaged as IPs	
Number of CSOs mobilised for policy and advocacy	42

🔍 Civil Society Operating Environment Overview

Since the process of amending the PVO Amendment Bill started, the operating environment for CSOs has been shrinking. Most of the NANGO members are registered as Trusts and a few of them as PVOs. This has, therefore, brought general fear amongst the members who are registered as Trusts as they are not sure of what is going to happen when the Bill is passed. However, some of the members are starting to register as PVOs and many have reflected that the registration process takes a long time. Information was shared among all the NANGO members. Efforts to have a meeting with all organisations registered as Trusts were made but could not sail through due to financial resource constraints. Therefore, there is a need for an engagement with all organisations registered as Trusts with MoPSLSW to discuss PVO registration.

One of the paid-up members, Hope for Kids Zimbabwe, encountered some challenges in obtaining approval from the Office of the Local Authorities to operate in the Manicaland province. To meet the requirements of the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution (SPAD), Hope for Kids Zimbabwe was in the process of re-registering with the office in order to receive official permission to operate. NANGO then drafted a letter of membership confirmation to the SPAD, confirming that Hope for Kids Zimbabwe is a fully paid-up member of NANGO that falls under the Children's sector. Consequently, their approval was granted and the organization can now operate in the province.

NANGO members are encouraged to contact the regional secretariat for these membership approval letters, as they can be instrumental in verifying membership to the association. Additionally, some Local Authorities are charging for Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and reports suggest that the Nyanga Local Authority is charging USD 150 per year per organisation. Therefore, a standard reporting template for Local Authorities, PDCs Office, and Line Ministries is requested in order to facilitate access to MOUs and reduce the hindrance of CSO operations.

The civil society operating space has been continuously shrinking as the country head to the upcoming 2023 elections. There has been an increase in personnel monitoring CSOs activities directly and indirectly. Some youth organisations often have their youth focus group discussions disrupted by security personnel. Efforts to engage with the office of the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution together with the District Development Coordinators were made. However, the meetings could not sail through due to limited financial resources. Therefore, quarterly NGO/Development Partners Virtual/Physical update meetings should be conducted. Partners with funds to support these meetings are most welcome. To NANGO, there is a need for more resources to facilitate membership visits as well as stakeholder engagement.

Public Hearings on the PVO Amendment Bill in Manicaland were held on 28 February 2022 in Makoni District at Vengere Hall in Rusape. Several CSOs in the region attended the public hearings but the process did not go on very well. There were reports that some of the participants seemed to have no idea about the PVO Amendment Bill and its contents neither. The meeting was disrupted and could not go as planned.

The second meeting on the PVO Amendment Bill was held on the same day but through the radio on Diamond FM. There was very minimum participation from CSOs and most people did not contribute through the radio chat platforms. Efforts are being put in place to gather input from CSOs in the region to submit for consideration in the process of amending the Bill.

The month of March 2022 also started with a blow to CSOs in the NANGO Eastern region as a circular was sent citing several organisations that were banned from operating in Makoni District by the Makoni Rural District Chief Executive Officer (CEO). As ordered by the CEO of Manicaland Province, Mr. Pisa, the organisations had failed to register with the local authority. The renewal fees for NGOs were pegged at USD 100 and new registration at USD 200. Efforts are being made by the regional office and the Regional Executive Committee to have engagements with the local authorities and relevant ministries to ensure a conducive operational environment for all CSOs in the Province. On 4 March, the Regional Coordinator together with the NANGO National Chairperson secured an appointment with the PDC but could not meet him due to a clash of programmes at his office hence they met with Mr. John Misi, as a representative of the PDC's office. The outcome of the meeting was that there is a need for a meeting with CSOs and the DDCs of all districts in the province to map a way forward to working together in the province.

On 26 March, Zimbabwe held its by-elections and NANGO Eastern Region members were active in sensitising citizens on their right to vote before the date. There are also some members including PACDEF, WCoZ, and other CSOs who were election observers in different districts. From the reports by member organisations, there was a lot of confusion among voters who had

registered hoping to vote in the by-elections and were informed that their names were not appearing in the voters' roll. Some members were turned away from their polling stations as voters were not aware that the by-election was constituency-based and not ward-based.

On the 27th of May 2022 the President of Zimbabwe passed into law a new marriages law, the Marriages Act (Chapter 5:15). This law brought a radical change to the Marriage laws in Zimbabwe with the Marriage Act (Chapter 5:11) and Customary Marriages Act (Chapter 5:07) being repealed. The new Act introduces a civil partnership and a qualified civil marriage and recognises an unregistered customary law union as a marriage. All marriages are entered between men and women above 18 years of age. Facilitating the marriage of children under 18 years is now a criminal offence.

OUR TRIBUTE TO FALLEN CSO PIONEERS



The Eastern region joined the rest of the Civil Society fraternity in mourning the late NANGO Executive Director, Mr. Leonard Mandishara. We appreciate all members who managed to attend the funeral as well as contribute some condolence funds.

It is hard to believe that the two figures that pushed for the decentralisation of NANGO offices are gone. The opening of the Eastern Region Office was facilitated by the REC which had the late Mr. Hondoyomoto as the Eastern region Chairperson and the late Mukoma Chamu as the Secretary and the Disability sector representative at the National level. We celebrate their valid contribution to the development sector and we hope this will inspire the current development practitioners to carry on passionately the mantle and contribute to the betterment of Manicaland citizens and the NANGO Eastern Region. Farewell Mukoma Chamu, Farewell Mr. Hondoyomoto.

We celebrate the valid contribution of the above, to the development sector and we hope this will inspire the current development practitioners to carry on passionately the mantle and contribute to the betterment of Manicaland citizens and the NGO fraternity in the country at large.

2022

2023

Overview of Gaps and Major Challenges

- The operating environment for CSOs has been shrinking continually as evidenced by different pieces of legislation promulgated by the government and the proposed amendments to the PVO Act;
- Accessing MOUs and clearance letters for CSOs to operate at local levels has been difficult and many organisations are still facing challenges to acquire them;
- Zoom or other internet-based interactions are excluding and marginalising most CBOs in hard-to-reach areas, hence their participation in most NANGO activities has been minimal;
- Inadequate and over-reliance on donor funding crippled most of the organisations making it difficult for them to operate to their full capacity.



Moving Forward

In conclusion, it is very much possible to have a strengthened CSO community that is responsive and committed to the sustainable development needs of all people in the country and the full realisation of human rights, democracy, good governance, and poverty alleviation. NANGO will remain committed to 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.

The region has a wide base of CBOs that operate mainly in rural communities. To continue with the efforts and spirit of inclusivity, the region will focus on fundraising and resource mobilisation in the coming year through engagement with development partners and the private sector. For the year 2023, the association takes note of the following risks and mitigation strategies.

- Schedule engagement meetings with local government structures and local authorities to find solutions to issues surrounding MOUs and clearance letters;
- Document members' experiences in the CSO operating environment to contribute to the Annual Civil Society Watch Report's development;
- Organize CSOs coordination and movement building meetings to foster resource pooling, information sharing, and expand our constituency base;
- Conduct CSOs sensitisation on NGOs Standards and corporate governance to boost our legitimacy and strengthen sector accountability mechanisms;
- Sensitise media practitioners, particularly those in print and online, on reporting CSOs initiatives without misrepresenting our role or work in communities;
- Train CSOs in Strategic Information, Social Media Usage, and Digital Technologies to build their knowledge and capacity in these areas and stay up-to-date with the latest digital trends and tools;
- Increase resources to improve mobility for member mobilisations, reducing the rural-urban divide and ensuring that all organisations, including CBOs, participate in the development discourse at all levels;
- Formulate strategic relationships and partnerships with other players within the NGO Sector, government departments, and the private sector to fulfill NANGO's mandate and collaborate with other like-minded organisations;
- Encourage NANGO members to comply with legislation and regulations governing NGO conduct to safeguard our operating space as legitimate development actors;
- Remind member organisations to remain non-partisan, stay within our mandate, and acquire necessary accreditation when engaging in elections-related work to ensure transparency and credibility.

WHO WE ARE



OVERVIEW

The Eastern Region is the third-largest region of all the NANGO regions covering the Manicaland region. Zimbabwe is often referred to as the jewel of Africa, and the Eastern Region serves as an example of just that. High in the mountains of the Eastern Highlands, the city of Mutare is located on the border of Mozambique. Mutare serves as the provincial Capital and is Zimbabwe's gateway to the Indian Ocean. This province has an area of about 36,500 km squared and a population of

1.753 million (in 2012). The province is subdivided into seven rural districts namely Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Makoni, Mutare, Mutasa, and Nyanga in the North East of the province. The office is situated on the East wing 4th Floor. Tel One Building Mutare.



OUR OBJECTIVES

The association exists to fulfil the following objectives:

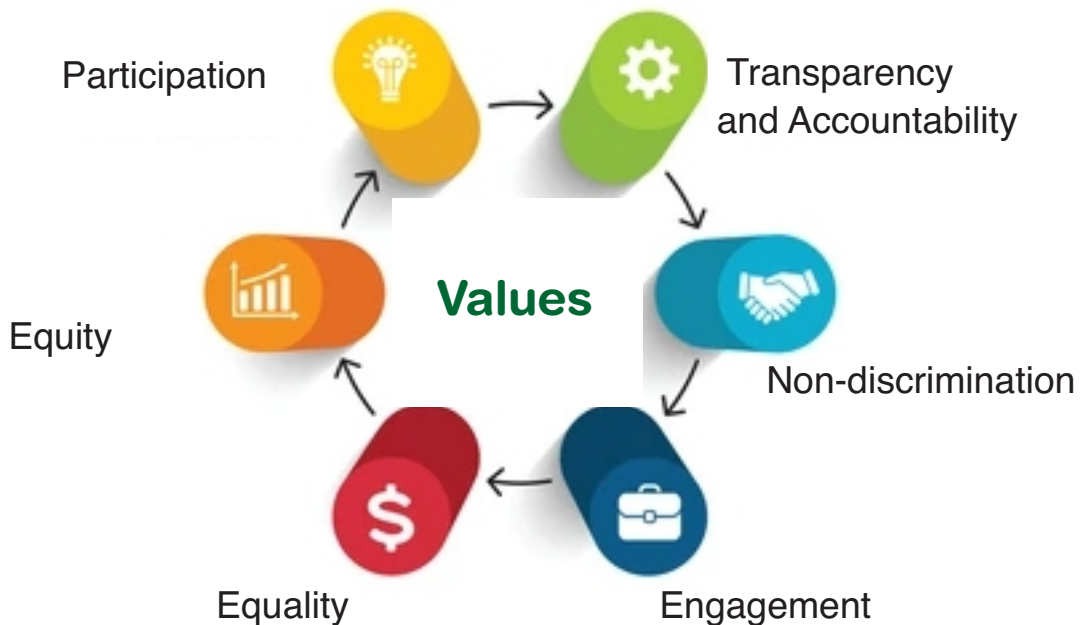
1. To promote, coordinate and organise the participation and contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations in Zimbabwe in the development discourse of Zimbabwe.
2. To promote and facilitate the collective agenda-setting, interaction, consultation, and exchange of information and experience with and 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.





*Strengthening the voice of
NGOs operating in
Zimbabwe*



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