



NANGO **Chronicles**

Quarterly Magazine

Issue 001

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“ Resilience is not about weathering the storm, but about learning to dance in the rain. It's about harnessing the very struggle that tries to bring us down, and using its energy to rise up stronger and more determined. In the face of adversity, we don't just survive - we thrive. ”



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Designed by Chris Katsaura

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Editor's Note



Dear Reader

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the **NANGO Chronicles Quarterly Magazine** – your dedicated platform for connection, information, and inspiration! This publication is a reflection on the key highlights from the past quarter. Our commitment to fostering a vibrant civil society in Zimbabwe remains unwavering, and we're thrilled to spotlight upcoming actions that will shape our collective future.

This edition kicks off with the latest **Updates from NANGO**, delving into ongoing initiatives that we believe are actively driving transformative change within our sector. Let us explore innovative solutions and collaborative ventures through our **Sector Spotlight**, where we shine a light on remarkable efforts within our membership and beyond. Keeping a watchful eye on the ever-evolving landscape of civil society, the **Civic Space Watch** provides insightful reports on the current operating environment and the challenges we navigate daily.

Empowering your impact further, we present list of **Funding Opportunities** you may consider to further your work and cause in the community you serve. Additionally, delve into the **NGO Member Profile**, a space dedicated to profiling member organisations and connecting them with interested stakeholders within our network. Looking to connect and collaborate? Our **Events Calendar** brims with upcoming trainings, workshops, conferences, and forums. Finally, the **CSO Compliance Feature** equips you with essential guidance to comply with various regulations and statutory obligations.

So, join us as we turn the pages of this inaugural issue, embarking on a shared journey to strengthen the impact of our combined efforts in a quest to strengthen the voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe and beyond. Together, we uphold our unwavering commitment to the communities we serve.

Ernest Nyimai
NANGO Executive Director

NANGO Strengthens CSO Engagement in the VNR Process.

As Zimbabwe embark on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process building up to the 2024 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) remain active development partners key for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Whole of Society approach adopted by the government is an affirmation to the relevance and importance of CSOs in our societies. The VNR process is a mechanism for assessing countries progress toward achieving the SDGs. This process, therefore, presents an opportunity towards advocacy for CSOs enabling operating environment amid continual shrinking of civic space in Zimbabwe. SDG 16 provides for the need for an enabling environment for CSOs in the quest for democracy and good governance.

Zimbabwe has so far voluntarily submitted its VNR reports twice, and the country will be presenting its third report in 2024. The commitment is commendable as the VNR process involves a comprehensive review of national policies, strategies, and actions related to sustainable development and evaluate if there is progress towards meeting the SDGs targets and aspirations. The VNR presents a unique opportunity for the government to engage in a transparent, accountable, and inclusive dialogue with various stakeholders, including CSOs, private sector, academia, and citizens thereby reinvigorating political commitment towards the achievement of SDGs and satisfaction of its key principles such as the '**Leave No One Behind**'. The VNR reports serve as a valuable resource for shaping policies, mobilizing resources, and fostering accountability.

CSOs play a crucial role in advocating for sustainable development, social justice, and inclusivity. The active participation of CSOs in the VNR process is key as it ensures that the review is comprehensive, balanced, and reflective of the realities on the ground. The grassroots

presence of CSOs allows them to gather information directly from communities, providing a more accurate picture of progress and challenges.

It is a good practise for CSOs to produce 'Alternative Reports' that complement the official national VNR report. It offers an independent assessment, highlighting areas where official national VNR reports may fall short. CSOs bring diverse perspectives, drawing attention to marginalized groups and underserved parts of the society. Through the VNR process, CSOs can objectively advocate for policy changes, monitor implementation, and hold government accountable. The involvement of CSOs in the implementation of SDGs is key in ensuring that the goals are not merely aspirational but translate into tangible actions that improve people's lives.

Zimbabwe produced its first VNR report in 2017, and in 2019 the government and development partners developed the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. In 2020, Zimbabwe produced its first Progress Review Report to assess SDGs implementation. In the year 2021, Zimbabwe presented its second VNR report and it has been approved to present its third VNR at the HLPF this year. As highlighted, the VNRs seek to facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

NANGO saw it prudent to mobilise for CSOs involvement, participation and influence in the processes. CSOs in Zimbabwe have welcomed the initiative by the Government to include CSOs representatives and other non-state actors in the drafting of the national VNR report. This development has presented immense opportunities for input and contributions into the process. NANGO is represented in the group of drafters leading the process of consolidating the national VNR report. Various consultations were held across 10 provinces and CSOs had an opportunity to participate in these and amplify their aspirations and inputs into the process. NANGO in partnership with Forus with support from the European Union (EU) has launched an initiative aimed at strengthening CSOs participation and influence in Zimbabwe's 2024 VNR process.

While the previous VNR processes for Zimbabwe included some stakeholder consultations, there were concerns about the depth and inclusivity of engagement with CSOs. On the other hand, CSOs had missed opportunities for spotlighting local perspectives in the previous VNRs. Critiques of the previous reports have identified lack of bottom-up data and insights from communities and grassroots organisations leading to an incomplete picture of progress and challenges. It is, therefore, key to advocate for a robust VNR process with active CSO participation to hold the government accountable for its SDG commitments. This initiative is, therefore, aimed at redressing these identified gaps by facilitating inclusive consultations;

provide evidence-based inputs, recommendations, and alternative narratives; and raise public awareness about the SDGs and the VNR process.



Through the initiative, four CSOs sensitisation and consultative meetings were held in Mutare, Harare, Gweru and Bulawayo and cumulatively 83 CSOs participated in the meetings. The data gathered has been used to develop the Position Paper and CSO Alternative VNR Spotlight report, which will be shared with Government and will be incorporated in the National VNR which will be presented at HLPF. The consultation focused mainly on 5 SDGs only, which the HLPF will be focusing on this year, these are SDG 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17.

Key messages drawn include the following:

- **Policy Alignment and Integration:** More needs to be done to ensure that national policies, strategies, and plans align with the SDGs. This includes integrating SDGs into sectoral policies related to social service delivery and human capital development. The formulation of NDS2 presents an opportunity to push for this. While we appreciate the whole of government approach, more can be done to establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination to promote synergies and avoid trade-offs between different goals.
- **Stronger governance models and institutional arrangements:** More needs to be done around strengthening institutional framework for SDG implementation. While we appreciate that the country has already put in place a Steering Committee to guide SDG implementation, absence of clear sub-national structures down to grassroots levels leaves a vacuum especially in ensuring national ownership of development trajectory and programmes. Enhancing coordination among government ministries, civil society organizations, private sector, and development partners should be a priority as we push for harmonisation and synchronisation of programmes at all tiers of government.

- **Data and Monitoring:** While the M&E framework is available, more needs to be done in investing in data collection, analysis, and reporting to track progress towards the attainment of SDGs. Regular monitoring and reporting are crucial for effective implementation. Use of disaggregated data is encouraged to ensure that no one is left behind.
- **Enhance Development Financing:** Whilst we appreciate the ongoing efforts for international re-engagement, for example, the debt dialogue, more can be done to leverage and benefit from international cooperation and development assistance. Zimbabwe can benefit from partnerships with other countries, regional organisations, and international agencies. The country needs to advocate for fair trade, debt relief, and increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) to support SDG implementation.
- **Bridging the Knowledge Gap:** The country needs to promote awareness and education about the SDGs at all levels of society, involving marginalized groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, in decision-making processes related to SDGs.
- **CSOs Enabling Environment:** CSOs play a pivotal role in advancing the SDGs hence the need for an enabling environment that fosters collaboration, accountability, and partnerships between CSOs and government. By monitoring progress and holding governments accountable, CSOs provide critical feedback on gaps and challenges. VNR messages underscore the importance of CSOs' role in promoting transparency, access to justice, and effective institutions under SDG 16. Their efforts promote human rights, gender equality, environmental protection, and social justice.



Strengthening CSO Legitimacy and Compliance to Protect Civic Space.

NANGO, in collaboration with the Citizen In Action Southern Africa (CIASA), has successfully conducted a series of workshops aimed at empowering Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across Zimbabwe. This initiative, titled the CSOs Legitimacy, Accountability, and Compliance Support Initiative (CLAX), is funded by NED and directly addresses the growing challenges faced by the civil society sector in Zimbabwe.

Through five strategically placed CSO Compliance and Accountability Support Meetings, NANGO and CIASA managed to reach a total of 171 CSO representatives across all ten provinces of Zimbabwe. The workshops ensured a balanced participation with 87 male and 84 female attendees, fostering inclusivity within the sector.

The reach extended beyond CSOs, with a significant number of representatives from key regulatory bodies joining the discussions. A total of 19 individuals from institutions like the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the National Social Security Authority (NSSA), the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) participated in the meetings.

These dialogues centred around crucial newly formed and existing laws and regulations that directly impact CSO operations. Some of the key laws and regulations explored included the Income Tax Act, the NSSA Act, the recently enacted Criminal Law (Codification and

Reform) Act of 2023, the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Act, and the much-debated PVO Amendment Bill of 2021.

The discussions primarily focused on ensuring compliance. Regulatory representatives outlined the expectations and requirements for CSOs, while CSO participants openly shared the challenges they face in adhering to existing laws and regulations. This exchange fostered a space for mutual understanding and potential solutions.

The CLAX initiative is driven by a critical need within the civil society sector in Zimbabwe. The operating environment for CSOs in Zimbabwe has become increasingly restrictive. We have witnessed an increased application of legislative and administrative measures that seek to exert greater control and regulation over the civil society sector. NANGO is determined to counter this trend by empowering CSOs with the knowledge and resources they need to operate legitimately, transparently, and compliantly.

By strengthening CSO legitimacy and accountability, the CLAX initiative ultimately seeks to safeguard civic space in Zimbabwe. A robust and compliant CSO sector is essential for a healthy democracy, and NANGO's efforts ensure that these vital organisations can continue their crucial work in advocating for the rights and well-being of Zimbabwe's citizens.



NANGO Celebrates World NGO Day with a Call for Enabling Environment

NANGO marked World NGO Day with an Inaugural CSO Symposium held in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and Nedbank Zimbabwe. The 27 February 2024 event, held at the Rainbow Towers Hotel in Harare, served as a platform to celebrate the invaluable contributions of NGOs and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A total of 50 delegates comprised of local CSOs, development partners, government representatives, media, and private sector representatives attended and participated in this inaugural event.

This year's World NGO Day theme, **"Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the SDGs,"** resonated deeply with Zimbabwe's upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) process in Geneva. The symposium acknowledged the crucial role NGOs play alongside government, volunteers, and funding partners in propelling Zimbabwe's development agenda and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The participation of Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Hon. Advocate Mercy Dinha, underscored the government's recognition of NGOs' importance. However, the

symposium also provided a space for CSOs to voice their operational challenges. These included burdensome administrative requirements from local authorities, negative media portrayals fuelled by misinformation, and a lack of standardized legislation aligned with fundamental constitutional freedoms.

Messages of solidarity from the church, business community, and media highlighted a shared commitment to working alongside NGOs towards a more just and equitable society. A key outcome of the symposium was a call for an enabling environment. NGOs urged the government to facilitate their work and their contribution to Agenda 2030. In a positive development, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare pledged to host quarterly CSO-Government Engagement meetings to foster communication and collaboration. Preparations for the first meeting are underway, and NANGO will keep its members informed.

This World NGO Day celebration was not just about recognition; it was a call to action for a more conducive environment where NGOs can flourish and contribute meaningfully to Zimbabwe's sustainable future.

National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

Strengthening the voice of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe



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YPWDs Face Challenges in Accessing SRH Services in Zimbabwe (Mutare Urban)

By Elevation Zimbabwe Trust

Young People With Disabilities (YPWDs) face unique challenges in accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services. Disability-related barriers, societal stigma, and inaccessible healthcare facilities often limit their ability to obtain comprehensive SRH information, services, and support. YPWDs in Mutare urban, like many around the country, encounter significant barriers when trying to access these services. This lack of access puts them at increased risk of unwanted pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and limited knowledge about their bodies and sexuality.

Here is a glimpse into the current gaps:

Information Accessibility: Educational materials on SRH are often not available in formats accessible to YPWD, such as braille, sign language, or audio recordings. Information on topics such as puberty, contraception, STIs, and consent should be available in formats such as braille, sign language, or easy-to-read formats. This leaves them without crucial knowledge about their bodies, reproductive health, and safe sexual practices. Ensuring that SRH information is inclusive and accessible is vital for empowering young people with disabilities to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

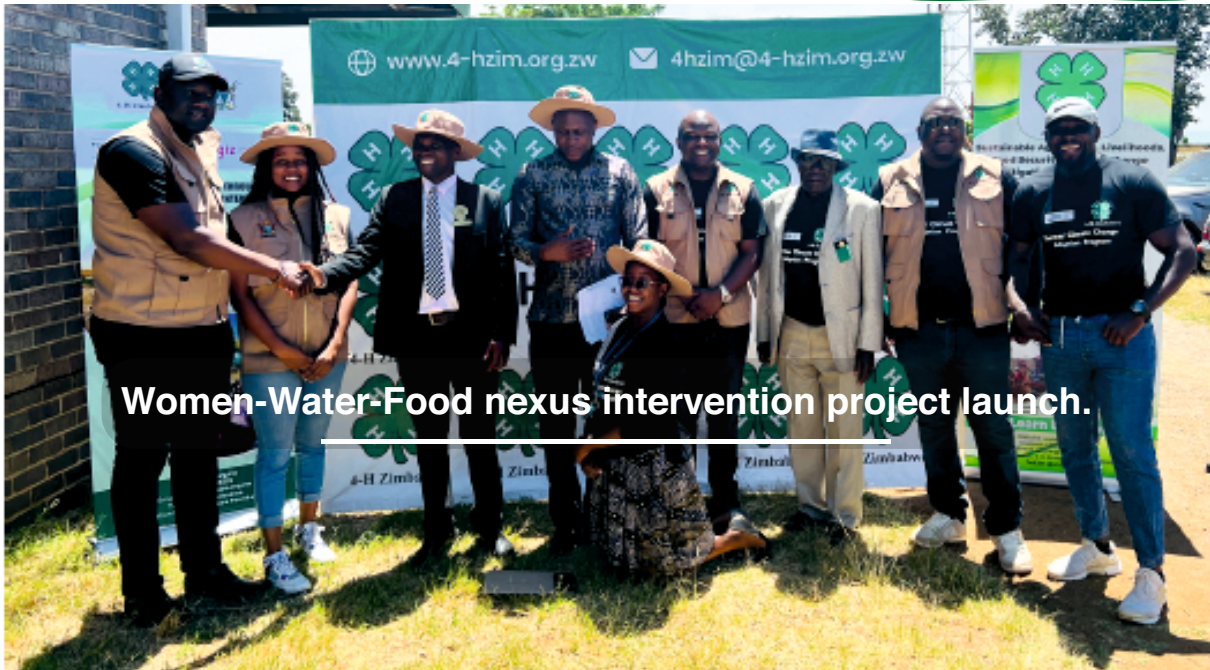
Attitudinal Barriers: Stigma and misconceptions surround disability and sexuality. Some healthcare providers may hold the mistaken belief that YPWDs are not sexually active, leading to a lack of sensitivity and appropriate information during consultations. It is essential to promote disability awareness and sensitivity training for healthcare professionals to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Providers should approach young people with disabilities with respect, dignity, and empathy, ensuring they feel comfortable discussing their SRH needs.

Physical Barriers: Clinics may not be physically accessible, lacking ramps, privacy, and adapted toilets and bathrooms, making it difficult for young people with mobility impairments to reach and utilize the facilities and accommodate diverse disabilities.

These gaps have serious consequences. YPWD are more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation due to a lack of awareness and communication limitations. Limited access to contraception can lead to unintended pregnancies, further marginalizing them within society.

Bridging the gap: there is a need for Inclusive SRH Education through the development of educational programs specifically designed for YPWD, using accessible formats and involving them in the creation of materials. Also training parents, caregivers, and the community at large on SRH in changing the narrative and myths about YPWD, challenging stigma, and promoting the sexual and reproductive rights of YPWD.

It is crucial to develop disability-inclusive SRH programs and services that consider the unique needs, preferences, and challenges faced by young people with disabilities. This may involve continued training of healthcare service providers to be sensitive to the needs of YPWD, including disability etiquette and clear communication strategies, adapting service delivery models, and involving disability advocacy organizations in the planning and implementation of SRH initiatives. Young people with disabilities have the same rights to access comprehensive SRH services as their peers. Overcoming barriers related to information, physical accessibility, attitudinal biases, communication, and service provision is crucial to ensure their full enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights. By promoting inclusive and accessible SRH services, society can empower young people with disabilities to make informed decisions, protect their sexual health, and lead fulfilling lives. It is essential to work collaboratively with disability rights organizations, healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities to create an enabling environment where all young people, irrespective of their disabilities, can access the SRH services they need and deserve. By implementing these suggestions, our society can move towards a more inclusive healthcare system that guarantees SRH services for all, regardless of disability. This will empower young people with disabilities to make informed choices about their sexual health and well-being.



Women-Water-Food nexus intervention project launch.

On Saturday 18 March 2024 at Vungu Rural District Council in Gweru, 4H-Zimbabwe Foundation launched a project titled, “**Enhancing livelihoods through water-women-food nexus interventions**”. The project will be implemented in 8 wards in the Chiwundura Rural District, Midlands, Zimbabwe.

Background to the project

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census for Zimbabwe, Chiwundura district had a population of 65,818 people. Women contributed 50,7% of that population while men numbered 32,435 (49,7%). The district is predominantly a communal farming area with small land sizes of less than 3 hectares per household. The district, like many others in Zimbabwe, has not been spared disasters such as recurring droughts, decreasing rainfall, heat waves, low crop yields, and water and food insecurity. There has been a shift of gender roles as women now walk long distances to fetch water and, in some cases, men have taken that role.

4-H Zimbabwe, therefore, seeks to address water scarcity, women's vulnerability, and food insecurity problems emanating from climate change impact in the Chiwundura district.

The Project

With support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), 4-H Zimbabwe aims at enhancing local-based adaptation anchored on improving water security and improving food production for households in Chiwundura district between 01 March 2024 to 31 May 2025. The project is targeting women and youth as the primary beneficiaries since they are more vulnerable to climate change effects. In total, the project will target 5964 men and women as direct beneficiaries.

Sector Spotlight

During the project, 4-H Zimbabwe will strategically cooperate with expert and policy-based partners such as the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Development (MoLAWFRD), Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife (MoECW), and local community leaders that will assist in climate risk analysis policies and feed into community adaptation strategies. 4-H Foundation already has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoLAWFRD, which understanding assisted farmers' mobilization and coordination through community Ministry Extension workers who interact with farmers on a day-to-day basis.



Through this project, 4-H Zimbabwe is pursuing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1. No to poverty, 2. Zero hunger, 3. Good health, 6. Water provisioning and 13. Climate action. The project also complements government efforts in building the resilience of communities against climate change through NDS 1(2021-2025) which alludes to the thrust of environmental protection, climate resilience, natural resources management, and sustainable natural resource management.

Key project activities include the establishment of 8 community women-led gardens, trainings on various thematic areas, and drilling and fencing of solar-powered boreholes. A climate change Indaba will also be held to create awareness of climate change adaptation strategies and present current policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in Zimbabwe.

4-H Zimbabwe's vision is premised on Zimbabwe which has a sound climate change action plan, with sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies owned and suitable for both vulnerable, marginalized rural and urban communities. 4-H Zimbabwe also aims to achieve a food-secure, safe, and clean water Zimbabwe with sustainable adaptation and mitigation.

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LRF's Statement on the Implications of the Hiking of Documentation Fees As Stated in SI 7 and 10 of 2024.



The Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) dedicated to promoting human rights and improving access to justice, expresses deep concern over the hike in fees for birth registration and national identity documents as announced in Statutory Instrument 7 of 2024, and Statutory Instrument 10 Of 2024. The Regulations, announced by the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage in terms of section 26 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act [chapter 5:02], pose significant challenges, particularly for vulnerable populations, and threaten to violate the rights of children and families across Zimbabwe.

LRF recognises that access to documentation is a fundamental human right, as enshrined in International Instruments, including The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Article 6 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Nationally, Section 81 of the 2013 Zimbabwe Constitution provides that every child has the right to a name, identity and nationality, which should be granted at birth. Birth registration is the first step in ensuring lifelong protection and is essential for children to enjoy fundamental rights and basic services.

The regulations stipulate that the cost of an initial birth certificate for persons above six years shall be USD5.00, while the cost of a national ID for persons above 18 years shall be \$5.00; certified copy of an entry of birth/death certificate shall be USD5.00, re-registration (for legitimacy purposes) shall be USD20.00, while urgent birth/death certificate shall be USD10.00. This hike in fees will disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalized communities, particularly those living in rural areas, who may not have the financial means to afford these additional costs.

According to reports by UNICEF, the Eastern and Southern African region is home to 51 million children under the age of five with unregistered births. In Zimbabwe, of the 6.3 million boys and girls, 4.8 million live in poverty, with 1.6 million living in extreme poverty. Notably, 72% of the population reside in rural areas, and 49% remain unregistered. Unregistered children are almost inevitably the children of people with low incomes. The Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) noted during the 2022 population and housing census that 20.5% of children under the age of one were unregistered births. A total of 1,308,157 persons aged five to 24 had not acquired a birth certificate, and 75% of those had not acquired a birth record. The Report further noted that

about 951 994 653 youths aged 16 to 34 did not have National Identity documents. The impact of the fee hike will further exacerbate the challenges these communities face, making it even more difficult for them to access birth registration services.

Families often face steep barriers to birth registration, including long distances to the nearest Civil Registry offices, lack of knowledge about how to register a child, and high fees required for obtaining a birth certificate. The inability to afford birth registration fees will not only hinder children from obtaining legal identity and recognition before the law. Also, it violates their rights to social protection, education, health, and legal protection. The lack of birth certificates can lead to exclusion from essential services such as vaccinations, healthcare, education, and legal rights, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty and marginalization.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), LRF is committed to ensuring universal birth registration and legal identity for every child by 2030. We are dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of birth registration, targeting mobile registration in hard-to-reach areas, addressing legislative and operational barriers, and encouraging parents to register their children promptly.

LRF calls on the government to reconsider the recent fee hikes for birth registration and to take proactive measures to ensure that birth registration services remain accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable in our society, through mobile birth registration campaigns. We urge the government to prioritise the rights of children and families by making birth registration affordable and accessible to all, in line with its international and national commitments.

We strongly encourage all Zimbabwean citizens to seize the opportunity to obtain birth certificates at no cost for children aged 0-6, and for registering national identity documents at no charge for children aged 16 – 18 as provided for by SI 7 of 2024 and SI 10 of 2024. This initiative ensures proper documentation and official recognition by the state for their children. Acquiring birth certificates and national identity documents not only confers legal status but also facilitates access to crucial services, education, and future prospects. By utilising the free provisions detailed in SI 7 and 10 of 2024, parents and guardians can equip their children with the essential documentation needed to confidently navigate society, assert their rights, and avail themselves of opportunities as Zimbabwean citizens.

For more information, visit www.lrfzim.com or call 0242334732.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Unleashing the Power of AI: Driving Agenda 2030 in Zimbabwe

**&
the
SDGs**

By Tonderai Kurewa

What is AI and How It Can Benefit NGOs?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These systems are designed to learn from data, recognise patterns, make decisions, and solve complex problems. AI encompasses various technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics. For Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), AI presents a range of opportunities to enhance their operations, improve efficiency, and drive social impact.

In the pursuit of sustainable development, the emergence of AI has brought about exciting opportunities, especially for countries like Zimbabwe. AI acts as a powerful equalizer, empowering marginalised communities and propelling progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the Chapter Lead for Omdena Harare, I am thrilled about the incredible potential AI holds in revolutionising key sectors in Zimbabwe, fostering inclusive growth, and paving the way for a brighter future. Below are a few areas where AI has the potential to impact positively the implementation of SDGs in Zimbabwe.

Addressing Healthcare Challenges: When it comes to healthcare, accessing quality services remains a significant challenge in Zimbabwe. However, AI offers a promising solution. Picture a future where AI-driven diagnostic tools analyse medical images, detect diseases, and provide early intervention. Additionally, with telemedicine powered by AI, remote consultations become possible, bridging the gap for underserved communities. By making use of AI-based predictive models, Zimbabwe can enhance disease surveillance, preventing outbreaks and optimizing resource allocation. By implementing AI in healthcare, Zimbabwe can bridge the gap and improve the overall well-being of all its citizens.

Transforming Agriculture: Agriculture is the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, and AI has the potential to revolutionize this sector. Imagine AI-powered technologies like drones and machine learning algorithms providing valuable insights on soil quality, crop health, and optimal resource allocation. This empowers farmers to make informed decisions, boosting yields, reducing waste, and increasing profitability. Furthermore, AI-driven weather forecasting models enable early warning systems for natural disasters, safeguarding crops, and livelihoods. By embracing AI in agriculture, Zimbabwe can enhance food security, empower rural communities, and promote sustainable farming practices.

Democratizing Education: Ensuring access to quality education for all is crucial, and AI can play a vital role in democratizing education in Zimbabwe. Envision AI-powered platforms that adapt to individual students' needs, delivering personalized content and tracking progress. These virtual classrooms and online learning platforms, powered by AI, break down geographical barriers, making education accessible to students in remote areas. Moreover, by leveraging Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies, AI can facilitate language learning and literacy programs. By harnessing the power of AI in education, Zimbabwe can bridge the education gap, empower the youth, and nurture a skilled workforce for the future.

Building Resilient Infrastructure:

Developing robust infrastructure is vital for economic growth and social development. Here, AI can optimize infrastructure planning, management, and maintenance. Imagine AI analysing data to identify areas in need of development, optimizing transportation routes, and enhancing energy efficiency. Additionally, AI-driven smart grids can effectively manage energy distribution, reducing waste and improving access. Furthermore, AI-based traffic management systems can alleviate congestion and enhance road safety. During disasters, AI can facilitate response and recovery efforts through real-time data analysis, coordination of emergency services, and resource allocation. By harnessing AI in infrastructure development, Zimbabwe can build resilient and sustainable systems, empowering communities and fostering economic growth.

Omdena's Role in the Journey: Omdena, a global platform for collaborative AI projects, plays a pivotal role in driving sustainable development. Through the Harare chapter, we bring together a diverse group of AI enthusiasts, researchers, and practitioners to tackle real-world challenges. With Omdena's collaborative approach, we promote innovation and knowledge-sharing, enabling us to explore AI solutions tailored to Zimbabwe's unique context. Through partnerships and collaborations, we aim to unleash the full potential of AI, transforming Zimbabwe and other third-world countries, and creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

For more information: <https://www.omdena.com/local-chapters/harare-zimbabwe-chapter>

Stakeholders Call for Robust AI Regulations in Africa Amid Concerns Over Ethical Deployment

Civil Society Urges Transparency & Accountability in the Adoption of AI to Safeguard Rights and Privacy in African Nations

By Fanuel Jongwe



GUI (Graphical User Interface) concept. © Shutterstock

With Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Africa joining their peers in the global north in adopting and deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their promotion of inclusive engagement and increased participation of individuals in processes that affect their lives, stakeholders are calling for robust frameworks to ensure the fair and responsible deployment of AI.

Africa is slowly moving towards the use of AI in various sectors of society, with 'small pockets' having so far adopted the technology. There are concerns that the absence of clear and robust frameworks to regulate the deployment of AI could lead to negative consequences, including governments being unable to guarantee data security, and the right to privacy for individuals, as well as breaches of cyber and national security. Stakeholders have said that the impact of deploying AI is far-reaching and have lamented the lack of transparency, accountability, and equity in the development and deployment of the technology.

CSOs in Africa are using AI for mapping human rights abuses, and number-crunching when dealing with huge statistics, and the technology has enabled efficiency in addressing human rights and developmental needs of communities in Africa. "These technologies can impact everyday lives, including key moments like influencing voting patterns when it comes to national elections," Hayes Mabweazara, a respected analyst and scholar in the journalism and media studies department at Glasgow University, told the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). "These technologies tend to be hidden. They are sub-strate, which means across different sectors, including civil society, they are very likely to be manipulated in very negative ways."

Mabweazara said that while there was a need for robust regulatory frameworks, there is a dearth of knowledge in Africa on how the technologies work, making regulation difficult. "There is a lack of transparency," Mabweazara said. "The big technology companies that are generating and coming up with these technologies are hardly ever transparent. They don't disclose how these technologies are made. There should be regulation that requires that all AI technologies be tested before they are deployed so there is a reduction of harm. It's very hard to regulate what you really don't understand, mostly in the global south where AI is right at the bottom of priorities in terms of issues that bother us as countries. There are still a lot of unknowns and gaps. In the African context, what's required is a transnational approach to regulating these technologies so that those who are lagging behind can benefit from those who have made strides in coming up with regulatory frameworks."

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HAYES MABWEAZARA

Sophia Tekwane, a political activist based in Sweden, told FNF that CSOs in Africa could benefit immensely from the potential solutions offered by AI. "However, there should be guidelines and regulatory frameworks to ensure accountability, transparency, ethical, and responsible use of AI for the good of individuals and societies in Africa."

So far, three countries in Africa—Mauritius, Egypt, and Kenya—are at advanced stages of making policy documents on the use of AI, while Morocco, South Africa, and Tunisia have begun the process of coming up with policies to regulate AI use. Studies have shown that if unchecked, AI deployment can undermine fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in various international, regional, and national statutes, including the rights to privacy and personal security.

An ad hoc expert committee assembled by UNESCO made a recommendation in November 2021 on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. The recommendation outlines 10 principles, including transparency, fairness, safety, security, and non-discrimination. The recommendation calls on member states to have strong enforcement mechanisms to remedy harm caused by any AI system.

Rashweat Mukundu, Africa Adviser for the Denmark-based International Media Support, told FNF: "What we need in Africa are policy interventions that do not limit rights and uses of AI but rather mechanisms that mitigate the negative effects of AI. For example, the security threats that AI poses to human rights defenders as well as ethical issues that AI poses, such as issues around misinformation and disinformation and the creation of false information that may result in public disorder. What's needed is dialogue among civil society organisations, governments, policymakers, and ordinary citizens in terms of what these new technologies mean for African societies and how we can raise our leverage to engage with big technology companies. We need as Africans to raise our capacity to engage with these big technology companies so that we mitigate the negative effects of AI.

"We also need robust policies to mitigate against the harm that can come as a result of the use of AI by repressive regimes. AI causes a security risk to individuals working in civil society and pushing human rights agendas. Voices can be created using AI, and individuals can be said to have uttered things that are of a criminal nature, and police and governments can act on that as truth. There is a huge security risk that comes with AI in relation to how it can be manipulated by governments, especially in Africa."

Director of the Zimbabwe Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA Zimbabwe), Tabani Moyo, told FNF that although CSOs in Africa were still experimenting with AI, there were concerns over algorithmic biases and the privacy of personal data. "The AI system will inherit the biases of its producer, and many AI systems are developed in the West. There is a notion that the West has its biases, and producers of AI technologies will knowingly or unknowingly perpetuate those biases. We need datasets developed by Africans and policies that ensure AI deployment adheres to principles of fairness, transparency, inclusivity, and accountability."



Laws and Regulations

CSOs Caught in Regulatory Limbo

The legislative and policy attempts to restrict civic space continue to close the space for CSOs with some authorities demanding the submission of documents, and in some instances, payment of stiff fees to acquire Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) granting authority to implement programmes in certain districts. This phenomenon has become an annual occurrence and has since developed into a regulation crisis with cases of directives issued to stop implementation by CSOs in certain districts. In 2003, the Government introduced a Policy on Operations of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Zimbabwe Policy (30 July 2003) (the 2003 NGO Policy), which directed that “every NGO that would like to operate at any level in the provision of humanitarian and developmental assistance in the country should be duly registered with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW)” and that, “[i]n order to commence operations at any level, an NGO should sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the respective Government ministry/agency”, among other cumbersome administrative requirements. This policy has been applied since that time to restrict NGOs' operations, particularly in terms of accessing more remote rural areas of the country.

In January 2024, the directives and letters originated in Insiza, Beitbridge, and Gwanda District Development Coordinators (DDCs) and there were attempts to issue similar directives in the rest of the districts in Matabeleland South, Bulawayo Metropolitan, and Matabeleland North through an operation named '[Know Your Partners \(KYP\)](#)' and, in some districts, it was referred as a monitoring exercise by the President's Department. As NANGO, we were ceased with these directives, which from our perspective are illegal, unjustified, and unnecessary, especially in carrying out KYP exercises. Several concerted efforts were made to proactively respond and challenge these developments through letters and engagements with the actors/ agencies involved, and the pace at which these demands were pronounced has since stabilized.

However, the issue has not been resolved completely. We continue receiving reports from CSOs across the country where the request for MoUs and clearances continues, stifling the operating environment. For example, Gweru City Council has included MoU processing fees or tariffs of more than 2000 USD in their 2024 national budget, in Marondera local authorities are charging 300 USD, and Chipinge and Buhera as well charging the same.

From our previous engagements with the MoP SLSW seeking clarity regarding the basis of these directives, they have been referring to the 2003 NGO Policy which we have analyzed and made several submissions on the gaps of this policy: The policy was developed before the adoption of the 2013 Constitution, leaving gaps in terms of constitutional alignment and modern governance principles, the policy did not fully embrace the diversity of civil society, limiting its focus to PVOs alone instead of incorporating a wider array of CSO types, the policy fails to meet various NGOs standards and best practices, especially those related to freedom of assembly and association.

Recently, the Buhera district requested a list of new requirements for CSOs to operate. These include clearance and acceptance letters to operate as well as approval from the Social Services Department Committee and Full Council Meetings. These entry and operating requirements therefore take time as some of the meetings to get approval are held once every quarter, hence limiting CSO operations. Therefore, this has brought to light the narrative that the demand for clearance letters and signing MOUs between CSOs and the government is a way to monitor the work done by different CSOs and limit their operations.

Realizing the appetite of the state agencies to continue introducing these undefined rules for CSOs, we have jointly facilitated country-wide consultations with the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum and Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) to better understand CSOs experiences, evidence, and facts gathering through fact-finding mission, on the issues of these directives to inform engagements and alternative approaches in response to these demands. We have covered – Gweru, Gwanda, Bulawayo, Marondera, Harare, Mutare and Masvingo.

NANGO's focus is on fostering an enabling environment for legitimate NGOs to operate effectively while ensuring accountability and transparency within the sector. Through collaborative efforts and constructive dialogue, we can navigate these challenges and achieve a conducive operating space for CSOs in Zimbabwe.

Civil Society Voices: Concerns Over Zimbabwe's PVO Amendment Bill



The new Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill published on the 1 March 2024 has sparked debate within Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Bill poses critical changes related to regulation and compliance, impacting the landscape for CSOs operating within the country. Zimbabwe continues to witness continual shrinking of civic space owing to various factors ranging from legislative, administrative, and operational issues. The bill arrives at a time when CSOs are already navigating a restricted environment, making its implications even more pronounced. Despite global trends favouring a liberal approach to CSOs, the Zimbabwean government continues to show reluctance to adopt a more liberal and hands-off approach in its interactions with CSOs.

Broadly, the proposed amendments to the PVO Act threaten the right to freedom of association, and it potentially limits the scope of CSO activities in Zimbabwe. CSOs that are constituted either as Trusts under the Deeds Registries Act, or the Common Law Universitas face existential threats including loss of legal status should the Bill get enacted in its current form. Urgent considerations are necessary, and stakeholders must engage in constructive dialogue to address these concerns. Balancing regulatory oversight with the need for vibrant civil society participation is crucial. This article shares a brief overview of some of the key concerns from CSOs regarding the revised PVO Amendment Bill.

It is essential to emphasize that CSOs in Zimbabwe do not reject regulation outright. Rather, they recognize that regulations serve to create an enabling operating environment, fostering greater impact, efficiency, and effectiveness. As part of good corporate governance, CSOs fully appreciate the necessity of effective regulations. The ongoing negotiations and pleas for revisions to the PVO Amendment Bill stem from a desire to establish a regulatory framework that is both transparent in its expectations and compliance requirements while safeguarding the independence and autonomy of CSOs. Benchmarking the new provisions of the bill against Zimbabwe's Constitution and other regional and international human rights instruments is crucial. CSOs seek alignment with these foundational documents to ensure that the regulatory changes do not inadvertently infringe upon fundamental rights. While CSOs acknowledge the

importance of adhering to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendation, particularly in combating money laundering and terrorism financing, the weaponization of Recommendation 8 raises legitimate concerns. This specific recommendation has been associated globally with unintended consequences, including the erosion of civic space. Unfortunately, Zimbabwe is no exception; the PVO Amendment Bill must be scrutinised to strike the right balance between regulation and CSO autonomy.

The proposed new registration requirements under the PVO Amendment Bill have raised significant concerns within Zimbabwe's CSOs. While the intention behind these changes is to enhance regulation, their implementation remains unclear and cumbersome. Existing Trusts and Universitas, which currently operate legally with established organisational constitutions, policies, and statutes, face a tight 30-day window for transition and registration as PVOs. However, this short period may not allow sufficient time to navigate the due processes required by their internal governance structures. Besides, the registration requirements provided in the Bill are not exhaustive. As a result, there is a genuine risk that some organisations may inadvertently fall into the category of “sanctionable trusts.”

Moreover, the bill outlines registration requirements but lacks specificity. Organisations seeking to transition are left uncertain about what precisely will be expected of them. Compliance becomes challenging without a comprehensive checklist detailing all necessary steps. Key areas of concern include the template for the Constitution, minimum board members required, and re-registration procedures following material changes. Additionally, the introduction of the “Beneficial Owner” and “Controller” roles requires reconsideration. These positions do not currently exist within the organisational structure of CSOs in Zimbabwe. Even from a FATF perspective, the declaration of a Beneficial Owner is typically a requirement for private companies, not CSOs.

The proposed changes regarding the complete removal of the PVO Board have sparked concern within the sector. The sector is desirous that the regulator maintains an inclusive decision-making platform, with PVO representatives, which is essential for effective oversight of the Registrar's functions, especially given the apparent executive nature of the Registrar's appointment and powers. However, the bill eliminates the PVO Board, designating the Registrar as the sole registration and regulatory authority for PVOs. Consequently, decision-making powers will now rest solely in the hands of the Registrar, transforming this administrative official into an executive figure with extensive authority over PVO registrations.

One critical issue lies in the absence of oversight mechanisms for both the Registrar and the Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW). The bill curtails the High Court's discretion, limiting it to only two options: either revoking the Minister's decision or

referring it back to the Minister. Notably, there is no provision to set aside the decision altogether. Furthermore, the appeal process for Ministerial decisions focuses solely on procedural matters rather than the merits of those decisions. Appeals to the High Court will not suspend the Minister's orders. CSOs contend that the bill should not undermine the common law position on appeals. Upholding principles of separation of powers and checks and balances is crucial, and the bill should incorporate a review mechanism to challenge any procedural irregularities by the Minister.

The recent amendments to the PVO Amendment Bill introduce provisions aimed at complying with the FATF Recommendation 8. However, several critical issues remain unresolved. Firstly, the bill empowers the Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare to designate organisations as “high risk” for terrorist financing. Unfortunately, the provision lacks clarity on what specific criteria constitute being “high risk” or vulnerable to terrorist activities. Without clear definitions, organisations may find themselves subject to arbitrary decisions without a transparent process. Secondly, the bill fails to specify the procedure the Minister will use to determine risk or vulnerability. While the requirement for a risk-based assessment is acknowledged, crucial details or guiding frameworks are conspicuously absent. Organisations are left wondering how this assessment will be conducted and what factors will be considered. Thirdly, the bill mandates a risk-based assessment every five years. However, there is no commitment to ongoing outreach to the sector, a fundamental aspect of the FATF Risk-Based Approach. Regular engagement with CSOs is essential to ensure that risk assessments remain relevant and responsive to changing dynamics. Lastly, the bill overlooks the revisions to Recommendation 8 and its interpretive notes, approved by the FATF in December 2023. Incorporating these updates is crucial for alignment with international standards and effective risk management.



NANGO has so far conducted CSOs Sensitisation and Consensus Building Meetings on the PVO Amendment Bill across the five regions in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Human Rights

NGO Forum and Legal Resources Foundation (LRF). Key issues from the analysis were presented and those we have reached now have a better sense and appreciation of the new Bill, what has changed, and emerging concerns and recommendations. There was consensus for the use of multi-pronged approaches, clamouring for the revision of various aspects of the Bill.

NANGO has also met with the senior officials from MoPSLSW and the CSOs concerns were presented and shared. Key resolutions from the engagement include the need for a political economy analysis of the Bill and dialogue around the Standard Operating Procedure on how certain provisions will be administratively operationalised once the Bill is enacted into law. Other planned initiatives include facilitating meetings with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), AML/CFT subcommittee on TF and Proliferation, quarterly update meetings with MoPSLSW and other ministries, and utilising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, which presents an opportunity to submit our concerns on civic space under SDG 16. Lastly, the ongoing discussions around the Summit of the Future, and the upcoming Nairobi CSOs Conference in preparation for the summit present an opportunity to submit our concerns and challenges around civic space as one of the issues to be discussed during the conference and the summit itself. As NANGO, we aim to ensure that CSO interests are safeguarded and that an enabling environment for civil society engagement is maintained in Zimbabwe.



Advocate Wilbert Mandinde presenting an analysis of the PVO Amendment Bill at the PVO Sensitisation and Consensus Building Meeting for the NANGO Northern Region

[EC: Strengthening the Capacities of CSOs and CBOs for improved Internal Governance \(Zimbabwe\)](#)

- **Category:** Grant
- **Donor Agency:** European Commission (EC)
- **Grant Size:** More than \$1 million
- **Post Date:** March 27, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** May 21, 2024

[Call for Applications: ProVeg Grants Program](#)

- **Category:** Grant
- **Donor Agency:** ProVeg International
- **Grant Size:** \$10,000 to \$100,000
- **Post Date:** March 26, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** June 01, 2024

[Up to \\$1,500,000 available for solutions working to close the Gender Digital Divide](#)

- **Category:** Grant
- **Donor Agency:** Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF)
- **Grant Size:** More than \$1 million
- **Post Date:** March 14, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** May 06, 2024

[Call for LOIs: Addressing areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in sub-Saharan Africa.](#)

- **Category:** Grant
- **Donor Agency:** International Development Research Centre
- **Grant Size:** \$10,000 to \$100,000
- **Post Date:** March 19, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** May 13, 2024.

[CFPs: Strengthening Civil Society Regional Partnerships in favour of Ratification of the ADP](#)

- **Category:** Grant
- **Donor Agency:** European Commission (EC)
- **Grant Size:** More than \$1 million
- **Post Date:** March 13, 2024

- **Deadline Date:** May 23, 2024

<https://grants.fundsforgospremium.com/opportunity/op/sustaining-community-expansion-access-fellowship-programme>

- **Post Date:** April 05, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** May 02, 2024
- **Donor Name:** Processing Foundation
- **Grant Size:** \$10,000 to \$100,000
- **Category:** Fellowship

[Open call for TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research](#)

- **Category:** Scholarship
- **Donor Agency:** University of Ghana
- **Grant Size:** Not Available
- **Post Date:** March 26, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** May 03, 2024.

[TFD Visiting Fellowship Program](#)

- **Category:** Fellowship
- **Donor Agency:** Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
- **Grant Size:** \$1000 to \$10,000
- **Post Date:** March 20, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** June 15, 2024

[African Liberty Writing Fellowship Program](#)

- **Category:** Fellowship
- **Donor Agency:** Vital Voices Global Partnership
- **Grant Size:** Not Available
- **Post Date:** March 06, 2024
- **Deadline Date:** April 15, 2024

Contracts Management Associate (Global Fund Project)

- **Category:** Job Vacancy
- **Locations:** Harare, Zimbabwe.
- **Agency:** UNDP
- **Deadline:** 05/08/2024, 05:59 AM.
- **Link:**
<https://estm.fa.em2.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperi>

Member Spotlight



The Institute for Transformational Community Development Trust (ITCD), a women-led Community-Based Organisation (CBO) registered in December 2020 with a functional Board of Trustees, works with women and girls in grassroots communities across Manicaland

Province, Zimbabwe. Their mission is to empower individuals and communities with the tools and skills they need to achieve sustainable solutions through transformational development. ITCD focuses on key areas like gender justice, women's climate change initiatives, leadership development, economic empowerment for youth and women in rural areas, social accountability, and peaceful conflict transformation.

As a registered member of NANGO, the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), and the Zimbabwe Coalition for Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), ITCD actively participates in the NANGO Women's Cluster and Economic Cluster. The organisation's Executive Director, Mrs. Farirai Mudiwa, plays a leadership role, chairing the Economic Cluster and serving as the Executive Secretary on the NANGO Eastern Region Executive Committee (REC).

ITCD currently runs two impactful projects: **#SheTransforms - Entrepreneurs Mentorship Hub**, which empowers young women in entrepreneurship, and **#SheTransforms - Dignify the Girl Child Campaign**, which focuses on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of rural young women. Since its inception, ITCD has trained 100 young women in various business initiatives and, with the help of well-wishers, mobilised \$1,000 worth of dignity kits (valued at \$20 each) for 50 young women.

**#SheTransforms
- Entrepreneurs
Mentorship Hub**



Member Spotlight

In addition to its programmes, ITCD's expertise is sought after by other local CBOs and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). ITCD serves as a resource, providing training and research on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Women and Climate Change, Women's Economic Empowerment, and strategies to increase women's effective participation in governance processes. They collaborate with local Manicaland partners on low-cost, innovative initiatives that build the capacity of women and girls to be leaders and agents of change across various sectors. ITCD also works to improve women and girls' access to knowledge of local and national governance processes. Their partnerships extend beyond local organisations, as they have collaborated with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and other NGOs to raise awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) issues throughout Mutare District during International Commemoration Days.



#SheTransforms – Dignify the Girl Child Campaign

We welcome your partnership in empowering women and girls across Manicaland through our diverse programmes. Whether you can offer financial support, technical expertise, or material resources, we invite you to collaborate with us. For partnership enquiries, please contact our Executive Director, Farirai M. Mudiwa, at the following details:

Email Address: itcdtrustzim@gmail.com

Phone Numbers: +263 773 156 948 or +263 719 156 948.

Address: Office 136, 1st Floor, CAIPF, Corner 3rd & 4th Street, Mutare.

Facebook: ITCD Trust Zim

Twitter: @itcdtrustzim



2024 2ND QUARTER SHORT COURSES

CALENDER



PROGRAM TITLE	DURATION	DATES
• Power BI for Beginners	2 Days	APRIL 22-23
• NGO Fundraising And Resource Mobilization Strategies	2 Days	APRIL 25-26
• Finance for Non Finance	2 Days	MAY 27-28
• Monitoring and Evaluation Analytics : Level 1	2 Days	MAY 30-31
• Finance for Non Finance	2 Days	JUNE 24-25
• Customer Analytics	2 Days	JUNE 27-28





PUBLIC NOTICE: FINAL REMINDER – Registration of Taxpayers in TaRMS.

Following the Tax and Revenue Management System (TaRMS) Go Live Public Notice 68 of 2023 to the public, the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) would like to advise all **Existing Taxpayers** (Taxpayers with BP Numbers) who received Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) that they should complete the registration process through the Self-Service-Portal (SSP) by following the steps given below on how to get started.

Existing Taxpayers who did not receive their TIN can access it through the Self-Service Portal by using their current BP Number to register. Taxpayers should note that the BP number should be prefixed with a "0".

All **Existing Taxpayers** should not register as New Registrants but use their BPs to proceed with registration. Please note that those who have registered as new taxpayers but have existing BP Numbers should approach ZIMRA offices for rectification of the errors.

All new registrants (Taxpayers without BP Numbers) have to register through the Self Service Portal (SSP) and be allocated a TIN.

All taxpayers should not use the training platform (UAT) upon registration, but use the following link "mytaxselfservice.zimra.co.zw"

Filing of Tax Returns and payment of taxes shall continue in the old system (SAP) where returns will be submitted through e-services and e-taxes platforms and payments will be made through banks **until 28 October 2023**. Taxpayers with outstanding returns and payments should update their records before this date. Further information on filing of tax returns and payment procedures after **28 October 2023** will be communicated to all taxpayers and the public.

To get started, follow the instructions below:

- Visit the official Self Service Portal – SSP at mytaxselfservice.zimra.co.zw
- Create an SSP user account by clicking on the "**Sign Up**" hyperlink and follow the steps to get your Username and Password.
- Log into the system using your username and password and follow the steps as directed.
- If you are an existing taxpayer with BP number, click on the "**Register with an Existing BP Number**" hyperlink and follow the instructions.
- If you are a new taxpayer, choose the appropriate option from "**Register as an Individual**" or "**Register as an Organisation**" or "**Register as a Representative of a Deceased Taxpayer**" and follow the steps.
- Select your preferred bank to link to the ZIMRA Single Account located in that bank. Note that, you should be an account holder in that bank to facilitate tax transactions.

All Taxpayers are encouraged to contact their nearest ZIMRA Offices should they face registration challenges or get in touch with the ZIMRA Contact Center on the details provided below.

My Taxes, My Duties: Building My Zimbabwe!!

Public Notice 71 of 2023, issued on 24/10/2023.

 www.zimra.co.zw  @Zimra_11  ZIMRA.ZW  Contact Centre 585/ 08688007614

 contactcentre@zimra.co.zw



The set guidelines for registered Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs) are outlined in the PVO Act [Chapter 17:05]. Here are the guidelines:

- 1. Registration:** PVOs must be registered in order to commence or continue carrying out their activities or seek financial assistance from any source. No person can collect contributions from the public except in accordance with the PVO Act.
- 2. Exemptions:** The Registrar may grant a certificate of exemption to a registered PVO, exempting it from certain provisions of the Act, subject to prescribed conditions and for a stated period.
- 3. Temporary Authority:** The Registrar may grant written authority to collect contributions to any person or group of persons, or to an unregistered PVO, for a specific period if the delay in registering the PVO would likely prejudice the objects for which the contributions are to be collected.
- 4. Books, Accounts, and Records:** The secretary of every registered PVO is responsible for keeping books, accounts, and records to the satisfaction of the Registrar. They must also submit reports, returns, and additional information as required by the Registrar.
- 5. Registered Address:** Every registered PVO must have a registered address in Zimbabwe. Any change of address must be notified to the Registrar within 21 days.
- 6. Branch Committees:** PVOs that operate through branches must establish a committee for each branch. The organization must grant a letter of delegation to each branch, specifying the conditions and form of delegation.
- 7. Audit of Accounts:** The secretary of every PVO must ensure that the organization's expenditure and revenue for each financial year are audited by a registered public auditor. The audit report must be submitted to the Registrar within three months after the end of the financial year.
- 8. Inspections and Examination of Accounts:** The Minister may appoint inspecting officers to inspect the affairs and activities of PVOs, examine their documents, and audit their financial affairs. Inspecting officers have the power to require the production of books and documents and may retain them for a reasonable period. Hindering or obstructing an inspecting officer is an offense.
- 9. Suspension of Executive Committee:** The Minister may suspend all or any members of the executive committee of a registered PVO if the organization has ceased to operate, is involved in illegal activities, or if their maladministration adversely affects the organization's activities. Suspended members may be disqualified from being nominated for office.
- 10. Dissolution of Organisations:** If a PVO ceases to function and the responsible persons fail to dissolve it within six months, the Registrar may dissolve the organization and dispose of its assets in accordance with its constitution.
- 11. Regulations:** The Minister has the power to make regulations regarding various aspects of PVOs, including forms, books, accounts, dissolution procedures, collection of contributions, authorization of collectors, and any other matters required or permitted by the Act. These regulations may include penalties for contraventions, not exceeding a fine of level four or imprisonment for three months.

Please note that the above guidelines are sourced from the information provided in the document.



**National Association
Of Non-Governmental
Organisations**

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.

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