

Development Watch Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

October 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- » Letter from the Editor
- » The New CSOs Dispensation So Far: 187+ Days After the Enactment of the PVO Amendment Act, 2025.
- » National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2: 2026–2030) and the Participation Imperative: Building a Shared Future for Zimbabwe
- » Localization and Community Engagement: Rethinking Community Empowerment
- » NANGO Activates Compliance and Accountability Clinics: Navigating the PVO Amendment Act, 2025
- » Calling for Greater Transparency, Oversight and Public Participation in Zimbabwe's 2025 National Budget Process: Open Budget Survey Initiative Perspectives
- » Call for Proposals and Job Opportunities





Copyright © NANGO. All Rights Reserved.

Published By

*National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO)
2 McGowan Road, Milton Park
Harare, Zimbabwe*

Open Access Document

This open-access document permits any noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium.

©Photography

All photos are courtesy of NANGO. All photographs were taken with the participant & involvement was on a voluntary and consent basis. Other photographs are publicly available on the World Wide Web and are appropriately acknowledged.

Produced by

*The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Harare, Zimbabwe,
October 2025.*

Designed By: Chris Katsaura

15th Edition of the NGO Directors Summer Retreat 2025

**November
27–28, 2025**

08:00 AM – 05:00 PM
(CAT)

Urban Lifestyle Hotel,
Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Theme

Navigating New Frontiers:
Development Financing and Civic
Space in Transition

Scope of Topics

- Reflection on the State of CSOS Operating Environment in 2025
- The Future of Development Financing: From AID Cuts to Adaptive Sustainability
- Localisation in Action: Making the Shift from Rhetoric to Reality
- Talk to your Regulator Session: Bridging the Gap Between CSOs and Compliance Authorities
- Data Protection: Legal Implications and the Development Sector
- Anticipating the FATF Mutual Evaluation: CSO Readiness and Civic Safeguards
- Promoting and Recognising Excellence, Best Practice, and Innovation within CSOs

Important Dates

Registration
Open

31 July
2025

Registration
Deadline

31 October
2025

Payment
Deadline

14 November
2026

Conference Travel
Dates

26 & 29 November
2025

Conference Dates

27–28 November
2026

Conference Fee

Paid-Up Member
\$150

Non-Paid-Up Member
\$300

Non-Member
\$700

Other Delegates
\$1000

Registration Link

<https://forms.gle/dduKgJ41VZjbMgfr7>

More Information

www.nangozim.org

[@nangozimbabwe](https://twitter.com/nangozimbabwe)

+263 712 507 925



Letter from the Editor

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to **Volume 5, Issue 3** of the **Development Watch Newsletter**, a platform dedicated to amplifying the voices, experiences, and innovations of Zimbabwe's civil society sector. This edition comes at a time when our collective commitment to sustainable development, civic engagement, and inclusive governance continues to define the resilience and impact of our sector.

Over the past months, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) under the NANGO umbrella have continued to demonstrate remarkable leadership in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting human rights, and strengthening community resilience. From grassroots initiatives improving livelihoods and access to essential services, to national-level advocacy shaping policy reforms, CSOs remain at the forefront of driving people-centred development.

In this issue, we highlight key milestones achieved through collaborative efforts across the country, including insights from regional dialogues on the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Act, 2025 and success stories from NANGO's ongoing programmes on governance, accountability, and compliance support. Each article in this edition reflects the unwavering determination of civil society actors to create lasting transformation despite evolving socio-economic and policy challenges.

As the development landscape continues to shift, NANGO remains committed to strengthening coordination, fostering dialogue, and building the institutional capacity of our members to adapt and thrive. We believe that through solidarity, shared learning, and collaboration, the civil society movement will continue to safeguard civic space and champion inclusive development for all.

I invite you to explore this issue with curiosity and optimism, and to celebrate the inspiring work being done by organisations and individuals across Zimbabwe. Together, we are changing the narrative and reaffirming the critical role of civil society in shaping a just, equitable, and sustainable future.

Warm regards,
Editor, Development Watch Newsletter



Civic Space Watch Update

The New CSOs Dispensation So Far: 187+ Days After the Enactment of the PVO Amendment Act, 2025.

On April 11, 2025, Zimbabwe entered a new chapter in civil society regulation with the Presidential assent of the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Act. More than 187 days later, the sector continues to adjust to the realities of this new dispensation. The Act has introduced new compliance requirements, and the experience so far reflects a mixed picture—progress in building dialogue and trust with regulators on one hand, and ongoing uncertainties and operational challenges on the other, which demand urgent attention.

The law provided a 90-day transitional period, which the regulator clarified to mean 90 working days. This period lapsed on 22 August 2025. During this window, pre-existing organisations operating without PVO status were required to regularise their status and submit applications to the Registrar. Through sustained advocacy and engagement by NANGO and other CSOs, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) continued to accept applications beyond the deadline without penalizing organizations. This pragmatic flexibility has allowed most organizations to remain operational with little or no disruption to their activities, offering significant relief to communities that rely on CSOs for development and humanitarian services.

A defining achievement of this period is the ongoing co-creation and co-design of regulations and **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** to accompany the Act. CSOs are actively shaping the administrative framework that governs compliance obligations. This process ensures that CSO perspectives inform compliance requirements, registration processes, reporting mechanisms, and governance expectations. It also presents an important opportunity to push for enabling, simplified regulations aligned with international standards, although the timelines for finalizing these remain undefined.

Despite these gains, gaps in implementation remain evident. The government has not yet established the new office of the Registrar or reconstituted the PVO Board as required by the Act, leaving the law only partially operationalized. At the same time, MoPSLSW struggles with internal communication between its headquarters and subnational structures. Provincial and district officers tasked with handling PVO applications often lack adequate knowledge of the Act's provisions, resulting in inconsistent guidance, conflicting instructions, and repeated document requests. High staff turnover has worsened these challenges. Many CSOs report delays and limited feedback on the progress of their applications, underscoring the need for improved turnaround times, clearer communication, and streamlined processes. Online

registration could serve as a critical reform, offering transparency, easier tracking, and greater efficiency in managing applications. Coordination challenges between the Registrar's Office and local authorities also persist, particularly concerning the issuance of letters of intent.

Amidst these uncertainties, NANGO has positioned itself as a critical support hub for the sector. The organisation continues to track and monitor the implementation of the Act, identifying emerging issues for engagement and advocacy. Through its **#KnowYourRegulations** campaign, NANGO has developed and disseminated practical tools to close information gaps: a **Fact Sheet** simplifying key provisions of the Act, a compendium of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) verified and endorsed by the Registrar's Office, and a step-by-step Registration Advisory Note guiding organisations through the application process. These resources have been widely shared through [digital platforms](#) and in-person outreach.



NANGO has also rolled out hands-on compliance clinics across its regional offices, providing in-person technical support to organisations navigating the registration process. These clinics have proven invaluable in addressing organisation-specific challenges while fostering safe spaces for peer learning. In parallel, NANGO continues to facilitate regulator–CSO interface meetings

through the Talk to Your Regulator (T2R) platform, enabling direct dialogue with officials to dispel confusion and misinformation.

Overall, most organisations remain operational, but uncertainties cloud the path forward. CSOs frequently cite unclear requirements, conflicting instructions from officials, compliance costs, and repeated requests for documentation as major hurdles. While engagement has opened opportunities for co-creation and collaboration, the slow pace of implementation and gaps in communication require urgent attention.

Improved communication between MoPSLSW and its sub-national structures, stronger coordination between the Registrar's Office and local authorities, and faster turnaround times will be critical to building a predictable and enabling compliance framework. At the same time, NANGO's continued monitoring, capacity building, and advocacy remain vital to ensuring that civil society not only survives but thrives under the new dispensation.

Looking ahead, optimism is growing that the current uncertainties surrounding the PVO Amendment Act will be resolved in a way that supports an enabling and predictable



environment for Zimbabwe's civil society sector. The ongoing co-creation of regulations, improved engagement between CSOs and regulators, and initiatives such as the Talk to Your Regulator platform signal a collective commitment to resolve outstanding issues and establish a transparent, user-friendly compliance framework. With continued dialogue, coordination, and compliance support, the sector can expect progressive improvements in communication, procedural clarity, and registration processes, enabling CSOs to operate with greater certainty and stability.

Meanwhile, organisations that have not yet submitted their applications should do so without delay. The MoPSLSW continues to receive and process applications, and timely compliance will safeguard uninterrupted operations while contributing to a unified and accountable civil society.

FAQ

Q

Can an organisation still register after the 90-day transitional period has lapsed?

Yes. Organisations can still register as PVOs even after the 90-day period. However, they must follow the standard registration process under the PVO Amendment Act, 2025. Delays may lead to compliance risks, so it's important to apply as soon as possible.

A



unayo®



**Managing bulk NGO
disbursements shouldn't
be complicated...**

...and with Unayo, it's not!

Your NGO can easily distribute funds to registered beneficiaries, manage wages, and track every payment—securely and efficiently.

Trust Unayo to take care of your NGO's needs.



National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2: 2026–2030) and the Participation Imperative: Building a Shared Future for Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe stands at a defining crossroads in its national development journey. As the government concludes the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1: 2021–2025) in December 2025, it has already begun formulating a successor blueprint—NDS2 (2026–2030). This strategy emerges amid persistent and complex challenges: lingering macroeconomic volatility, an unsustainable public debt burden, constrained fiscal space, dwindling development partner support, and debt servicing obligations that consume the bulk of national revenues, crowding out investments in health, education, and other critical social services. At the same time, Zimbabwe faces pressing social pressures, including youth unemployment, deepening inequality, and widespread rural and urban poverty. These realities make NDS2 more than a technical policy document; it represents a historic opportunity to reset the country’s development trajectory, consolidate gains from NDS1, and directly address unfinished business.

NDS2 will play a critical role in aligning national aspirations with global and regional development agendas, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030. This alignment ensures that Zimbabwe pursues national priorities in concert with broader regional and international progress.

The Cabinet has approved ten national priorities to underpin NDS2:

1. macroeconomic stability and financial sector deepening;
2. inclusive economic growth and structural transformation;
3. infrastructure development and housing;
4. food security, climate resilience, and environmental protection;
5. science, technology, innovation, and human capital development;
6. job creation, youth development, creative industry, and culture;
7. social development and social protection; (
8. regional development and inclusivity through devolution and decentralisation;
9. image building, international relations, and trade; and
10. good governance, institution building, peace, and security.

These areas reflect a comprehensive ambition, but they will only yield tangible outcomes if the government anchors implementation in good governance, credible institutions, and meaningful citizen and stakeholder engagement.



A review of Zimbabwe's previous development blueprints, including the **Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP)** and NDS1, reveals recurring gaps that NDS2 must correct. While well-intentioned, these plans often suffered from weak implementation, limited fiscal space, misdirected priorities, and exclusion of key stakeholders from planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Public participation, in particular, remained a missing pillar. Citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) consistently raised concerns about limited consultation in shaping development priorities, yet these communities bear the brunt of policy successes or failures. Without broad-based participation, NDS2 risks repeating the credibility and legitimacy deficits that constrained NDS1.

The ongoing terminal evaluation of NDS1 illustrates this challenge. The evaluation serves as a crucial accountability exercise, but stakeholders outside government have not been adequately engaged to contribute their perspectives. This raises concerns about the credibility and usefulness of the final evaluation report. For NDS2, the government must embed participation as a core principle, not an afterthought. Stakeholders—including parliament, civil society, academia, business, local authorities, development partners, grassroots communities, women, youths, persons with disabilities, and the elderly—must all help shape priorities, implement programs, and monitor results.

Participation is not only a democratic principle; it is also a pragmatic necessity for effective policy. Development plans co-created with stakeholders better reflect lived realities, secure buy-in, and achieve sustainable results. Youth participation, for instance, is essential in tackling unemployment and building innovation-led growth. Women's voices matter for addressing gender inequality and ensuring equitable access to social services. Persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups contribute perspectives that help Zimbabwe truly **“leave No One Behind.”** Similarly, CSOs provide independent monitoring, evidence generation, and capacity to hold duty bearers accountable. Strengthening parliamentary oversight and ensuring regular public reporting on NDS2 implementation would further enhance transparency and public confidence.

Fiscal governance presents another critical area for participation. Zimbabwe's constrained fiscal space demands innovative domestic resource mobilization at both national and local levels. Citizen involvement in budget processes, debt management strategies, and oversight of resource allocation can improve efficiency, reduce leakages, and ensure prudent use of scarce resources. Linking NDS2 to the Structured Dialogue on Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution, which provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on governance and economic reforms, could deepen ownership and credibility of the strategy.



Debt management must shape NDS2. With public debt reaching unsustainable levels and debt servicing consuming a disproportionate share of fiscal revenues, Zimbabwe's policy space remains severely constrained. Without integrating debt management issues, the government risks designing another ambitious plan that cannot be adequately financed or implemented. The Structured Dialogue brings together government, creditors, civil society, and development partners to discuss reforms necessary for arrears clearance and debt sustainability. These discussions have already identified critical reforms in governance, land policy, and economic restructuring, which dovetail with the national priorities identified for NDS2. The government must mainstream the outcomes and commitments from the debt dialogue into NDS2 to ensure the strategy remains fiscally realistic and reform-driven.

This alignment could enhance Zimbabwe's credibility with development partners and creditors, creating room for re-engagement, concessional financing, and development cooperation inflows. It could also anchor domestic confidence by showing that the government links long-term development priorities to sustainable debt management. Institutionalizing citizen participation in the debt dialogue through parliamentary oversight and CSO engagement would further reinforce accountability in managing and repaying borrowed resources. Such transparency would strengthen the legitimacy of the debt process and build public trust in NDS2 as a credible national blueprint capable of balancing debt sustainability with social investment. By embedding the arrears clearance and debt resolution roadmap into NDS2, Zimbabwe can unlock new financing windows and expand the fiscal space necessary to achieve its ten priorities.

The institutional architecture for NDS2 also matters. The government has indicated that ten thematic committees will drive drafting and implementation, based on the ten priority pillars. Expanding committee representation to include CSOs, private sector actors, academia, and community representatives will make the strategy more inclusive and improve coordination and accountability. Establishing structured engagement platforms throughout the NDS2 cycle—from formulation to monitoring—will institutionalize participatory governance in development planning.

Looking ahead, NDS2 presents an opportunity to reframe Zimbabwe's development model as forward-looking, inclusive, and accountable. The government must strengthen transparency frameworks and accountability mechanisms, including regular joint progress reviews, public reporting of results, and explicit country-level targets. Integrating development cooperation flows into the national budget, improving medium-term expenditure predictability, and harmonizing partner programs with national priorities will also ensure coherence and sustainability. Robust monitoring and evaluation systems, especially with disaggregated data for marginalised populations, will be key to tracking progress and leaving no one behind.

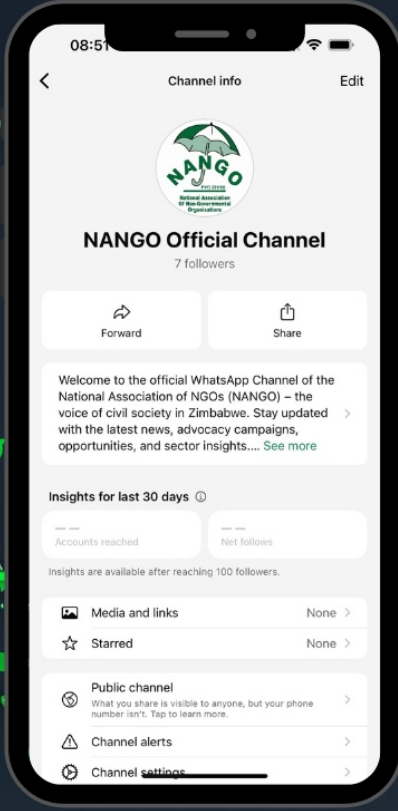
As the drafting of NDS2 continues, citizens, parliamentarians, CSOs, the private sector, and other actors still have space to provide meaningful inputs. Zimbabwe cannot afford another blueprint that fails in implementation or excludes the people it aims to serve. The next five-year plan must belong not only to government but to all Zimbabweans. Participation is not optional; it forms the foundation for legitimacy, effective implementation, and sustainable development.

JOIN THE OFFICIAL WHATSAPP CHANNEL



NANGO Official Channel
WhatsApp channel

Scan this QR Code using the camera
to view or follow the channel



Channel info Edit

NANGO Official Channel
7 followers

Forward Share

Welcome to the official WhatsApp Channel of the National Association of NGOs (NANGO) – the voice of civil society in Zimbabwe. Stay updated with the latest news, advocacy campaigns, opportunities, and sector insights.... [See more](#)

Insights for last 30 days ⓘ

Accounts reached Net follows

Insights are available after reaching 100 followers.

Media and links None >

Starred None >

Public channel
What you share is visible to anyone, but your phone number isn't. Tap to learn more. >

Channel alerts >

Channel settings >

    @nangozimbabwe  www.nangozim.org  info@nangozim.org

Localization and Community Engagement: Rethinking Community Empowerment



In Zimbabwe, the concept of localization has been discussed many times, but there is still no common understanding of what it truly means. Different organizations interpret and apply it differently, and in some cases, what is called localization does not reflect its real purpose. In today's interconnected world, humanitarian crises, development challenges, and peace-building efforts call for new and

practical ways to empower communities. Localization focuses on shifting power, resources, and decision-making closer to the people directly affected by challenges. Its goal is to ensure that local and national actors play a leading role in planning and implementing programs, have fair access to resources, and make decisions that affect their own communities.

The localization agenda supports global frameworks such as the Charter for Change and the Grand Bargain, which call for greater support to local actors and emphasize accountability and transparency in how aid is delivered. These frameworks seek to strengthen local organizations, reduce barriers to partnership, and increase coordination and funding for national and community-based actors. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation (2021) also promotes funding for grassroots organizations and greater local ownership of development programs. It recognizes that local communities have valuable knowledge and experience that make development efforts more effective and sustainable. Similarly, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Localization Marker helps track how much support local actors receive, ensuring transparency and accountability in humanitarian funding.

In Zimbabwe, community empowerment has long been a focus of development efforts. However, many initiatives have unintentionally reinforced power imbalances, leaving communities as passive participants in their own development. Often, programs are designed from the top down, with international organizations and government agencies creating solutions without meaningful input from the people most affected. This approach sidelines local voices and results in programs that do not always fit community needs. Another challenge is tokenism in community engagement. Sometimes organizations consult only a few community leaders or representatives while excluding the broader population. These selective consultations, often accompanied by incentives, create the impression of participation without genuine involvement. When communities do not take part in real decision-making, they feel unheard and



undervalued. This deepens mistrust, strengthens inequalities, and limits the impact of development programs.

To achieve genuine community engagement and effective localization, development partners must use approaches that respect the dignity, agency, and knowledge of local people. Localization goes beyond participation—it is about leadership, ownership, and fairness. It recognizes that people who live in affected communities understand their situations best. By placing them at the center of decision-making, we create more relevant, lasting, and inclusive solutions.

Direct and flexible funding is key to successful localization. When local organizations have access to resources, they can respond quickly to emerging challenges and design solutions that suit their own communities. Capacity strengthening is equally important. Investing in local skills, systems, and knowledge—such as project management, advocacy, and resource mobilization—helps organizations lead their own development efforts. Over time, this builds resilience and reduces dependency on external actors.

Equitable partnerships also form the backbone of localization. Traditional development models often create power imbalances between international and local actors. A localized approach promotes relationships based on trust, transparency, and shared decision-making. In Zimbabwe, equal partnerships between government, local organizations, communities, and international actors can improve collaboration and lead to better results. When communities see their ideas reflected in programs, they develop ownership and accountability for outcomes.

The need for localization in Zimbabwe has become more urgent due to high levels of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. These challenges require communities to take an active role in their own development. Localization offers a pathway toward sustainable progress by promoting local solutions tailored to community realities. To make this possible, stakeholders must move from tokenistic consultations to genuine, inclusive dialogue where every voice counts. Engaging communities from the start ensures that initiatives are relevant, widely accepted, and sustainable.

For localization to take root, Zimbabwe needs policies that create an enabling environment. Laws and frameworks should support local agency, ensure transparency in funding, and promote equal partnerships between international and local organizations. Governments, NGOs, and development partners must commit to localization as a key strategy for community empowerment. By listening to local voices, building fair partnerships, and providing the necessary resources, stakeholders can redefine development in Zimbabwe.

In conclusion, traditional community empowerment models have often excluded the very people they were meant to uplift. Localization presents a more inclusive and sustainable approach. It prioritizes local leadership, fair partnerships, direct funding, and capacity strengthening. This is not just another development strategy—it is a shift toward genuine empowerment and shared responsibility. By investing in local actors and placing communities at the heart of decision-making, Zimbabwe can build a more resilient and inclusive future where development truly belongs to the people.

LOCALISATION AND ITS FRAMEWORKS: WHAT DO WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE?



WHAT IS LOCALISATION?

Localisation refers to the process of shifting power, resources, and decision-making closer to the people and communities most affected by crisis or development challenges. It promotes recognition, resourcing, and leadership of local and national actors in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.

Localisation is more than participation - it's about leadership, ownership, and equity.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS GUIDING LOCALISATION

- **Charter for Change (2015):** Advocates INGOs to support—not replace—local organisations in emergency response.
- **Grand Bargain (2016):** Commits donors to direct 25% of humanitarian funding to local actors and increase transparency.
- **OECD DAC Recommendation (2021):** Encourages donors to fund grassroots actors and promote local ownership in development.
- **IASC Localisation Marker:** A tool that tracks local actor participation and funding in humanitarian efforts.

#Shifting ThePower

#LocallyLedDevelopment

KEY PILLARS FOR ACHIEVING LOCALISATION

1. **Local Leadership:** Place local and national actors at the centre of decision-making in humanitarian and development initiatives. Their lived experiences and contextual knowledge are critical for sustainable outcomes.
2. **Equitable Partnerships:** Foster relationships based on mutual respect, transparency, and accountability between local and international actors, ensuring shared power and resources.
3. **Direct Funding:** Increase accessible, flexible funding to local organisations to enhance autonomy and build institutional resilience.
4. **Capacity Strengthening:** Invest in long-term capabilities of local actors, including technical skills, systems development, and policy engagement.

LOCALISATION IN ZIMBABWE: OUR CALL TO ACTION TO LOCAL ACTORS

1. Invest in institutional strengthening to position your organisation as a strong grant recipient and to demonstrate operational and programmatic capacity.
2. Support community systems strengthening as a foundational step toward locally led development.
3. Track and engage with global and national commitments, particularly those under the Grand Bargain, to stay aligned and responsive.
4. Actively participate in platforms and structures that advance the localisation agenda and promote inclusive development.

HOW DOES AN NGO REGISTER ON TARMS?

Step 1

Self-Service Portal

Visit the official Self Service Portal – SSP at mytaxselfservice.zimra.co.zw



Step 2

SSP User Account

Create an SSP user account by clicking on the **"Sign Up"** hyperlink and follow the steps to get your Username and Password.

Step 3

Account Log In

Log into the system using your username and password and follow the steps as directed.

Step 4

Existing Taxpayer

If you are an existing taxpayer with BP number, click on the **"Register with an Existing BP Number"** hyperlink and follow the instructions.

Step 5

New Taxpayer

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.

Step 6

Bank Selection

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 NGOs are encouraged to contact their nearest **NANGO Offices** should they face registration challenges or email us at info@nangozim.org or get in touch with the **ZIMRA Contact Center** on **585/0868800761**



NANGO Activates Compliance and Accountability Clinics: Navigating the PVO Amendment Act, 2025

In response to the challenges faced by civil society organizations (CSOs) following the enactment of the PVO Amendment Act, 2025, the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO) introduced compliance and accountability clinics during the recent Annual Regional NGO Expos & Winter Schools. The initiative aimed to provide technical support and practical guidance to organizations struggling to understand the new registration requirements and the implications of the law on their operations. As CSOs adjust to the changes introduced by the Act, many have raised concerns about unclear registration processes. Recognizing these challenges, NANGO stepped in to help local organisations navigate the new legal environment. The clinics were designed to provide direct, tailored support, ensuring that organizations receive accurate information and hands-on assistance.

The clinics created a space for CSOs to receive step-by-step guidance on the provisions of the PVO Amendment Act. Representatives from different organizations attended to learn about the required documents, transitional processes, and compliance expectations. This direct engagement allowed NANGO to provide first-hand information and clarify misconceptions, helping organizations transition more smoothly into the new framework. Feedback from participants during and after the events showed a marked improvement in understanding the law. Many representatives now feel more confident about compliance, leading to greater willingness to align their operations with the Act. By simplifying the registration process and providing reliable information, NANGO is empowering organizations to operate with confidence and accountability..

The clinics also provided an opportunity for organizations to ask questions, share their experiences, and receive immediate assistance. This interactive and participatory approach reduced confusion and strengthened collaboration among CSOs. It also highlighted the value of collective learning in addressing sector-wide challenges.



Through these clinics, NANGO gathered valuable advocacy insights from participants regarding the challenges they face under the new regulatory framework. The feedback has informed key advocacy priorities aimed at improving the implementation of the Act. One of the major issues raised was the need for fair representation of CSOs on the PVO Board. Participants emphasized that transparent and inclusive nomination processes are essential to ensure that diverse civil society voices are represented in decisions that affect the sector. NANGO is advocating for inclusive participation to ensure the perspectives of various organizations are considered in engagements with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Such representation would promote fairness and transparency in reviewing PVO registration applications.

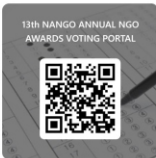
Another critical concern raised was the need for affordable registration fees. Many organisations fear that high registration costs could prevent them from meeting compliance requirements, limiting their ability to continue vital community work. NANGO is advocating for a fair and affordable fee structure to remove financial barriers and promote organizational sustainability.

Participants also highlighted the need to streamline the registration process, as bureaucratic delays often hinder compliance efforts. Simplifying these procedures would make it easier for both new and existing organizations to register and focus on their core development work. In addition, NANGO is calling for the development of clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and regulations for the implementation of the PVO Amendment Act. Involving CSOs in drafting these procedures will help close existing gaps and promote clarity, consistency, and transparency in the application of the law. Participants also stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of District Social Development Officers (DSDs) to ensure uniform registration processes across all districts and provinces. NANGO is advocating for government–civil society collaboration in building the capacity of DSDs to promote coherence and efficiency in implementing the Act.

NANGO's activation of compliance and accountability clinics, coupled with ongoing advocacy efforts, demonstrates its strong commitment to supporting and empowering civil society in Zimbabwe. By offering practical support and fostering dialogue, NANGO is helping organizations not only comply with the PVO Amendment Act but also strengthen their institutional capacity to thrive in a changing regulatory environment. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, showing that the clinics have increased awareness, confidence, and engagement among CSOs.

As the civil society landscape continues to evolve, collaboration and shared learning remain essential. NANGO's work to promote fair representation, affordable fees, streamlined registration, and clear SOPs reflects a collective effort to build a more accountable and resilient sector. Moving forward, NANGO remains committed to equipping CSOs with the tools and knowledge they need to operate effectively and sustainably. Continued dialogue and cooperation between government and civil society will be key to ensuring that organisations can fully adapt to and comply with the PVO Amendment Act, 2025.





Scan Me



**2025 NANGO ANNUAL NGO AWARDS
CAST YOUR VOTE!!!**

Key Dates	
Nominations Opening Date	1 August 2025
Nominations Closing Date	31 August 2025
Voting Opening Date	1 October 2025
Voting Closing Date	31 October 2025
Awards Presentation Ceremony Date	28 November 2025

To Cast your Vote, visit:
<https://forms.office.com/r/SNCq12ZSJd>

 +263 242 708761 / +263 242 794973
 www.nangozim.org






@nangozimbabwe

INTRODUCING **NOSIZO** – YOUR COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT CHATBOT!

Simplifying compliance for
CSOs, CBOs & INGOs in
Zimbabwe



KEY FEATURES



PVO Registration & Reporting

Step-by-step guidance on applying for new registrations and renewing your organisation's status under the PVO Amendment Act, 2025.



Tax Compliance (ZIMRA)

Clear instructions on tax registration, obligations, and filing to help your organisation meet ZIMRA requirements with confidence.



Social Security Support (NSSA)

Everything you need to know about employee social security, contributions, and compliance with NSSA regulations.



Labour Law Compliance (NECWEI)

Up-to-date guidance on NECWEI requirements to ensure your organisation respects labour laws and protects workers' rights.

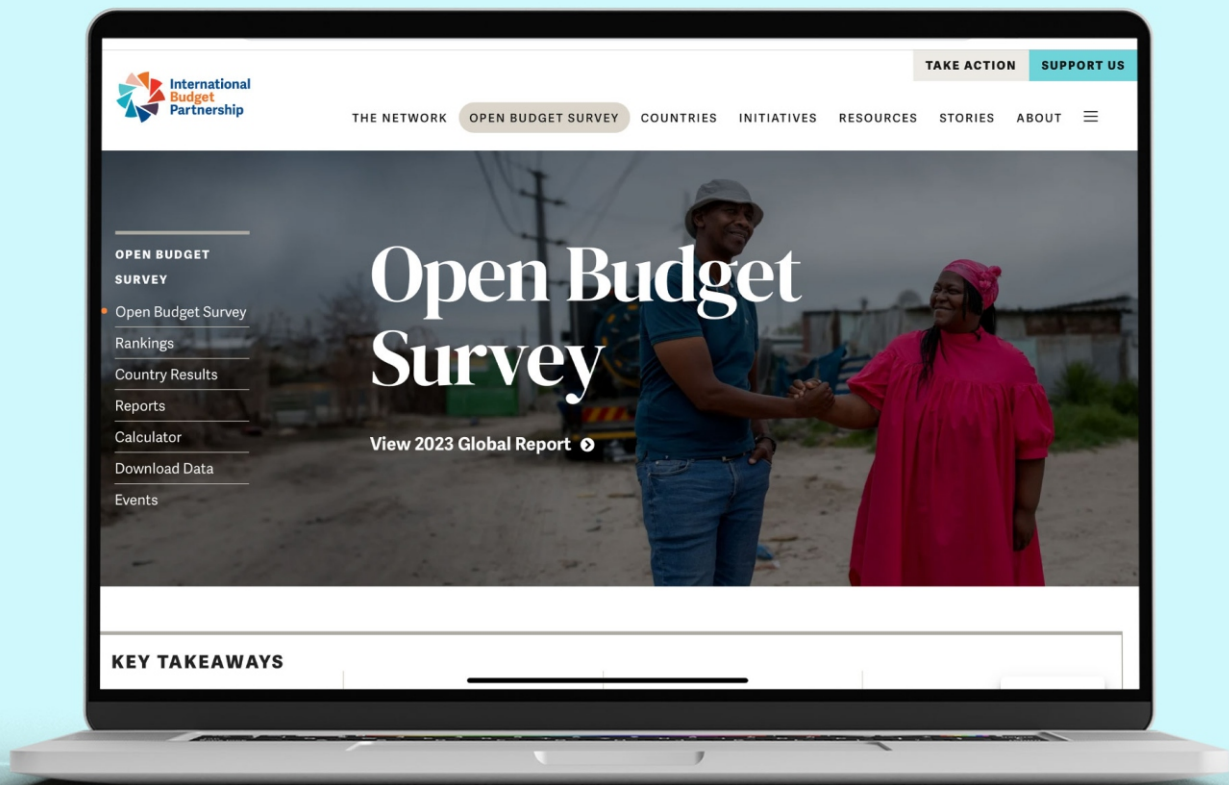


Practical Tools & Resources

Access compliance checklists, templates, and advisory notes designed to save you time & simplify your reporting processes.

+263 78 536 1929

<https://wa.me/263785361929>



Calling for Greater Transparency, Oversight, and Public Participation in Zimbabwe's 2025 National Budget Process: Open Budget Survey Initiative Perspectives

Public budgets are the main instruments through which governments translate policy commitments into action. They determine how resources are mobilized, allocated, and spent — directly shaping economic performance, social development, and the realization of citizens' rights. In Zimbabwe, as in many countries, the budget is the most important accountability document. Yet, it often remains inaccessible to ordinary citizens and insufficiently scrutinized by oversight institutions.

Zimbabwe is currently participating in the 10th edition of the [Open Budget Survey \(OBS\)](#) 2025, an internationally recognized tool that assesses transparency, oversight, and public participation in national budget processes. Learn more about the OBS here. Since joining the initiative in 2012, Zimbabwe has taken part in six survey rounds, with the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) serving as the local research partner of the International Budget Partnership (IBP). The OBS provides a credible, evidence-based framework for measuring how governments share information on raising, allocating, and spending public resources, while also evaluating the strength of oversight institutions and opportunities for citizen participation.

The importance of Zimbabwe's continued engagement with the OBS lies in its alignment with globally accepted principles of good public finance management. These principles are not abstract; they are practical standards that ensure national budgets are legitimate, transparent, and effective tools for governance. **Prior authorization** requires that the legislature approve all



measures involving expenditure, revenue collection, and borrowing before the executive acts — a critical issue for Zimbabwe, where off-budget spending and debt accumulation have at times bypassed scrutiny.

Comprehensiveness demands that governments disclose a complete picture of how resources are raised and spent. Full reporting helps close the gap between budget promises and implementation, particularly in key sectors such as health, education, and social protection. Legality anchors the entire process in the rule of law, ensuring that all expenditures and revenues conform to statutory and constitutional provisions. Stronger fiscal discipline and adherence to legal frameworks are especially needed in public borrowing and the management of state-owned enterprises.

Specificity calls for budget items to be described in sufficient detail to enable clear understanding of how resources are allocated. Zimbabwe's budgets often present aggregated figures that make it difficult for citizens or Parliament to track expenditure in priority areas. Greater specificity would improve the link between spending plans and service delivery outcomes, strengthening both accountability and citizen trust.

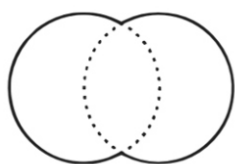
Publicity upholds citizens' right to access, review, and debate budget information before adoption. This requires the government not only to publish key documents but also to create opportunities for open discussion and feedback. For Zimbabwe, this principle is crucial to address its low OBS public participation score of **22/100** and to build a more inclusive, citizen-centred fiscal process. These principles are reinforced by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) standards on public participation, which emphasize accessibility, inclusiveness, openness, respect, timeliness, depth, proportionality, sustainability, complementarity, and reciprocity in public engagement.

Rationale for Budget Transparency, Oversight, and Public Participation

Public budgets are more than financial statements — they are the government's most powerful tools for delivering on policy and development priorities. They represent decisions on revenue generation, expenditure allocation, and debt management. Transparency ensures that citizens, oversight institutions, and analysts have access to timely and comprehensive information to hold government accountable. Oversight by the legislature and the **Office of the Auditor-General (OAG)** guards against misuse of public funds and strengthens fiscal discipline. Public participation, in turn, adds legitimacy to the process by allowing citizens and civil society to shape budget priorities, align spending with community needs, and ensure inclusivity — especially for marginalized groups.



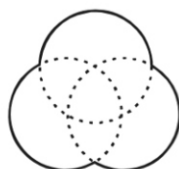
The OBS 2023 findings show both progress and gaps in Zimbabwe's budget process. The country scored **63 out of 100 on budget transparency**, surpassing the global benchmark of 61, which indicates that sufficient information is available to support informed debate. However, the **public participation** score of **22/100** reflects very limited opportunities for citizens to influence fiscal decision-making. This imbalance suggests that while transparency has improved, information is not being effectively used to foster dialogue, inclusivity, or accountability.



Transparency:

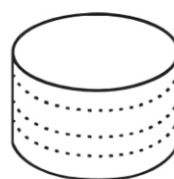
63 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



**Public
Participation:**

22 /100



Budget Oversight:

56 /100

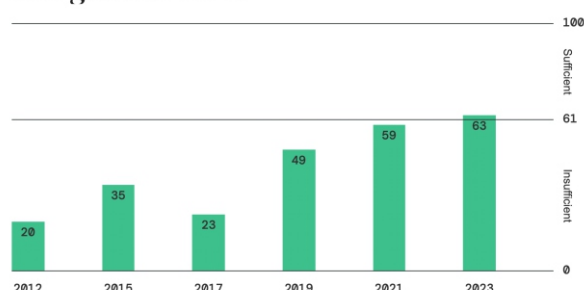
The upcoming 2026 national budget formulation process presents a key opportunity for Zimbabwe to strengthen its commitment to open and accountable governance. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development & Investment Promotion (MoFED&IP), Parliament, and the OAG must work together to meet international best practices under the OBS framework.

The government should expand participation mechanisms during budget formulation. While pre-budget consultations exist, they remain narrow in scope and often exclude vulnerable or marginalized groups. Piloting participatory budgeting—where citizens directly decide on certain budget lines—could deepen engagement. Similarly, developing budget monitoring platforms to track implementation would help bridge the gap between policy announcements and service delivery outcomes.

Parliament should also enhance its oversight role by allowing civil society and the public to contribute not only during pre-budget consultations but also during Audit Report reviews. This would ensure that findings of financial mismanagement are debated openly and followed up with corrective actions.

Why the 2025 Budget Must Prioritize Open Budget Standards

How has the transparency score for Zimbabwe changed over time?



For Zimbabwe, improving transparency, oversight, and participation is not merely a technical goal but a developmental imperative. The 2025 national budget must align fiscal policies with national development priorities, address socio-economic vulnerabilities, and rebuild public trust in governance. Embedding open budget practices will help ensure that resources are allocated efficiently, corruption

risks are reduced, and citizens feel ownership of national priorities.

The OBS reform matrix, developed by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion with UNICEF support and NANGO's technical input, provides a clear roadmap for progress. By institutionalizing public participation, strengthening legislative scrutiny, and enhancing the independence of oversight bodies, Zimbabwe can move closer to meeting OBS standards and upholding constitutional principles of accountability and participatory governance.

As the 2026 budget process approaches, Zimbabwe must move beyond symbolic consultations toward genuine, structured, and inclusive engagement. Citizens should not only be informed but also empowered to influence the decisions that affect their lives. The OBS shows that Zimbabwe has made notable progress in transparency — but its weakest link remains public participation. Closing this gap will not only improve the country's international standing but also make fiscal policy a driver of inclusive and sustainable development.

The Treasury and oversight institutions must fully embrace openness, accountability, and reciprocity in the budget process. Only then can the national budget reflect the aspirations of all Zimbabweans, safeguard public resources, and lay the foundation for economic stability, social justice, and democratic governance.

By Ernest Nyimai, Zimbabwe OBS Lead Researcher



FIRST MUTUAL

HEALTH

Go Beyond

**Health Coverage That
Reaches Every Corner.**

CORPORATE PLANS | INDIVIDUAL PLANS | STUDENT PLANS

Get affordable health insurance designed for NGOs working in the toughest environments today.

Call us on 08677008826  +263 778 917 309

First Mutual Health, First Mutual Park, 100 Liberation Legacy Way, Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe. P O Box BW 178

Email: info@firstmutualhealth.co.zw

Website: www.firsmutual.co.zw



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Proposals for Civil Society Organizations to expand women's leadership and political participation: WYDEI Women's Leadership

The WYDEI Women's Leadership Initiative is a collaborative global effort aimed at advancing women's full and effective political participation and decision-making at all levels, especially those most often left furthest behind. As a multi-stakeholder initiative, funded by the European Union, UN Women will support the implementation of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movement's and Leadership commitments, through directly supporting civil society and women's rights organizations, including young women's organizations.

Submission deadline: 10 November 2025

Read more here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/10/unw-hq-wpp-cfp-2025-001-wyde-women-leadership>

Norad Open Call for Proposals: Human Rights Defenders

Norad is looking for international, regional and Norwegian civil society organisations who protect and strengthen the work of human rights defenders in ODA eligible countries. The call focuses on three outcome areas: 1) ensured protection and emergency support; 2) strengthened systems and institutions; 3) increased mobilisation, visibility and advocacy. Norad will prioritise organisations that have a strong local presence or collaboration with local actors in countries and regions where human rights defenders face significant risks.

Submission Deadline: 18 November 2025

Read more here: <https://www.norad.no/en/for-partners/guides-and-tools/calls-for-proposals2/2025/open-call-for-proposals-human-rights-defenders/>

Resourcing Resilience – Investing in Civil Society Leadership to End Violence against Women and Girls | UN Trust Fund

The UN Trust Fund is seeking proposals in English, French and Spanish from civil society initiatives to end violence against women and girls, offering four-year grants of up to US \$800,000. The UN Trust Fund welcomes proposals that strengthen the resilience of civil society organizations and that address violence against structurally marginalized women and girls - contributing to one or more of these outcome areas: 1) Improving access for women and girls to essential, specialist, safe, adequate and quality multisectoral services; 2) Improving prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in behaviours, practices and attitudes; and 3) Increasing effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end VAW/G.

Submission Deadline: 19 November 2025

Read More Here: <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/grant-giving/call-for-proposals>

AFNet Flexible Grants | African Women for Change Network (AFNet)

The AfNet Flexible Grant is a funding opportunity designed to support initiatives led by women leaders and organizations dedicated to creating positive change in their communities. The grant provides up to \$5,000 to empower women: 1) Nonprofit Organizations; 2) Grassroot Organizations; 3) Community-Based Organizations; 4) Individual Leaders; and 5) Social Enterprises. This grant focuses on fostering leadership, advocacy, and sustainable development. Interested applicants can apply to secure funding for impactful projects that align with AfNet's mission of empowering women leaders globally.

Submission Deadline: Applications on a Rolling Basis

Read More Here: <https://afwcnet.org/women-grants>

Rufford Small Grant | Rufford Foundation

Focus areas: Nature conservation projects in emerging or developing economy countries

Value: £7 000 to 18 000

Submission Deadline: Applications reviewed on a rolling basis

Read More Here: <https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/>



Entries open for Fine and Country Foundation Grant Program | The Fine & Country Foundation

The Fine & Country Foundation runs a biannual grant programme supporting charities that combat homelessness and poverty worldwide. Grants of up to £3,000 are awarded to projects that prevent homelessness, support those in need, and help people move off the streets permanently. To apply, charities must be officially registered and nominated by a local Fine & Country office. Both UK and international organizations are eligible, and applications are welcomed from all community sectors. Charities can apply for multiple or consecutive grants for different projects, provided previous funding has been fully used. Successful projects are selected based on priority, reach, and impact, ensuring meaningful support for initiatives that make a tangible difference in tackling homelessness and poverty.

Submission Deadline: 31 October 2025

Read More Here: <https://www.fineandcountryfoundation.com/grants/>

Youth4Water Grants Program | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Youth4Water Grants program is designed to support young people and youth-led organizations across Africa and South Asia in implementing innovative, community-driven initiatives focused on water. By leveraging the network of the UNCCD Youth Caucus and the resources of Protectol's Water Initiative, this program enables youth to tackle challenges related to clean water, sanitation, and community resilience while promoting sustainable development. The program seeks to strengthen youth-led solutions that increase access to safe and clean water, raise awareness about hydration and sanitation, and build the capacity of youth organizations to design and deliver impactful projects. These initiatives also contribute to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation.

Submission Deadline: 31 December 2025

Read More Here: [UNCCD](#)

Call for Concept Notes: HIV Instrument Initiative 2026–2030 | Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Maputo

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Maputo, on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has announced an open call for regional civil society organizations to submit concept notes for the implementation of the HIV-Instrument across six countries in Southern Africa.

Submission Deadline: 15 November 2025

Read More Here: [Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Maputo](#)



Field Officers (4 Posts) | Musasa Project

Locations: Binga, Kariba Rural, Mberengwa, Mwenezi

Deadline: 22 October 2025

Learn more/apply: <https://lnkd.in/gHXVHxnE>

INTERNSHIP ALERT | Applications are now open for the SNV Zimbabwe Graduate Internship – Enterprise Support

Duration: Up to 12 months

Location: Harare, Zimbabwe

Deadline: 31 October 2025

Apply/ Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/gmYKHQNf>

Child Protection Officer | UNICEF Zimbabwe

Type: Fixed Term Appointment

Location: Harare, Zimbabwe

Deadline: 19 October 2025

Apply/ Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/gmfZy4Tk>

Graduate Professionals (2) | United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Location: Remote or Geneva (choose your preference)

Type: Temporary (6 months, with possible extension)

Starting Date: Negotiable, as soon as possible

Deadline: 31 October 2025

Apply/Learn more: <https://applynow.co.zw/2025/10/16/united-nations-institute-for-disarmament-research-unidir-is-recruiting-graduate-professionals-security-and-technology-programme/>

Open Call: Pre-Qualification of Videography and Photography Service Providers in

Africa | African Women's Development and Communication Network

Are you an experienced videography or photography team with a creative eye for storytelling? FEMNET is pre-qualifying production companies/teams to document our programs, campaigns, and advocacy efforts across Africa.

Submission Deadline: 24 October 2025

Apply here: <https://bit.ly/4obzNgw>

Head of Zimbabwe Country Programme | Oak Foundation(Environment / Conservation)

Location: Harare, Zimbabwe

Contract: Permanent, full-time

Submission Deadline: 10 November 2025

Apply Here: <https://recruitcrm.io/apply/17597487728590041662Uil?source=GCJ>

Country Director | ActionAid Zimbabwe

Duty Station: Harare, Zimbabwe (with frequent national and international travel)

Reports to: Head of Africa, ActionAid International

Direct Reports: Country Senior Management Team, Roving HR Manager, Internal Auditor

Contract Type: Fixed term contract

Submission Deadline: 22 October 2025 at 1700hours.

Read/Apply here: <https://zimbabwe.actionaid.org/jobs/2025/country-director>

Social & Behavior Change Officer, NO-2 | UNICEF Zimbabwe

Location: Zimbabwe

Submission Deadline: 19 Oct 2025 11:55 PM

Apply here: <https://jobs.unicef.org/cw/en-us/filter/?search-keyword=&location=zimbabwe>

2026 Mo Ibrahim Foundation Leadership Fellowship Program | African Development Bank Group

Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Closing Date: 20 November 2025

Read/Apply Here: <https://www.afdb.org/en/vacancy/2026-mo-ibrahim-foundation-leadership-fellowship-program-86981>

Call For Tenders!

The EU Delegation to Zimbabwe has launched several calls for the following tenders:

- Plumbing
- Electrical services
- General maintenance
- Pest control
- Water filtration

Deadlines: 14 Nov 2025

Visit our website for more information!



#EUinZim





DISCLAIMER

This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of NANGO & NAYO and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Published by NANGO
Communication, Information, and Visibility Desk
2 McGowan Road, Milton Park
Harare, Zimbabwe.

info@nangozim.org
www.nangozim.org

© National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), March 2025