



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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# **NANGO Annual Narrative Report**

## January to December 2025

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

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### **Design**

Chris Katsaura, Communications & Visibility Officer - NANGO



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## List of Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIZ	Amnesty International Zimbabwe
AML/CFT/PF	Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and Combating Proliferation Financing
BVTA	Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CDPA	Cyber and Data Protection Act
CIASA	Citizen in Action Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CYDT	Community Youth Development Trust
DC	Data Controller
DPOs	Data Protection Officers
ERNEGIZE	Action to Empower NGOs for Effective and Inclusive Governance and Development in Zimbabwe
EU	European Union
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBO	Faith-Based Organisations
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit of Zimbabwe
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
LRF	Legal Resources Foundation
MoPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
MOUs	Memorandums of Understanding
MRDC	Masvingo Rural District Council
NANGO	National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
NAYO	National Association of Youth Organisations
NDS2	National Development Strategy 2
NEC	National Executive Committee

NECWEI	National Employment Council for Welfare and Education Institutions
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
NPOs	Non-Profit Organisations
NSAs	Non-State Actors
NSSA	National Social Security Authority
OBS	Open Budget Survey
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PVOs	Private Voluntary Organisations
PWDs	People with Disabilities
QuAAM	Quality Assurance and Accountability Mechanism
REC	Regional Executive Committee
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRCSS	Southern Rhodesia Council of Social Services
T2R	Talk to Your Regulator
TLC	Technical Legal Committee
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VFM	Value for Money
VOICE	Voluntary Organisations in Community Enterprise
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZI	Zimbabwe Institute
ZIMRA	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
ZimRights	Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
ZimSIIX	Zimbabwe Social Impact Investment Exchange
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police



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# FIRST MUTUAL

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## We Are NANGO

The National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) is the official voluntary coordinating body of registered Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in their diversity operating in Zimbabwe. NANGO is registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) under the PVO Act Chapter [17:05]. It is a non-partisan, non-profit-making, and non-denominational organisation mandated to strengthen the voice of NGOs for the betterment of the people of Zimbabwe.

NANGO was founded in 1962 as a welfare organisation under the name of the Southern Rhodesia Council of Social Services (SRCSS), predominantly serving social welfare organisations. NANGO was formally registered in 1968 following the promulgation of the Welfare Organisations Act in 1967, which was later transformed into the PVO Act in 2001. Post-independence in 1980, there was a gradual increase in the number of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas, and the organisation was subsequently renamed Voluntary Organisations in Community Enterprise (VOICE). Ten years later, the organisation was renamed NANGO to reflect its geographical expansion and wider membership base. With over 60 years of existence and extensive experience in NGO coordination, NANGO continues to broaden its value proposition to its membership as it looks to the future.

As of December 2025, NANGO has a total membership base of 1,277 registered NGOs across Zimbabwe, with membership drawn from PVOs, Trusts, and Common Law Universitas. Of these, 893 were active in 2025. NANGO's operations are guided by its constitution, which is the supreme governing document that regulates the conduct of the NANGO Secretariat, Board, and members. The Board holds an oversight role over the functions and activities of NANGO, with Board members elected every three years during an elective Annual General Meeting (AGM). Administratively, NANGO is decentralised into five regional offices that coordinate the activities of NGOs across all ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

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

## What Drives Our Ambition



# OUR VISION

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



# OUR MISSION

To strengthen, represent, and coordinate the work of NGOs in Zimbabwe through creating space and promoting networking, dialogue, and engagement to enable the fulfilment of members' visions and missions.

## • OUR VALUES •

### LEADERSHIP

We practice what we preach. We model our work to empower NGOs in Zimbabwe by setting exemplary leadership and standards of organisational management and governance.

### MEMBER-CENTRICITY

Without the members, there is no NANGO; hence, we value every member organisation we have and their participation as the backbone of all our programming, believing that it is through them that development reaches the communities in Zimbabwe.

### INTEGRITY

We are firm believers in integrity by abiding by the highest ethical standards of transparency, accountability, and mutual respect.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION

We believe in and respect the principles of equity, inclusion, and non-discrimination. We are committed to working with all persons, without discrimination, to promote an open, democratic, and developed Zimbabwean society.

### COLLABORATION & CO-CREATION

Our strategic partnership approach is one of our key assets. We value and foster partnerships, networks, and strategic mutual relationships with relevant development stakeholders, member organisations, and grassroots communities.

### ENGAGEMENT

We believe engagement is a critical enabler of critical conversations, policy influencing, building common ground, and finding consensus as we seek to co-create the developed Zimbabwean society that we all aspire for.

### DIVERSITY

Our wide membership reflects our sustained belief in a development sector that embraces and converges the country's rich socio-cultural diversity.

### INNOVATION

We constantly explore creative ways to strengthen NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. We are agile and responsive to the changing needs of our stakeholders.

## Our Strategic Priority Areas (2023 – 2025)

### Strategic Priority 1

Institutional strengthening for a higher-performing NANGO. We believe that the stronger NANGO is as an institution, the more effective it will be in coordinating and servicing the NGO sector in Zimbabwe. This, for us, entails strengthening our governance framework, updating our policies and procedures to suit the current context, being true to our values and being guided by them in every aspect, optimising the working environment within the organisation, continually innovating to become a better fit for the future, improving accountability and communication with our stakeholders and raising sufficient resources to support our work. This will be important for us to guarantee quick and effective decision-making, high-performing systems and processes, and a culture of engagement and inclusiveness that puts NANGO members at the core of the work we do as an organisation.

### Strategic Priority 3

Pivoting NANGO as the hub of choice for CSO capacitation, training, mentorship, knowledge curation, and operational support. At a time of greater scrutiny on NGOs in terms of operational efficacy, sustainability, and Value for Money (VfM), the imperative need for institutionalised capacity development, training, and mentorship of these organisations has never been more pressing. As an umbrella body, we intend to leverage our alumni, networks, as well as our wide access to expertise and training resources within our networks to consolidate and package various kinds of training programmes aimed at improving the way NGOs are led and operate in Zimbabwe. With the capacity needs of NGOs wide ranging from transformative leadership, and organisational development to governance, to project cycle management right through to reporting, we consider it essential that we standardise the capacity building, training, and mentorship, ensuring that it is not ad hoc, but comprehensive and responsive to actual needs on the ground, at the same time being recognised for credibility among key stakeholders in the development space. We are convinced this will enhance our members' achievement of operational efficiency. The realisation of impact at the grassroots level enables them to demonstrate VfM and equips them to be sustainable going into the future. We believe the NGO sector is a critical player in advancing socio-economic development in Zimbabwe and, to that effect, must be technically supported to be fully effective. We intend to achieve this through the establishment of a CSO Academy to serve the sector in Zimbabwe. The CSO Academy will strike a balance between courses that focus on theory and practice, packaged in the form of short courses and masterclasses (in the preliminary phases) to ensure a fast route to gaining accredited and practical skills that can easily be applied to daily programming.

### Strategic Priority 2

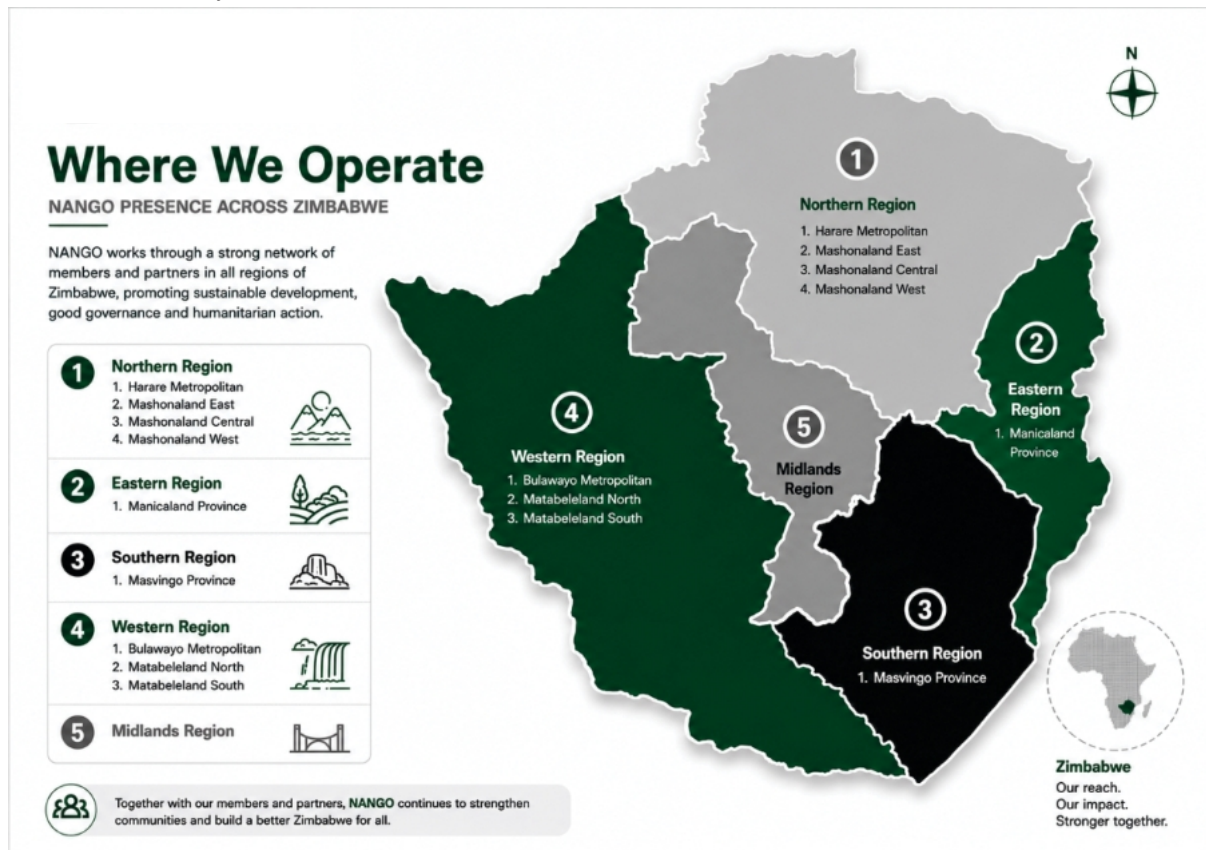
Improving NANGO's value proposition to its membership as a convener and coordinating organisation, as well as making the NANGO brand more attractive to Zimbabwean CSOs. NANGO cannot exist without its membership. The organisation's primary purpose, therefore, is to ensure that it fully services its members through convening, coordinating, and building collaborative networks among members. The organisation will ensure that it effectively plays these roles to remain relevant and attract new members. Under the new strategy, we intend to revisit our value proposition to members, listen more to them, and be more responsive to their needs and expectations of us as an umbrella body.

### Strategic Priority 4

Strengthening NANGO to become a solid platform for advocacy, lobbying, and policy influencing in matters related to the CSO operating environment as well as national development issues. For CSOs to operate effectively and achieve the desired impact in Zimbabwe, there should be an enabling operating environment in which laws, policies, practices, and institutions regulating the CSO space achieve the desired oversight function while not causing undue bureaucracy, burdensome overreach, and constraining the work of the developmental organisations. We believe that the regulatory function should not choke operational efficiencies, and that accountability should be mutual and not burdensome. Given current developments in the CSO regulatory arena, with an anticipated tightening of the operating environment throughout this strategic period, we commit ourselves to continuing to engage and defend the CSO operating environment to enable ease of doing business among our members. Under the same token, we will also play our part to ensure that we protect our member organisations from abuse and mismanagement, which presents the risk of regulatory overreach. As NANGO, we will also galvanise our members towards a unified policy influencing agenda (beyond just the sector-specific issues) to broader matters related to socio-economic and political developments in the country.

## Strategic Priority 5

Promoting effective action on the SDGs. As NANGO, we believe that NGOs are already playing a critical role in advancing the implementation and achievement of the SDGs through local-level programmes, complementing government developmental programmes, and national engagements. We are convinced, therefore, that deepening CSO participation in the SDGs processes, including convening the organisations and coordinating actions aimed at building strategic collaborations with the government and private sector, as well as keeping mutual accountability, will be an important contribution by NANGO and its members in advancing the SDGs in the country.



# THE 2025 NATIONAL ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

NANGO CHAIRPERSON'S  
OVERVIEW



Allow me, on behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEC), to express our sincere appreciation for the mandate entrusted to us during the elective AGM held on 12 December 2024. As we concluded our first year in office for the 2025–2027 term, we remain fully cognisant of the responsibility placed upon us and the expectations that accompany it. We have exercised this mandate with humility, integrity, and diligence, working in close collaboration with a capable Secretariat, committed RECs, and a resilient and engaged membership. Collectively, we have sustained momentum in advancing the interests of civil society despite an increasingly complex and constrained operating environment.

During the period under review, the operating environment for CSOs in Zimbabwe remained both dynamic and challenging, shaped by a convergence of political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors. Politically and legally, the enactment of the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Act, which came into effect on 11 April 2025, marked a significant shift in the regulatory landscape. The new framework introduced expanded compliance requirements and necessitated the transition of Trusts and Common Law Universitas into registered PVOs. These developments increased administrative demands on organisations and created uncertainty across the sector, underscoring the need for coordinated engagement, regulatory clarity, and strengthened compliance support. In response, the Association intensified its advocacy efforts, facilitated dialogue with regulatory authorities, and supported members in navigating emerging compliance obligations.

In parallel, the operationalisation and enforcement of the Cyber and Data Protection Act (CDPA) and its regulations have introduced additional legal and operational requirements that are reshaping how CSOs manage information and digital systems. The Act requires organisations to register as Data Controllers (DCs) and to designate Data Protection Officers (DPOs) responsible for overseeing compliance with data protection principles. These obligations compel CSOs to strengthen internal data governance frameworks, enhance data security systems, and ensure the lawful and ethical handling of personal information. However, within the context of a constrained and shifting development financing landscape, these requirements have emerged as a significant administrative and financial burden for many local organisations. The costs associated with registration, recruitment, or designation of qualified personnel, staff training, and the establishment of compliant data management systems come at a time when funding streams are declining and increasingly restricted. For smaller organisations and CBOs in particular, these compliance obligations risk diverting already limited resources away from core programme delivery and community impact. This underscores the importance of supportive compliance frameworks, capacity strengthening, and continued dialogue between regulators and the sector to ensure that regulatory objectives are achieved without undermining operational sustainability.

Economically, the operating context remained fragile and increasingly complex, characterised by macroeconomic instability, high inflation, currency volatility, and constrained fiscal space. Persistent exchange rate fluctuations and the instability of the local currency continued to erode organisational budgets, distort planning cycles, and increase the cost of programme implementation. These challenges were further exacerbated by systemic issues of corruption and illicit financial flows, which continue to undermine public finance management, prudent stewardship of natural resources, and reduce the overall effectiveness of development interventions. Zimbabwe's score on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) remained low at 24 out of 100, reflecting ongoing governance concerns and reinforcing the need for strengthened transparency and accountability across sectors.

At the same time, the development financing landscape experienced significant disruption. The issuance of stop-work orders by the United States Government (USG) and the subsequent termination of several USAID-supported grants had far-reaching implications across the sector, affecting programme continuity, staffing, and institutional sustainability. This shift, alongside broader donor realignments and evolving global funding priorities, placed additional pressure on CSOs to operate within a shrinking resource envelope and heightened accountability expectations. In response, the sector increasingly embraced adaptive and sustainable financing approaches, including advancing locally led development models that prioritise community ownership and local resource mobilisation, exploring social enterprise initiatives to generate alternative income streams, strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to leverage complementary capabilities and resources, and embedding Value-for-Money (VFM) principles to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and demonstrable impact in programme delivery. These approaches are critical in enhancing resilience and positioning CSOs for long-term sustainability.

Socially, Zimbabwe continues to grapple with persistent and emerging challenges, including high unemployment, rising incidences of drug and substance abuse, deteriorating mental health outcomes, entrenched poverty, and widening inequalities. These factors have intensified the demand for CSO interventions at a time when resources remain constrained. Technological advancements have created opportunities for innovation, communication, and efficiency; however, disparities in access to digital infrastructure and skills continue to limit the full realisation of these benefits, particularly among marginalised communities. Environmentally, the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related shocks, including droughts and erratic rainfall patterns, continue to threaten livelihoods and exacerbate humanitarian needs, further expanding the scope and urgency of CSO programming.

In recognition of these evolving dynamics, the Association advanced efforts to strengthen evidence-based advocacy through the development of the State of the CSO Operating Environment Report. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors shaping the sector, drawing on empirical data, member experiences, and stakeholder engagements. It is anticipated that the report will serve as a critical resource for informing policy dialogue, strategic positioning, and programme design at both national and regional levels.

Despite the pressures within the operating environment, our membership continued to demonstrate remarkable resilience, adaptability, and commitment to delivering impact at the community level. The strength of NANGO remains firmly anchored in its members, whose work continues to drive people-centred development across the country. During the year under review, the Association recorded the admission of 17 new members, bringing the total membership to 893 active organisations nationwide. This growth reflects sustained confidence in NANGO as a credible, responsive, and representative platform for civil society.

The Association extends its sincere appreciation to the 114 members who fulfilled their subscription obligations during the year. Your continued support has been instrumental in sustaining the Association's operations and enabling the delivery of key programmes and services during the period under review. Your commitment reinforces the collective responsibility we share in strengthening the effectiveness, visibility, and impact of civil society in Zimbabwe. We also warmly welcome all new members who joined the Association during this period. Your inclusion strengthens our diversity, broadens our reach, and enhances our collective capacity to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

As we reflect on the year under review, we recognise that while the operating environment remains constrained and unpredictable, it also presents opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and institutional strengthening. We remain committed to positioning NANGO as a proactive and forward-looking association that continues to champion an enabling environment for civil society, strengthen member capacity, and foster strategic partnerships that advance sustainable development and inclusive growth.

**Mrs. Pester Siraha**  
**National Board Chairperson, NANGO**

**NANGO EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW**



The year 2025 was largely defined by both institutional consolidation and strategic repositioning in response to an increasingly complex and evolving operating environment. It was a year in which the civil society sector in Zimbabwe navigated significant regulatory shifts, constrained civic space, shrinking development financing, and deepening socio-economic pressures. These dynamics tested the resilience of civil society institutions, while also presenting opportunities for renewed innovation, solidarity, and strategic engagement.

Against this backdrop, NANGO continued to strengthen its role as a convener, coordinator, and representative body of civil society, reinforcing institutional resilience while advancing a more structured, solutions-oriented, and evidence-based engagement with government, development partners, and other stakeholders. Throughout the year, the Association remained focused on safeguarding and expanding civic space, strengthening sector coordination, promoting accountability, and ensuring that civil society continues to contribute meaningfully to governance and development processes in Zimbabwe.

Broadly, NANGO implemented two major programme streams in 2025, aimed primarily at responding strategically to emerging challenges affecting the civil society sector. Among these, the Action to Empower NGOs for Effective and Inclusive Governance and Development in Zimbabwe (ENERGIZE), implemented in partnership with the National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO) with support from the EU, became a cornerstone intervention for strengthening the operating environment for CSOs and promoting inclusive governance.

This action seeks to empower CSOs and CBOs in Zimbabwe to effectively advocate for good governance, transparency, and inclusive development, while fostering an enabling environment for their active participation. The action promotes stronger operating conditions for CSOs and enhances the capacity, coordination, and collective agency of civil society actors to meaningfully contribute to and influence governance and development processes at all levels. It prioritises strengthening meaningful participation of civil society in policy and development frameworks, with a strong emphasis on citizen mobilisation and engagement.

The project is anchored on four interrelated pillars: Strengthening the Enabling Environment for CSOs and CBOs in Zimbabwe; Strengthening CSO and CBO Coordination, Movement Building and Institutional Capacity; Policy Dialogues, Engagements and Advocacy; and Citizens Mobilisation and Participation. Progress across these pillars contributed to tangible gains for the sector during 2025.

A defining development during implementation was the coming into effect of the PVO Amendment Act on 11 April 2025, which significantly altered the legal and regulatory framework governing CSOs. This development represented one of the most consequential shifts in the

operating environment in recent years. Through ENERGIZE, NANGO facilitated a coordinated, sector-wide response that prioritised constructive engagement, evidence-based advocacy, and practical support to organisations navigating the evolving framework.

Structured engagements were convened with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW), the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (MoJLPA), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and representatives of local authorities to facilitate dialogue on compliance requirements, operational implications, and areas of regulatory ambiguity. These engagements contributed to improved mutual understanding, reduced tensions between regulators and CSOs, and clearer guidance to organisations navigating registration, reporting, and transition requirements.

The operationalisation of the Talk to Your Regulator (T2R) initiative further strengthened these outcomes by creating a sustained and practical interface between CSOs and regulatory institutions such as the PVO Registrar under the MoPSLSW, the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), the National Social Security Authority (NSSA), and the National Employment Council for Welfare and Education Institutions (NECWEI). Through these engagements, organisations improved their understanding of compliance obligations, strengthened internal systems, and reduced incidences of punitive or inconsistent enforcement, contributing to a more informed and constructive regulatory relationship.

The year also saw significant progress in advancing sector accountability and self-governance through the rollout of the Quality Assurance and Accountability Mechanism (QuAAM). Participating organisations were supported to assess institutional gaps and strengthen systems related to governance, financial management, leadership, and resource mobilisation. This contributed to stronger governance structures, improved internal controls, and enhanced credibility with regulators, donors, and communities.

These gains were particularly important in a year marked by shrinking development financing and broader economic uncertainty, including the suspension and termination of several USAID-supported grants, which exposed structural vulnerabilities across the sector. In response, NANGO's capacity-strengthening interventions under ENERGIZE contributed to improved organisational resilience, preparedness for funding diversification, and adaptation to reduced external support. Parallel efforts to advance a harmonised localisation agenda further reinforced locally led development approaches and sector ownership.

To ensure advocacy remained grounded in evidence and lived realities, the project supported the production of the annual State of the Civil Society Operating Environment Watch Report (2024–2025), which documented regulatory trends, operational challenges, and emerging risks

affecting CSOs. The report informed advocacy messaging, policy dialogues, and media engagement, while providing a credible evidence base for structured engagement with stakeholders.

In addition, the NGO Expo continued to serve as an important platform for countering misinformation and disinformation about civil society by providing a visible interface between CSOs, government actors, development partners, and citizens. This contributed to improved public understanding of the role and contribution of CSOs, enhanced transparency, and strengthened the legitimacy of civil society as a development partner.

At the coordination and movement-building level, ENERGIZE significantly strengthened civil society's collective engagement in national governance and development processes. Through coordinated platforms facilitated by NANGO and NAYO, CSOs from diverse thematic sectors were able to jointly analyse policy issues, develop common positions, and engage government with a more unified and coherent voice.

During the year under review, the Association influenced several important national processes, including consultations on the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2), civil society participation in the 2025 Open Budget Survey (OBS), engagement in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring and review processes, participation in the fourth round of monitoring under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), and inputs into the development of the National Youth Policy.

The second programme stream implemented during the year was the Strengthening CSOs' Capacity to Defend and Safeguard Civic Space in Zimbabwe project, implemented in partnership with Citizen in Action Southern Africa (CIASA) with funding support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The project was designed to strengthen CSOs' adaptive capacity to respond to evolving regulations and operational requirements, while advancing collective efforts towards a more enabling operating environment.

The project pursued two interrelated objectives. First, it aimed to support CSOs' collective action to positively influence the development of new, and review of existing, legal, policy, and operational instruments regulating civil society in light of the shrinking civic space. Second, it focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of CSOs to respond, adapt, and comply with emerging operational requirements in pursuit of an enabling environment.

A key achievement under the project was the establishment and operationalisation of both static and mobile Accountability and Compliance Support Clinics (Compliance Clinics) across all five NANGO regions. These clinics became an important frontline mechanism for providing practical

compliance support and advisory services to CSOs and CBOs, particularly during a period of significant regulatory transition following the enactment of the PVO Amendment Act (2025) and the associated 90-day transitional period applicable to Trusts and Common Law Universitas.

The Compliance Clinics played a critical role in assisting organisations to interpret and respond to compliance requirements imposed by various regulators, including those related to registration, governance, financial reporting, labour obligations, and AML/CFT/PF measures. Through tailored guidance, information dissemination, and direct support, the clinics contributed to reducing uncertainty, strengthening compliance preparedness, and improving organisations' capacity to navigate the evolving regulatory landscape. Throughout the year, the initiative reached a total of 204 organisations, demonstrating significant demand for accessible and practical compliance support mechanisms.

Complementing the Compliance Clinics, the project supported an innovative digital solution through the development and rollout of [Nosizo](#), a WhatsApp-based assistant chatbot designed to provide 24/7 compliance and accountability support to organisations and individuals. As an accessible, user-centred, and scalable tool, Nosizo represents an important step in leveraging technology to support civil society resilience and improve access to regulatory information.

Accessible via WhatsApp and offering multilingual support, [Nosizo](#) provides users with on-demand guidance, information resources, and practical support across a wide range of compliance areas, including ZIMRA, AML/CFT/PF, the Cyber and Data Protection Act, the PVO Act, the PVO Amendment Act (2025), NSSA, and the National Employment Council for Welfare and Educational Institutions (NECWEI). The platform has strengthened access to timely information, reduced barriers to support, and complemented face-to-face assistance provided through the Compliance Clinics.

As we reflect on the year under review, I am encouraged by the resilience, adaptability, and solidarity demonstrated by our members, partners, and stakeholders. While challenges remain, 2025 affirmed that through collective action, constructive engagement, and strategic investment in institutional strengthening, civil society can continue to navigate uncertainty while advancing its critical role in democratic governance and sustainable development.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to our members, partners, donors, the NANGO Board, Secretariat staff, and all stakeholders who contributed to these achievements. Your support, commitment, and shared vision continue to sustain and strengthen our collective work.

**Mr. Ernest Nyimai**  
**Executive Director, NANGO**

# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024-2025

Building Connections. Driving Impact.



■ 2024 (Baseline)

■ 2025 (Current Year)



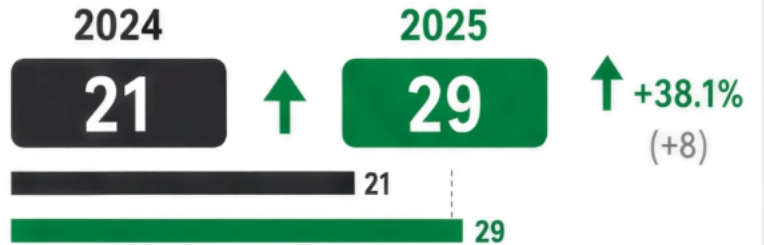
**1** Number of Coordinating Meetings Conducted  
(Meetings)



**2** Number of CSO Representatives Reached  
(Participants)



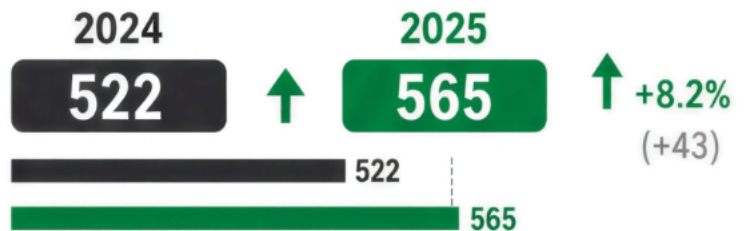
**3** Number of Networking Platforms Created  
(Forums)



**4** Number of Publications Produced  
(Publications)



**5** Number of CSOs Reached  
(Meetings)



# RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR 2025

## CHAPTER ONE: NANGO INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

### Membership Overview

NANGO's membership base remains the cornerstone of its mission and impact within Zimbabwe's evolving civic space. As a voluntary representative body for registered NGOs across diverse thematic sectors, NANGO is committed to fostering a strong, dynamic, and responsive membership that meets the changing needs of civil society. The Association actively engages and empowers its members, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate operational and regulatory challenges. Member organisations are further supported through profiling on digital platforms and visibility opportunities at flagship events such as the NGO Expo, enhancing the overall value of membership and promoting a collaborative civil society environment.

During the period under review, NANGO intensified its focus on expanding membership benefits and strengthening capacity-building initiatives. Recognising the challenges posed by the PVO Amendment Act (2025), the Association prioritised inclusivity and sectoral diversity in its efforts to attract new members while consolidating support for existing ones. Through targeted recruitment strategies, NANGO continued to grow its membership base, leveraging the expertise of member organisations to facilitate project collaborations and representation opportunities. Valuable resources and training programmes were similarly provided to enhance members' effectiveness and resilience in the face of prevailing operational challenges.

Notwithstanding the ongoing challenges of financial sustainability and membership retention, NANGO's efforts have yielded positive results, with successful membership renewals and new applications reflecting sustained commitment to engagement. The Association continues to provide compliance support, mobilisation opportunities, and information sharing as key pillars of its membership value proposition. These efforts reinforce member loyalty and contribute to the long-term sustainability of NANGO's initiatives, underscoring the central role of an engaged and committed membership base in advancing civil society in Zimbabwe.

Table 2: New Members Approved per Region 2025

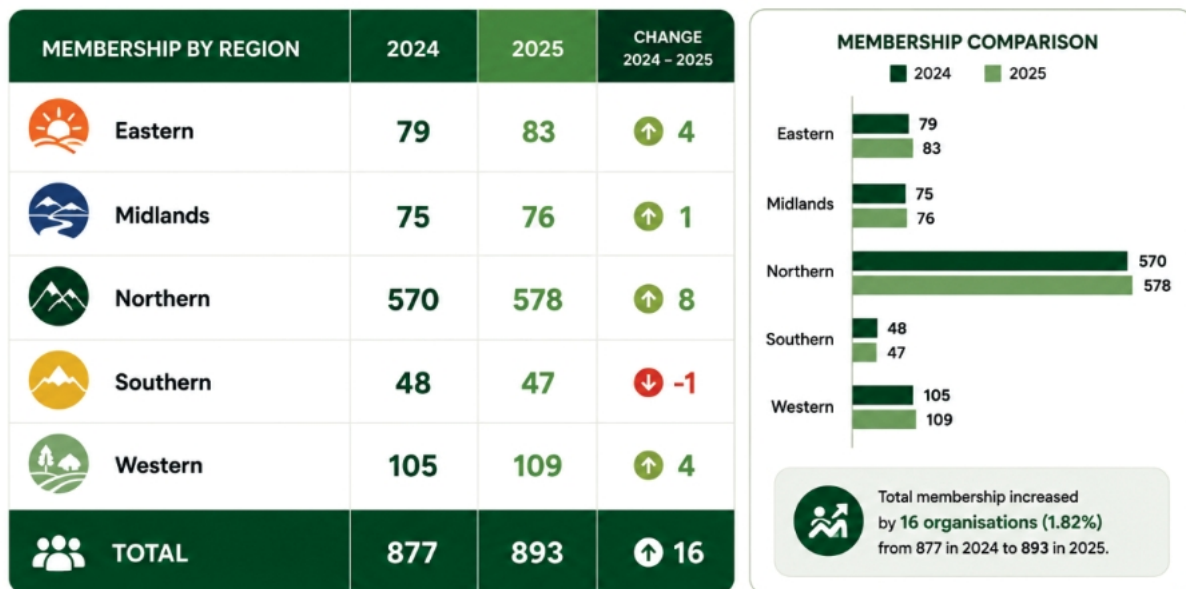
#	NANGO REGION	ORGANISATION	STATUS
1.	Northern Region	Sprout Women Empowerment Trust	Trust
2.	Northern Region	INERELA	PVO
3.	Northern Region	Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless	Trust
4.	Eastern Region	Calben Trust	PVO
5.	Eastern Region	Network for Community Development	PVO
6.	Eastern Region	Long Life Community Trust	Trust
7.	Eastern Region	Community Oral Health Development Organization	PVO
8.	Northern Region	Africa Ahead	PVO
9.	Northern Region	Zimbabwe Blind Women	Trust
10.	Northern Region	Child Protection	-
11.	Northern Region	SOS Children's Village	PVO
12.	Northern Region	Zimbabwe National Association of Mental Health	PVO
13.	Western Region	Ayanda Foundation Trust	Trust
14.	Western Region	Unemployed Solidarity Trust	Trust
15.	Western Region	Sexual Reproductive Centre	PVO
16.	Western Region	Grassroot Foundation	PVO
17.	Midlands Region	Community Talk	Trust

<b>TOTAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS</b> 17	<b>REGIONS</b> 4	<b>BY REGION</b>				<b>BY STATUS</b>		
		9 Northern Region	7 Eastern Region	4 Western Region	1 Midlands Region	8 Trust	8 PVO	1 Unspecified

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of NANGO's membership growth and composition from 2024 to 2025, showcasing the expanding reach and influence of the association within Zimbabwe's civil society ecosystem.

Table 3: Active Membership Overview per Region 2025



### **Board Induction and Strengthening of Institutional Governance.**

Following the elective AGM held in December 2024, which saw the constitution of a new NEC and RECs, NANGO conducted a Board Induction in February 2025 for the incoming leadership.

The induction was designed to equip board members with a clear understanding of their governance roles and responsibilities, strengthen oversight and accountability functions, and align leadership around NANGO's strategic priorities and operating context. It further provided critical orientation on the regulatory environment, fiduciary obligations, and the evolving civic space, ensuring that the newly constituted leadership is well-positioned to provide effective, coordinated, and strategic direction to the network. A total of 30 NEC and REC members participated in and benefited from the process.





## CHAPTER TWO: COORDINATION AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In 2025, NANGO exhibited its commitment to enhancing the coordination of its membership by establishing critical convergence platforms that address both intra- and inter-sectoral interests. This strategic approach facilitated networking among members and promoted the exchange of best practices, particularly in program design, advocacy, and influencing opportunities. To improve communication within the NANGO network, the organisation maintained an up-to-date membership database organised by thematic sector. Regular feedback and engagement through offline and online platforms, including email lists and newsletters, ensured that members remain informed and connected.

### **CSO Coordination and Movement Building Meetings**

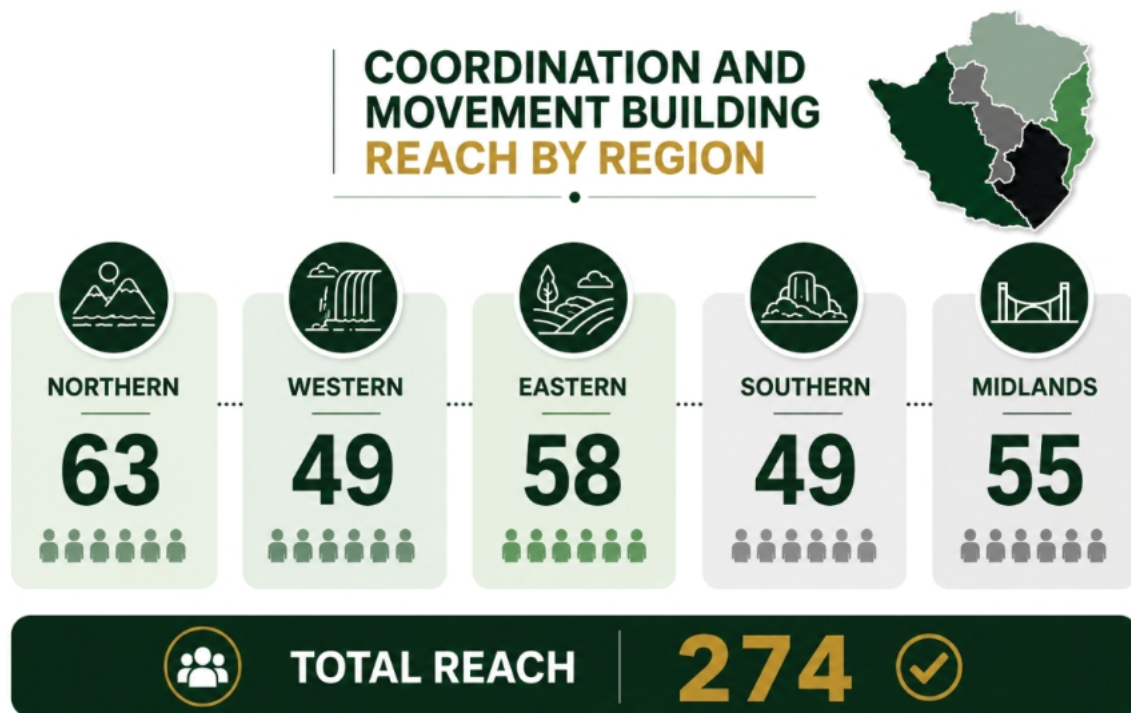
Throughout 2025, the association made notable strides to ensure that the sector made coordinated efforts to navigate challenges such as the PVO Amendment Act and to ensure all member organizations are informed, involved, and empowered to contribute to the overarching mission of strengthening civil society and promoting effective governance in Zimbabwe. NANGO conducted 15 coordination and movement-building meetings across five regions, reaching 180 CSOs. These meetings served as a comprehensive platform for sharing NANGO's operational plan for the year, ensuring that member organizations were informed and engaged in the overarching mission of strengthening civil society and promoting effective governance in Zimbabwe. Participants had the opportunity to share their experiences, identify challenges, and collaboratively seek solutions, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among CSOs.

Significant outcomes emerged from these meetings, enhancing the capacity and collaboration of CSOs across Zimbabwe. Participants gained a clearer understanding of the legal challenges posed by the PVO Amendment Act and the Cyber & Data Protection Act, equipping them for better compliance and advocacy. The meetings facilitated networking among CSOs and CBOs, leading to preliminary ideas for a coordinated advocacy strategy. Through co-created action plans, participants tackled persistent issues such as financial instability and operational constraints, emphasizing the importance of organizational sustainability beyond donor funding.

Discussions also highlighted the need for strategic consortiums to mitigate competition for limited resources, reinforcing a commitment to improved collaboration and transparency within the sector.

NANGO, in collaboration with NAYO, the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, the Legal Resource Foundation (LRF), and the MoPSLSW, also convened five sensitization and outreach meetings focused on the PVO Amendment Act of 2025. These meetings reached 260 CSOs, three private sector representatives, four development partners, and seven government representatives. The primary goal was to dispel misinformation surrounding the new law and provide adequate information on compliance obligations. By addressing concerns about the transition period and strengthening advocacy efforts, these meetings aimed to empower CSOs to navigate the new regulatory landscape confidently.

Figure 1: Coordination and Movement Building Meetings Reach by Region



### Strengthening NGO Accountability through the QuAAM Framework

NANGO is committed to enhancing the legitimacy, accountability, transparency, compliance, and self-governance of the NGO sector in Zimbabwe through the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Accountability Mechanism (QuAAM). The initiative involves site visits to CSOs for verification and certification purposes, with data collected uploaded to the ZIMSIIIX platform. Regional Coordinators oversaw the QuAAM process in collaboration with trained REC members. To ensure that the initiative effectively targeted youth-focused organisations, NANGO engaged NAYO as an implementation partner. The QuAAM process further serves as a

critical component of capacity needs assessment, enabling NANGO to design tailored capacity-building interventions based on identified organisational gaps.

### **CBOs Trainings and Learning Sessions**

Through the QuAAM process, NANGO identified a total of 12 CSOs who were enrolled in a Masterclass on Leadership and Governance and Resource Mobilisation. The Masterclass promoted peer learning and the exchange of best practices among participating CBOs, thereby strengthening collaboration, networking, and collective problem-solving within the civil society sector. In addition, a resource mobilisation session was conducted during the 15th NGO Directors Summer Retreat, benefiting 166 CSO leaders, and contributing to enhanced knowledge and skills in resource diversification and organisational sustainability.

### **Talk to Your Regulators Interface Meetings**

NANGO, in partnership with NAYO under the ENERGIZE project, conducted a total of six CSO-Regulator Interface Meetings across all five NANGO regions. These meetings were held as a follow-up to a resolution made during the NANGO NGO Directors' Summer Retreat in Nyanga in 2024, at which CSOs and regulators committed to holding regular interface meetings to provide mutual updates on regulations governing CSO operations.



The platform served to discuss compliance obligations and challenges, educate NANGO members on their compliance requirements and best practices for maintaining regulatory standards, and provide a space for members to share experiences and challenges in navigating the regulatory landscape. The meetings further fostered improved engagement and collaboration between NGOs and regulatory institutions, in line with NANGO's CSO Enabling Environment Pillar, which seeks to create structured engagement platforms through which members can learn from and raise sectoral concerns related to their compliance obligations

under various regulators.

The meetings targeted NANGO members and key Zimbabwean regulatory bodies, including the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW), the National Social Security Authority (NSSA), the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the National Employment Council for Welfare and Education Institutions (NECWEI), the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), and local authorities. In total, 185 CSOs were reached across all NANGO thematic clusters, and seven regulatory bodies participated across all five regions.

The engagements yielded significant outcomes. Participants gained a clearer understanding of current regulations and the implications of non-compliance, while regulators gained improved insight into the operational realities and challenges faced by the sector, helping to dispel misconceptions about CSOs as high-earning entities. Discussions facilitated the exploration of collaborative approaches to compliance support, with both parties encouraged to maintain regular communication on emerging issues that may affect regulatory obligations. Of particular note during the reporting period was the impact of United States Executive Orders directing US-funded NGOs to cease operations, which presented significant compliance and operational challenges for affected organisations. The NANGO Secretariat will continue to encourage members to maintain compliance and to proactively notify regulators of any operational changes that may arise.

Figure 2: Talk to Your Regulator Reach



## NANGO Annual Regional NGO Expo & Winter School



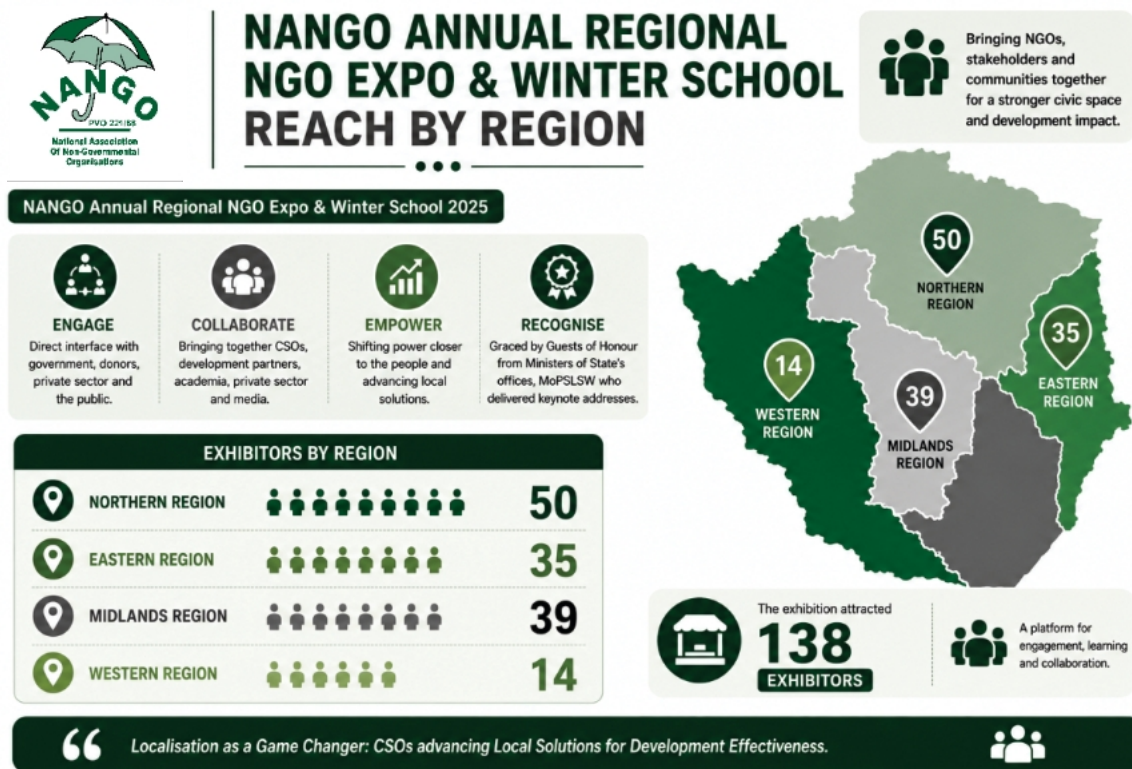
The Association held its Annual Regional NGO Expo and Winter Schools across its four regions—Northern, Eastern, Western, and Midlands. This initiative aimed to bring development closer to communities while fostering direct engagement with stakeholders, including government officials, donors, and the general public. The Expo served as a platform to dispel misconceptions about CSOs and highlight

their impactful work, allowing NGOs to shape their narratives and present evidence-based stories that showcase their contributions to society. By decentralizing the event, NANGO sought to empower regional structures to take the lead in development discussions and contribute to the formation of the National Development Strategy (NDS2), while also fostering partnerships essential for achieving SDGs.

The events effectively showcased the innovations and contributions of CSOs, enhancing their visibility among various stakeholders such as public representatives, development partners, and private sector actors. Collaboration among diverse groups, including local authorities, media, and academia, was facilitated, laying the groundwork for stronger regional networks and cross-sector partnerships. The Expos increased public awareness of the roles of CSOs and opportunities for citizen involvement in civic and development initiatives, while side sessions sparked important dialogues on localization, sustainability, and funding transitions, fostering a shared understanding of the challenges facing the sector.

Feedback from the Expo indicated a growing awareness of the PVO Amendment Act, 2025, leading to increased compliance demand among affected CSOs. Discussions during the event inspired regional advocacy strategies, with stakeholders expressing commitment to developing an action plan that promotes an enabling environment for civil society and locally led development. As NANGO navigates the evolving civic landscape, it remains a key player in dialogue and representation, addressing the complexities of funding and support for local organisations amidst a shrinking funding landscape and global economic challenges.

Figure 3: Annual NGO Expo & Winter School Reach by Region



On the sidelines of the regional EXPOs, winter school sessions were conducted focusing on the localisation agenda. This was done in partnership with Trócaire Zimbabwe as main the facilitator of the session. The discussion focused on demystifying localization as the process of shifting power, resources and decision-making closer to the people and communities most affected by crisis or development challenges.

Deliberations from the localisation sessions underscored that meaningful progress toward locally led development in Zimbabwe remains contingent on addressing several systemic gaps. Participants highlighted the urgent need to invest in institutional strengthening to position local organisations as credible and competitive grant recipients, alongside deliberate support to community systems as a foundation for sustainable impact. There was also emphasis on the importance of tracking and engaging with both global and national commitments, particularly under the Grand Bargain, to ensure alignment and accountability. Furthermore, the sessions called for more proactive participation by local actors in platforms and coordination structures that advance the localisation agenda, as a means of amplifying voice, influence, and inclusive development outcomes.

### Sector-wide CSO Sensitisation & Consultation on the GPEDC 4th Round of Monitoring Process

NANGO and NAYO convened CSO Dissemination and Self-Reflection Dialogues for the fourth Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)

in Zimbabwe. These dialogues were held across all five regions, reaching 209 CSOs representatives (104 male and 105 female). The sessions were prompted by the recent release of Zimbabwe's Country Brief and monitoring data, and aimed to prepare participating organisations for the upcoming multi-stakeholder dialogue phase.

The sessions focused on strengthening collective reflection on the monitoring findings, deepening understanding of the implications of the PVO Amendment Act, and aligning CSO voices ahead of national engagements. The dialogues were structured to enhance peer learning and evidence-based advocacy, centring on four thematic areas: space for CSO dialogue; development effectiveness; accountability and transparency; and the legal and regulatory environment for CSOs.

The dialogues yielded a deeper understanding of Zimbabwe's performance in the fourth GPEDC Monitoring Round among local CSOs. Participants identified key challenges, including governance gaps and limited dialogue opportunities, and established strategic priorities for advocacy. The sessions further reinforced a renewed commitment to collaboration under NANGO's coordination, emphasising the importance of collective action in addressing civic space constraints. Participants aligned around three priority actions, including the development of a joint monitoring framework and the mandatory inclusion of marginalised groups in consultation processes. Media coverage amplified the outcomes of these discussions, with two articles published capturing key advocacy demands and reinforcing the spirit of civic engagement.

Figure 4: Consultative and Feedback Meeting Reach by Region



## 15th NGO Director Summer Retreat

The 15th Edition of the NANGO Annual NGO Directors' [Summer Retreat](#) was held on 27–28 November 2025 at the Urban Lifestyle Hotel in Masvingo, bringing together 208 participants, comprising 166 CSO representatives, 20 private sector representatives, 13 development partner representatives, eight government representatives, and one international partner. This diverse participation enriched discussions and fostered valuable connections among stakeholders, enabling structured engagement on critical challenges, including regulatory changes and funding fluctuations. The Retreat was held under the theme "**Navigating New Frontiers: Development Financing and Civic Space in Transition**," reflecting participants' shared commitment to enhancing collaboration and aligning strategies amid evolving national priorities.

Throughout the Retreat, participants engaged in a series of plenary and thematic sessions that produced actionable resolutions aimed at ensuring the sustainability and relevance of CSOs within a complex operating environment. Key discussions encompassed compliance with the PVO Amendment Act, strategies for sustainable financing, localisation efforts, and the importance of fostering strategic partnerships. Beyond addressing the regulatory landscape, the Retreat cultivated a spirit of solidarity, encouraging CSOs to collectively advocate for civic space and accountability while adapting to prevailing operational challenges. This collaborative environment empowered participants to outline specific strategies for the way forward, reinforcing their commitment to community resilience and effective service delivery.

As the Retreat concluded, participants acknowledged the urgency of diversifying funding sources and developing proactive strategies for internal resource mobilisation, particularly in light of recent funding cuts across the sector. Leadership representatives underscored the need to contextualise the transition in the operational landscape, with a focus on strengthening alignment between CSOs and government bodies for effective collaboration. Presentations from key stakeholders, including the United Nations (UN) and the EU Delegation, emphasised the importance of ongoing dialogue and partnership in driving the implementation of resolutions developed during the Retreat. These engagements set the foundation for the meaningful implementation of commitments aimed at enhancing the capacity and impact of CSOs in Zimbabwe's development landscape.

*Figure 5 : 15th NGO Directors Summer Retreat Reach by Sector*





## CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVOCACY

### Participation in the Localisation - Networks Peer Learning Workshop

NANGO participated in the Localisation Networks Peer Learning Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya from 8-11 September 2025. The session on **"Networks' Accountability to Their Communities,"** facilitated by Ernest Nyimai, the NANGO Executive Director, focused on reflecting on how networks define and practice accountability to their communities. The session aimed to explore definitions of community accountability, share concrete tools and mechanisms for strengthening accountability, identify barriers hindering meaningful accountability, and commit to practical actions for improvement. Contributors, including Donald Hernandez, Stella Anjani, Hasen Ali, and JeanPaul Kasika, shared their experiences and insights on effective accountability tools such as scorecards and community feedback loops. Participants engaged in small group discussions to reflect on guiding questions, ensuring diverse perspectives, especially from grassroots organizations and marginalized voices.

The workshop successfully generated several key outputs, including the identification of 2-3 practical tools and approaches for enhancing community accountability. Participants compiled a concise list of common barriers faced in achieving meaningful accountability, contributing to a deeper understanding of the challenges at hand. A visible "Community Accountability Wall" was created, capturing the commitments made by various networks to strengthen their accountability efforts. The facilitation process prioritized inclusion by ensuring that grassroots voices and perspectives from smaller CBOs and CSOs were heard, providing interpretation in French and Spanish, and allowing for anonymization of sensitive political reflections. Special attention was given to encourage women and marginalized representatives to share their insights first, fostering an inclusive dialogue that enriched the workshop outcomes.

#### **CSO Consultation on PVO Registration Experiences Workshop**

NANGO, in partnership with Trocaire, convened a CSO Consultation on PVO Experiences Workshop to address the challenges arising from the recent implementation of the PVO Amendment Act. The implementation of the PVO Amendment Act has revealed numerous operational challenges for CSOs, including unclear procedural requirements, lengthy processing timelines, and inconsistent interpretations of the law across provinces. Additional

hurdles, such as dual regulation by local authorities, further complicated CSO operations, leading to increased administrative burdens and confusion over compliance. Although some participants noted improved engagement with social welfare officers, the lack of harmonised guidance from the Registrar of PVOs continues to strain the sector's ability to function effectively. This meeting was attended by 68 (40 men, 28 women and 3 PWDs) participants from Bulawayo, Midlands, Matabeleland North and South Provinces. These participants represented CSOs, community-based organisations and grassroots movements drawn from different thematic clusters for cluster specific unique experiences.

The workshop's specific objectives included documenting CSO experiences with the PVO registration process, identifying gaps in administrative and policy frameworks, and enhancing collective advocacy efforts. By creating a space for open dialogue, participants sought to report common barriers and best practices, ultimately aiming to foster coordinated action among CSOs. The insights gathered will inform advocacy with the Registrar of PVOs and relevant authorities, emphasizing the need for transparent and fair implementation of the PVO Amendment Act to support the critical role of CSOs in governance, service delivery, and community development.

### **Issues Raised**

- **Administrative and Procedural Gaps:** There is a lack of SOPs leading to inconsistent requirements across districts and provinces. This results in excessive paperwork, unclear documentation needs, lengthy processing times, and issues with missing or lost application files.
- **Knowledge and Capacity Limitations:** Many officers at the Department of Social Development (DSD) lack sufficient training and understanding of the PVO Amendment Act. This knowledge gap contributes to inconsistent or inaccurate guidance for CSOs, making the registration process confusing and difficult.
- **Attitudes and Conduct-Related Challenges:** Some officials exhibit negative and unhelpful attitudes, creating a discouraging environment for applicants. Unprofessional behavior during interviews and discouraging specific terminology, like “advocacy,” further complicates interactions between CSOs and regulatory bodies.
- **Dual Regulation and Local Authority Hurdles:** CSOs face arbitrary fees and demands for Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) from local authorities, even after compliance with the PVO Act. This dual regulation leads to additional bureaucratic burdens that vary significantly across different regions.
- **Transparency and Communication Weaknesses:** There is a significant lack of communication from DSD officials concerning application statuses, leading to prolonged uncertainty for organizations. The absence of tracking or follow-up systems exacerbates this issue, hindering the ability of CSOs to receive timely updates.

- **Rights and Operational Concerns:** CSOs report restrictions on their operational objectives, such as being limited to three goals or being instructed to suspend operations during the registration process. Additionally, donor withdrawal due to registration delays and security-oriented vetting processes contributes to an unwelcoming environment for CSOs.

For more refer to the report [here](#).

### **SADC Saf – CNGO NSA Engagement Meeting**

NANGO participated in the second edition of the Annual High-Level Stakeholder Symposium (AHLSS 2025), convened by the Southern Africa Council of NGOs (Saf-CNGO) in partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The organisation was represented by its Senior Programs Officer, Makaita Shumba.



## **ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS SYMPOSIUM**



The Symposium was held under the theme "**Strengthening Non-State Actors (NSAs) and State Party Partnerships for Effective Regional Integration**" and brought together a broad range of stakeholders, including NSA representatives from National Umbrella Platforms across the SADC region, Government representatives serving as SADC National Contact Points, SADC Secretariat and institutional representatives, development and funding partners, and intra- and inter-regional partners. The forum was designed to advance critical discourse on fostering cooperation, collaboration, complementarity, and cohesion among NSAs and State Parties as key stakeholders in the regional integration agenda.

The Symposium highlighted significant progress in formalising NSA engagement within SADC structures. Notably, NSAs were approved to participate in SADC processes in August 2022, followed by the signing of a seven-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

SAf-CNGO and SADC to formalise collaboration and identify priority areas for joint action. Participants reviewed progress on the establishment of a TWG comprising SAf-CNGO, SADC, and GIZ, which is currently in the process of drafting a constitution to guide structured engagement. Deliberations also addressed the development of NSA registration and accreditation portals and the formulation of guiding principles for engagement, including sector-specific clusters designed to enhance coordination and representation.

Despite the progress recorded, participants acknowledged persistent challenges within the existing engagement framework. Interactions between SADC and NSAs were noted to remain largely ad hoc, with inadequate mechanisms to ensure balanced sectoral representation. In response, stakeholders proposed the establishment of a dedicated NSA Forum within SADC, structured around thematic working groups aligned to specific regional priorities. Advanced plans were also presented to operationalise an NSA Liaison Office, to be supported by resources from the EU, with the aim of institutionalising communication and coordination. The Symposium further underscored the importance of formal accreditation processes to enable NSA participation in official decision-making platforms, supported by clear guidelines and an online application system as part of the broader SADC-NSA engagement framework.

Participants emphasised the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of these initiatives through the establishment of a regional development fund and the strengthening of operational frameworks. NSAs affirmed their readiness to participate actively in SADC National Committees, reaffirming their commitment to structured regional engagement.

Updates on regional integration highlighted progress across several priority areas, including successful peace and security missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique, and capacity-building initiatives that trained 94 experts in intelligence analysis, alongside additional training in conflict prevention and cybersecurity. The Symposium called on CSOs and NSAs across Member States to amplify their engagement in regional processes. Participants further noted that 35 of the 58 SADC protocols are currently in force, while 23 remain pending activation. The Symposium stressed the importance of civic diplomacy, structured engagements, national dialogues, and benchmarking compensation measures in conflict situations as critical tools for strengthening regional solidarity and accountability.



### **Kenya Talk to Your Regulator Launch**

In May 2025, NANGO Executive Director Ernest Nyimai participated in the official launch of the "Talk to Your Regulator" (T2R) platform in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together more than 80 participants drawn from CSOs and regulatory bodies, creating a valuable platform for Zimbabwe to share its experience in implementing the T2R initiative and to highlight its role in fostering constructive, ongoing dialogue between CSOs and their regulators.

The T2R initiative, already successfully rolled out in countries such as Uganda and Zimbabwe, is designed to enhance regulatory compliance, strengthen collaboration between civil society and oversight bodies, and promote transparent, accountable governance within the non-profit sector. By creating a direct line of communication between regulators and the organisations they oversee, the platform helps reduce mistrust, clarify regulatory expectations, and resolve compliance challenges before they escalate into conflict.

The Nairobi launch reaffirmed the value of structured interface platforms in bridging the gap between Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs) and regulatory authorities. It also reinforced the importance of active civil society participation in shaping, reviewing, and refining regulatory frameworks, ensuring that policies remain responsive to the realities of the sector and supportive of an enabling operating environment. Zimbabwe's contribution to the discussion positioned NANGO as a regional reference point for good practice in regulator-CSO engagement, and the launch opened the door for continued peer learning and collaboration among countries advancing similar reforms across East and Southern Africa.



## CHAPTER FOUR: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The operating environment for NGOs in Zimbabwe in 2025 became increasingly challenging, characterised by funding disruptions, regulatory changes, and political instability. The USAID Foreign Assistance Funding Pause, initiated by Trump's Executive Orders, halted vital USAID-funded activities, severely impacting service delivery for vulnerable populations. The Work Stop Order gave a 90-day pause, which not only delayed ongoing projects but also created uncertainty regarding future funding priorities, as NGOs faced heightened scrutiny over their alignment with U.S. foreign policy.

Following the passage of the PVO Amendment Act on April 11, 2025, the lack of clear communication regarding its implementation left many organizations uncertain about the transition process. NANGO has proactively engaged with the responsible ministry to address members' concerns and facilitate the transition to PVO status. By providing guidance on compliance and the new regulatory framework, NANGO has empowered various civil society organisations to understand the necessary steps for registration. Despite regulatory hurdles and ongoing political instability, NANGO's efforts to improve stakeholder engagement have fostered a more inclusive consultative process with government institutions, demonstrating resilience within the civil society sector.

Following the signing of the PVO Amendment Bill into law, NANGO received numerous inquiries from its members, CSOs, stakeholders, and development partners seeking clarity on the new Act's provisions and implementation modalities. In response, NANGO formally requested a meeting with MoPSLSW to foster dialogue on behalf of the broader CSO sector. The Ministry agreed, and a meeting was held on 13 May 2025, during which key objectives included seeking clarity on the implementation plan, presenting NANGO's submission for clarification, and proposing collaboration between the Ministry and CSOs to ensure the smooth operationalization of the new law.

During the meeting, several critical issues were discussed, including the reconstitution of the PVO Board and the prescribed registration fees, set at USD250.00 for International NGOs and

USD150.00 for local NGOs

The Ministry confirmed that the 90-day transitional period for existing trusts and charitable organisations commenced on April 11, 2025, and emphasized the importance of early application submissions to avoid administrative delays. Furthermore, it was noted that organisations could continue operations during the transition, with pre-existing applications prioritized for registration. The Ministry also expressed openness to considering alternative authorities to give recommendations for the registration of PVOs and invited CSOs to contribute to the drafting of regulations and SOPs to guide the Act's administration.

In terms of next steps, NANGO outlined a comprehensive plan for membership outreach, technical support, policy advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. This included conducting nationwide sensitization sessions on the PVO Amendment Act, developing a Regulatory Advisory Note, and drafting alternative regulations to advocate for flexibility in implementation of the Act. The engagement marked a significant step in fostering collaboration between CSOs and the government, with the Ministry demonstrating a willingness to work constructively with civil society to address practical challenges. NANGO remains committed to supporting its members through this transition and ensuring a smooth operational framework for the broader civil society community.

As the government expedites the development of PVO Regulations, NANGO's influence has ensured that CSOs have a voice in shaping these regulations. The recent gazetting of the PVO Registration Fees Regulations is a critical step forward. NANGO is actively assisting organizations in registering PVOs and the transition from Trusts and Common Law Univesitas to PVOs and has implemented innovative tools, such as the NANGO Compliance Assistant Chatbot, Nosizo, to streamline the compliance process.

Amid escalating factional hostilities within the ruling ZANU-PF party, NANGO continues to monitor the political landscape and its implications for civil society operations. The 2030 Agenda campaign has heightened tensions, with potential ramifications for governance and service delivery. As factions within the party vie for power, NANGO remains committed to supporting its members by encouraging them to focus on their mandates while advocating for an enabling environment. By addressing financial barriers and fostering collaboration among NGOs, NANGO is dedicated to promoting an operational framework that allows civil society to thrive, even amidst ongoing challenges.

### **CSOs Participation in the Drafting of PVO Amendment Act Regulations and SOPS**

Since the enactment of the PVO Amendment Act, 2025, on 11 April 2025, NANGO, working alongside other CSOs, has been advocating for co-creation and broad sector consultations in

developing the SOPs and regulations to guide the implementation and operationalisation of the Act. Against this background, the regulator, the MoP<sup>S</sup>LSW, engaged NANGO to coordinate and facilitate CSO representation and participation in the SOPs and Regulations drafting process.

NANGO subsequently coordinated and supported CSO TLC throughout the drafting process. CSOs were represented by NANGO, ZLHR, LRF, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe Institute (ZI), Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA), Amnesty International Zimbabwe (AIZ), Habakkuk Trust, and Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT). A total of 41 participants, including representatives from the Registrar's Office, CSOs and FBOs, the FIU, and District and Provincial Social Development (DSD and PSD) officers, attended the workshop held in Mutare from 11–12 September 2025. A technical committee was subsequently selected to finalise the draft document, and the Mutare meeting was followed by three additional meetings held in Harare on 18 September, 30 September, and 1 October 2025 for the technical committee members.

As part of the draft technical committee, CSOs were given the opportunity to address some of the contentious provisions in the PVO Amendment Act of 2025. The platform created space for constructive dialogue, enabling both parties to gain a clearer understanding of the Act. Legal terms such as “beneficial owner” were clarified to refer to founders of organisations particularly those previously registered as Trusts who still maintain an interest in the organisation and must therefore be declared during registration.

This engagement yielded meaningful outcomes. Participants developed a stronger understanding of the PVO Amendment Act's provisions, especially those relating to registration and accountability. The drafting process produced a draft set of regulations and SOPs designed to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the law across the sector. It also fostered improved collaboration and communication between CSOs and key government actors particularly DSD officers, who play a central role in registration and oversight. Importantly, the discussions provided CSOs with a platform to highlight operational challenges, enabling the drafting team to align the proposed regulations with international standards and to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity within Zimbabwe's civic space.

However, several areas of improvement emerged. The process was constrained by limited consultation time, which affected the depth of stakeholder input. Challenges such as staff turnover, uneven technical capacity, and inconsistent registration practices across provinces underscored the need for further harmonisation. NANGO recommended that capacity-building initiatives for MoP<sup>S</sup>LSW officials be prioritised to ensure consistent application of the Act. Once approved, the Regulations and SOPs will be widely disseminated through awareness-raising campaigns to help CSOs understand their rights and obligations under the new law.

## Webinar: The exchange: Navigating the new PVO Amendment Act 2025-Lessons from Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya

Following the enactment of the PVO Amendment Act 2025, NANGO conducted a webinar to explore its implications and to draw lessons from the experiences of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. Key speakers included Suba Churchill, from the Kenya National Civil Society Centre, who highlighted the challenges faced by CSOs in Kenya during the operationalization of the Public Benefit Organizations Bill, emphasizing the importance of advocating for positive narratives about civil society. He shared strategies for overcoming restrictive amendments through collective action and solidarity among various groups committed to human rights.



Peter Magelah Gwayaka from the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) highlighted the varied responses of NGOs in Uganda to NGO law, noting that some opted for compliance while others chose to challenge the law and the significance of coalition building and engagement with influential figures to ease tensions with the government. Adamson

Nsimba from the Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (TANGO) provided insights for Zimbabwean NGOs, recommending constructive engagement with government officials and the importance of annual reports to demonstrate the sector's impact while navigating the regulatory landscape effectively.

Key takeaways for Zimbabwean NGOs included the necessity of understanding the PVO Amendment Act to avoid legal pitfalls and the importance of solidarity among CSOs for effective advocacy. Learning from experiences in Kenya and Uganda, NGOs in Zimbabwe were encouraged to develop robust lobbying strategies and engage with government authorities to foster constructive dialogue. Additionally, coalition building was highlighted as essential, enabling organizations to pool resources and create a united front against restrictive policies.

The webinar concluded with actionable recommendations for NANGO, including profiling the civil society sector's contributions to Zimbabwe's development, accelerating the implementation of the ZIMSIIIX platform, and fostering continuous regional learning spaces. It called for mental health support for CSO leaders and diversification of funding sources amid regulatory challenges. Ultimately, the session underscored the need for Zimbabwean civil society to demonstrate its value, build coalitions, and remain resilient in the face of evolving complexities brought on by the new legislation.

## **Webinar: Implications of the USAID Foreign Assistance Funding Pause**

NANGO convened a Webinar under the topic: '**Implications of the USAID Foreign Assistance Funding Pause.**' The broad objective of the webinar was to assess the implications of the USAID foreign assistance funding pause, Stop Work Orders, and related Executive Orders directly affecting the NGO sector. The webinar provided an opportunity for CSOs to understand the scope of the funding freeze, deliberate on its potential impact on programming and operations, and explore adaptive strategies to ensure resilience and continuity amid funding uncertainties. The dialogue sought to unpack the far-reaching consequences of the funding freeze, examine possible scenarios, and chart possible pathways for affected CSOs operating in precarious conditions. The webinar attracted 157 participants, comprising NANGO members, board representatives, and sectoral experts from local, regional, and international organisations.

The webinar served as a collaborative platform for members, think tanks, and other CSOs from Africa to discuss the funding freeze and its implications for programming and partnerships. It also explored adaptive strategies to enhance organizational resilience amid funding uncertainties. NGOs in Zimbabwe are facing significant challenges, including restrictive legislation, economic fragility, and operational difficulties, particularly with the pending PVO Amendment Bill and the CDPA. This act imposes new regulatory burdens, such as costly Data Protection Impact Assessments and the appointment of trained Data Protection Officers.

NANGO achieved key actionable recommendations to enhance the sustainability of CSOs in Zimbabwe. Participants highlighted the importance of diversifying funding sources by establishing local philanthropy models, investing in social enterprises, and fostering private sector partnerships. They emphasized strengthening regional and international networks for collaborative advocacy and engaging with alternative donors, including South-South funding mechanisms. Legal preparedness was also addressed, with calls for comprehensive audits of funding agreements and contingency policies to mitigate job losses. Additionally, participants advocated for a CSO-government dialogue to promote local philanthropy and sustainable funding models, while NANGO committed to facilitating training on financial planning and resource mobilization. A rapid response mechanism was proposed to monitor funding trends and anticipate future crises, collectively empowering CSOs to thrive in a challenging environment.



## CHAPTER FIVE: SPOTLIGHTING FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

In 2025, NANGO solidified its position as a leading convenor, coordinator, and advocate for civil society in Zimbabwe, despite facing significant financial challenges and new regulatory hurdles. The year was characterized by a series of impactful flagship events that provided vital platforms for networking, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and enhancing the visibility of CSOs. These strategic engagements ensured that CSOs remained central to national development discussions, reinforcing their critical role in the sector.

Among the notable events hosted by NANGO was World NGO Day, themed “**Strength in Solidarity: Celebrating NGOs' Impact and Building Financial Sustainability.**” Additionally, the inaugural NANGO NGO Expo and Winter School took place under the theme “Localisation as a Game Changer: CSOs Advancing Local Solutions for Development Effectiveness.” These initiatives not only celebrated the contributions of NGOs but also emphasized the importance of financial sustainability and localized solutions in driving development forward.

### **2nd CSO Symposium Commemorating World NGO Day**

On World NGO Day, NANGO, in collaboration with NAYO and with support from the EU under the ENERGIZE project, organized a high-profile symposium. This event gathered a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, development partners, private sector actors, independent commissions, apex organizations, and media professionals. A total of 228 participants attended from four NANGO regions (Harare, Gweru, Mutare and Bulawayo), comprising 91 men, 135 women, and six PWDs. The symposium marked a significant milestone in fostering dialogue about the role of NGOs in Zimbabwe's development landscape under the theme “**Strength in Solidarity: Celebrating NGOs' Impact and Building Financial Sustainability.**”

The event provided a crucial platform for participants to acknowledge the role of NGOs in Zimbabwe's development while addressing the sector's increasing challenges, such as funding constraints, restrictive regulations, and shrinking civic space. Attendees engaged in discussions focused on policy advocacy, financial sustainability, strengthening partnerships, and safeguarding the operational environment for civil society. Amid shifting donor priorities and

tightening legal frameworks, the symposium allowed participants to assess the evolving landscape, strategize innovative financing models, and reinforce collaborative approaches to sustain NGO operations. Speakers and panellists emphasized the critical role of CSOs in service delivery, human rights advocacy, governance, and community empowerment. They also highlighted the need for NGOs to adapt to changing economic and political conditions through resilience, innovation, and collective action.

Additionally, the symposium facilitated knowledge exchange, best practice sharing, and networking opportunities, strengthening ties among NGOs, policymakers, businesses, and development partners. The event reaffirmed the importance of a strong, well-resourced, and independent civil society sector in advancing national development goals, ensuring inclusive governance, and safeguarding human rights. As participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, they reiterated their commitment to strengthening solidarity within the sector, advocating for a supportive policy environment, and securing long-term financial sustainability for local NGOs.

Figure 7: 2nd CSO Symposium Commemorating World NGO Day Reach by Sector



### NANGO Annual Regional NGO Expo & Winter School 2025

The event created a platform for NGOs to interface directly with stakeholders, including government officials, donors, private sector and the general public. The event was essential in dispelling misconceptions and promoting accurate information about CSOs. In recent years, CSOs have faced a barrage of misinformation and disinformation campaigns aimed at

discrediting their efforts. The NGO EXPO, therefore, offered a tangible response by allowing NGOs to present evidence-based narratives. Held under the theme, “**Localisation as a Game Changer: CSOs advancing Local Solutions for Development Effectiveness,**” the event brought together CSOs who are NANGO members, development partners, academic institutions, the private sector, and media committed to shifting power closer to the people and unlocking the transformative potential of local actions. The events were graced by guests of Honour from the Ministers of State's offices, the MoPSLSW, who delivered keynote addresses. The exhibition attracted 138 exhibitors with 50 from the Northern Region, 35 from the Eastern Region, 39 from the Midlands region, and 14 from the Western Region.

The events were graced by guests of Honor from the Ministers of States' offices, the MoPSLSW, and Local Authorities who delivered keynote addresses that emphasized the importance of localization and how it resonates with the devolution and the National Strategic Development of Zimbabwe. The Winter Schools featured keynotes and discussions emphasizing the urgent need to rethink traditional development models by empowering local actors as leaders in humanitarian efforts. Highlights included insightful sessions on the localization agenda and CSO sustainability in the face of shifting funding landscapes. Participants engaged in meaningful conversations about diverse initiatives across sectors such as health and education, while showcasing their impactful work. The Expo also recognized excellence through awards for outstanding exhibition stands, fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation among CSOs. Overall, the event served as a vital platform for promoting local ownership, transparency, and strategic partnerships in advancing inclusive development in Zimbabwe.

NANGO also activated its compliance and accountability clinics at the NGO EXPOs and winter schools in response to registration challenges NGOs are facing following the enactment of the PVO amendment Act, 2025. Many organisations had highlighted that they are struggling with unclear registration requirements and the implications of the new law on their operations. The clinics aimed to provide civil society organizations (CSOs) with step-by-step guidance, in-person support and access to simplified information regarding the PVO Amendment Act, necessary registration documents, and the transitional process. Cumulatively, the compliance and accountability clinics were visited by 171 CSOs representatives who wanted to enquire about the PVO Amendment Act and NANGO membership. Through providing first-hand information and in-person support, these clinics played a crucial role in assisting organizations are still transitioning to register as PVOs.

### **15th NGO Directors Summer School**

The 15th NGO Directors Summer Retreat, convened under the theme “**Navigating New Frontiers: Development Financing and Civic Space in Transition,**” brought together 208 participants, comprised of civil society leaders, development partners, government

representatives, private sector actors, and key stakeholders from 26–28 November 2025 at the Urban Lifestyle Hotel in Masvingo. The Retreat gathered 208 participants and provided a strategic platform for reflection, dialogue, collective learning, and action planning in response to evolving development financing dynamics and a complex civic space environment.

Over three days, participants engaged deeply with critical issues shaping the future of Zimbabwe's civil society sector. The Retreat commenced with targeted masterclass sessions on crisis leadership strategies, gender and anti-corruption intersections, and civic leadership resilience designed to strengthen organisational capacities in turbulent contexts. A dedicated reception dinner foregrounded gender-based violence advocacy, aligning with the global 16 Days of Activism campaign.

The Retreat's opening and deep collective reflection sessions were anchored by remarks from national and international stakeholders, including perspectives from the UN, Development partners represented by the EU and the government represented by the MoPSSLW and Masvingo Rural District Council (MRDC). Sessions explored the state of the civil society operating environment, drawing on insights from the [State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe Watch Report \(2024-2025\)](#). Participants interrogated key trends, legislative developments, and inclusive strategies to foster a more enabling environment.

The Retreat featured insightful sessions led by national and international stakeholders, including the UN and the EU, which provided an overview of the civil society operating environment in Zimbabwe. Participants engaged in interactive dialogues to assess the implementation of the PVO Amendment Act of 2025, while high-level presentations discussed the future of development financing amid declining traditional aid. Workstream sessions also tackled issues related to accountability, public health resource challenges, and digital violence against women, emphasizing the need for sector readiness and compliance with forthcoming assessments.

Discussions also focused on the localization of efforts to ensure that commitments translate into tangible changes in power and resources for local organizations. Participants underscored the necessity of a context-specific localization framework and the importance of compliance with digital governance frameworks. The event concluded with a grant makers roundtable to discuss evolving funding priorities and the importance of transparent partnerships between donors and CSOs. The Retreat reaffirmed the sector's commitment to navigating the challenges of development financing while safeguarding civic space, ultimately fostering collaborative strategies and resilience among participants.



## CHAPTER SIX: COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY STATUS REVIEW

In 2025, NANGO continued to position strategic communication and visibility as a core enabler of institutional effectiveness, sector coordination, and public trust in civil society. Against a backdrop of persistent misinformation, increasing scrutiny of CSOs, and evolving regulatory dynamics, the organisation sustained deliberate efforts to strengthen narrative control, amplify credible civil society voices, and promote transparency and accountability. Recognising the heightened information needs and compliance anxieties within the civil society sector, the organisation prioritised the dissemination of accurate, timely, and practical guidance to support members, partners, and stakeholders in navigating the evolving regulatory landscape.

Building on gains recorded in the previous year, communication remained a key instrument for advancing NANGO's Strategic Plan (2023–2025), particularly in supporting stakeholder engagement, policy advocacy, and membership value creation. Emphasis was placed on ensuring consistent, timely, and accessible information flows between the Secretariat, member organisations, development partners, regulators, the media, and the general public. Through proactive messaging and coordinated visibility efforts, NANGO sought not only to inform but also to influence discourse on the role, relevance, and impact of civil society in national development processes.

These efforts were implemented under the #CivicSpaceMatters, #ChangingTheNarrative, and #KnowYourRegulations campaigns, which collectively sought to counter misinformation, demystify regulatory requirements, and reposition civil society as a credible, transparent, and accountable development actor. Communication interventions deliberately combined awareness-raising with practical compliance support, ensuring that advocacy for civic space protection was anchored in evidence, legality, and responsible organisational practice.

Throughout the year, communication was deliberately positioned as a two-way engagement tool aimed at informing stakeholders while also creating platforms for feedback, reflection, and collective action. NANGO ensured that its messaging consistently reflected sector realities, member priorities, and emerging national and global development conversations. This approach strengthened transparency and accountability, enhanced stakeholder confidence, and reinforced NANGO's role as a trusted convener and voice of civil society.

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Information Sharing**

Throughout 2025, NANGO utilised structured governance and programme platforms to strengthen two-way communication and stakeholder feedback mechanisms. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) remained the highest consultative forum, providing members with an opportunity to review organisational performance, influence strategic direction, and contribute to priority-setting. This was complemented by National and Regional Board meetings, as well as programme-specific consultations embedded within flagship events and initiatives.

Communication and visibility considerations were systematically integrated into NANGO's flagship events, coordination meetings, and policy engagements. Feedback tools—such as post-event surveys and stakeholder consultations—were utilised to assess the effectiveness of communication approaches and to inform continuous improvement. This deliberate emphasis on participatory communication ensured that NANGO remained responsive to the evolving needs and expectations of its membership, partners, and stakeholders.

### **Digital Media and Strategic Online Engagement**

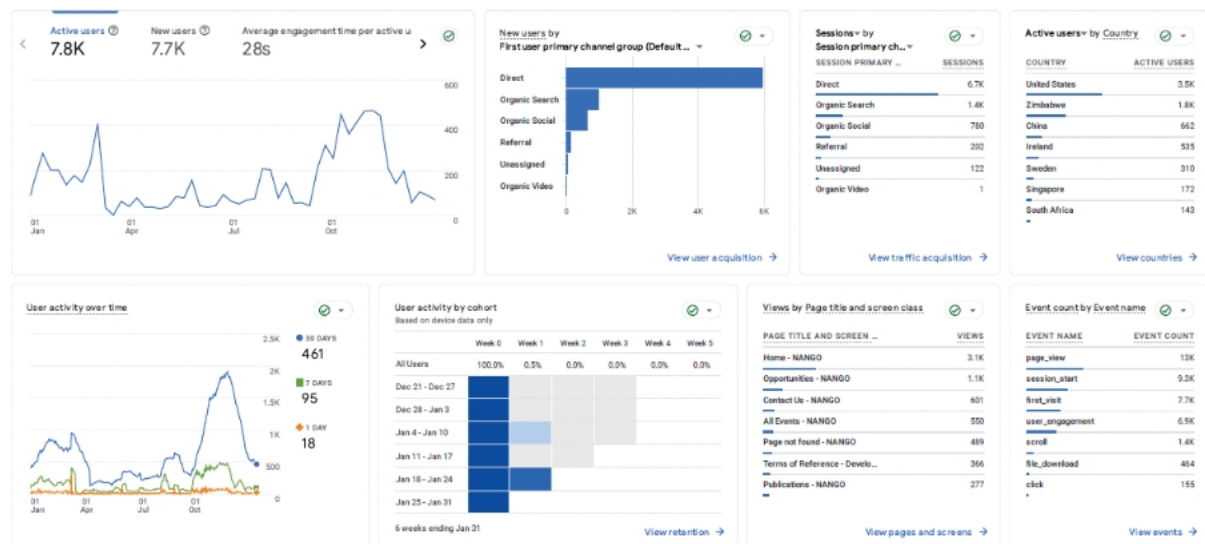
In 2025, NANGO strengthened its digital innovation agenda by introducing new platforms designed to respond to emerging information and compliance needs within the civil society sector. In August 2025, the organisation launched a dedicated [NGO Compliance Centre](#) on the NANGO website. This page serves as a centralised depository of publications, guidelines, notices, and reference materials related to regulatory and statutory compliance requirements for NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. Since its establishment, the NGO Compliance Centre has attracted over 500 users, underscoring the growing demand for accessible, reliable, and up-to-date compliance information. The platform functions as a practical knowledge hub for CSOs, supporting informed decision-making and promoting sector-wide compliance, accountability, and sustainability.

Complementing the website-based compliance resources, NANGO also embraced emerging technologies to enhance real-time access to information. In September 2025, the organisation launched Nosizo, a WhatsApp-based Assistant Chatbot that relies heavily on Artificial Intelligence (AI) with minimal human input. Designed as a 24/7 digital support tool, Nosizo

provides users with simplified, on-demand guidance on regulatory and legislative compliance requirements, tailored to the specific information requests submitted by users.

Since its launch, NANGO has registered over 300 users, with the most frequently accessed information relating to registration as a PVO registration in line with the PVO Amendment Act of 2025, as well as ZIMRA compliance requirements. The chatbot has proven particularly valuable for newly established and emerging organisations seeking clarity on registration processes, statutory obligations, and compliance pathways. Through leveraging artificial intelligence, NANGO enhanced accessibility to critical compliance information while improving responsiveness and operational efficiency.

Figure 8: NANGO Website Analytics Report



In 2025, NANGO's website recorded strong and sustained user engagement, attracting 7.8K active users and 7.7K new users, with an average engagement time of 28 seconds per active user. Traffic was driven primarily through direct visits (6.7K sessions), followed by organic search (1.4K) and organic social (780), demonstrating growing brand recognition and improved search visibility. The platform registered 13K page views and 9.3K session starts, reflecting consistent user interaction with NANGO's digital content. The most visited pages included the Home page (3.1K views), Opportunities (1.1K), and Contact Us (601), highlighting strong interest in updates, calls, and institutional information. Geographically, the website reached a global audience, with the highest traffic originating from the United States (3.5K users) and Zimbabwe (1.8K), followed by China, Ireland, Sweden, Singapore, and South Africa, underscoring NANGO's expanding international visibility. Overall, the website continues to serve as a critical platform for information dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and regional and international outreach.

Additionally, the Association strengthened its direct stakeholder engagement through targeted email marketing using the Mailchimp platform, which now reaches 852 subscribers comprising member organisations, development partners, private sector actors, the media, and members of the general public. Throughout the year under review, we disseminated 30 email updates, largely focused on Civic Space developments, regulatory shifts, surveys, policy processes, and sector alerts. These updates ensured that our stakeholders received timely, accurate, and relevant information to guide their work and strategic positioning. The campaign recorded a total of 7,326 opens, demonstrating strong audience interest and sustained engagement with NANGO's content.

To complement these efforts and enhance real-time communication, the Association launched a dedicated [WhatsApp Channel](#) on 19 June 2025 to facilitate quicker dissemination of updates and opportunities. Through this platform, we shared calls for proposals, vacancy announcements, scholarship opportunities, event notices, and urgent regulatory alerts. Since its establishment, the WhatsApp Channel has attracted 316 followers, reflecting growing demand for accessible and immediate information-sharing platforms. Together, these digital outreach tools have strengthened NANGO's responsiveness, improved stakeholder connectivity, and enhanced the timely flow of information across the civil society sector.

### **Social Media Advocacy and Campaigns**

NANGO intensified its strategic use of social media platforms to strengthen advocacy, enhance public awareness, and engage diverse audiences on critical policy, governance, and national development issues. The Association leveraged its digital platforms to ensure the timely dissemination of key updates, regulatory alerts, campaign messages, and sector-wide announcements. The #CivicSpaceMatters campaign remained central to these efforts, particularly following the enactment of the PVO Amendment Act on 11 April 2025. Through this campaign, NANGO actively monitored both the offline and online operating environment for CSOs, raised awareness on emerging restrictions, mobilised solidarity across sectors, and consistently emphasised the need for an enabling environment that upholds fundamental rights, constitutional freedoms, and civil society autonomy.

In parallel, NANGO strengthened the #KnowYourRegulations campaign to ensure that CSOs, CBOs, and development partners remained accurately informed about evolving compliance requirements under the PVO Amendment Act of 2025. The Association translated complex legal provisions into accessible infographics and simplified guidance materials drawn from the PVO FAQ document, covering issues such as registration fees, the 90-day transitional period, beneficial ownership definition, and reporting obligations. As the transitional deadline approached, NANGO implemented a targeted countdown campaign to promote timely compliance and reduce the risk of administrative bottlenecks. Following the gazetting of the

CDPA regulations, NANGO further expanded its digital awareness initiatives to guide NGOs on data protection compliance requirements, complementing the in-person Mobile Compliance Clinics and ensuring that organisations without physical access to these clinics still received critical regulatory information.

The Association also sustained its image-building efforts through the #ChangingTheNarrative campaign, which seeks to address persistent misconceptions about the role, legitimacy, and impact of civil society in Zimbabwe. Through curated storytelling, impact spotlights, and community-focused content, NANGO showcased the tangible contributions of CSOs in advancing social protection, human rights, development, and service delivery. This initiative aligns with broader global efforts to counter negative narratives about civil society and reinforce public trust in the sector.

NANGO implemented these campaigns across its official social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok, Instagram, and WhatsApp, contributing to sustained growth in digital visibility and engagement. To expand its outreach and preserve key policy dialogues, NANGO uploaded five recordings of sponsored radio sessions covering strategic issues such as the GPEDC, the National Youth Policy, the NDS2, and national budget processes. The Association also published 21 video snippets on its YouTube channel, resulting in 19 new subscribers and 3,551 views, representing a 766% increase in viewership compared to 2024. Collectively, these digital engagement efforts strengthened NANGO's advocacy footprint, broadened its audience reach, and reinforced its leadership role in shaping informed civic discourse in Zimbabwe.

## NANGO SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

NANGO continues to amplify its voice and expand its digital footprint across multiple platforms, driving engagement and awareness for the civil society sector.



CHANNEL / TOOL	FOLLOWERS / USERS	REACH / IMPRESSIONS	INTERACTIONS
Facebook	11,120 (+942)	320,200	5,211 (+5.7%)
X	11,598 (-)	95,364	8,883 (-)
Instagram	1,339 (+327)	56,005	39 (-51.2%)
LinkedIn	22,188 (+6,297)	396,862	3,717 (-)
TikTok	208 (+208)	8,915	360 (-)
WhatsApp	316 (+316)	408	- (-)

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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.



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## Reflection and Way Forward

In 2025, the association treated communication not simply as a visibility function, but as a strategic pillar that advances NANGO's vision of a strong, coordinated, and sustainable civil society contributing meaningfully to democratic governance and socio-economic development in Zimbabwe. We amplified the collective voice of our members, strengthened information flows across the network, and ensured that civil society actors remained informed, connected, and confident while navigating a complex and evolving operating environment. We consistently delivered clear and timely messaging, which enabled us to advance our mission to represent, coordinate, and strengthen NGOs, safeguard civic space, and promote constructive engagement with the government, development partners, and other stakeholders. Our communication efforts elevated the work and impact of civil society, reinforced accountability and transparency, and strengthened NANGO's position as a credible and trusted convener at both national and regional levels.

Looking ahead, the association will continue to embed communication at the centre of its strategic objectives. NANGO will invest in data-driven digital engagement, strengthen our knowledge management systems, and expand multimedia storytelling that highlights the tangible contributions of civil society in advancing human rights, social justice, and inclusive development. The organisation will also deepen partnerships with media institutions and strategic allies to promote informed public discourse and advocate for a more enabling policy and regulatory environment. These deliberate steps will ensure that civil society remains visible, credible, coordinated, and influential in shaping Zimbabwe's development agenda and democratic governance processes.

## NANGO in the Media

1. [NANGO Development Partner of the Year A Moment of Appreciation](#)
2. [World NGO Day Overview and Profiles of 23 National and Regional NGO Umbrella and Support Organisations in Africa](#)
3. [GPEDC a tool for advancing development effectiveness in Zimbabwe](#)
4. [Zimbabwe GPEDC Monitoring Blind Without Disaggregated Data, Say CSOs Womens Lens ZW](#)

## Resources

1. [2nd CSO Symposium Commemorating World NGO Day Report](#)
2. [NANGO Annual Report 2024](#)
3. [Development Watch Volume 5, Issue 1](#)
4. [Development Watch Volume 5, Issue 3](#)
5. [NANGO PVO Amendment Act Fact Sheet](#)
6. [NANGO PVO Amendment Act Registration Advisory Note](#)
7. [NANGO PVO Amendment Act Frequently Asked Questions](#)
8. [NSSA Self-Service Portal Step-by-Step Guideline](#)
9. [How to Register on ZIMRA TaRMS Platform](#)
10. [PVO Registration Fees under S.I. 85 of 2025](#)
11. [National Development Strategy 2 Policy Paper: Towards an Inclusive, Resilient & Transformative Zimbabwe \(2026-2030\)](#)
12. [State of Civic Space in Zimbabwe Watch Report \(2024-2025\)](#)





## CHAPTER SEVEN: PARTNERS' APPRECIATION

As NANGO reflects on the achievements and milestones attained in 2025, the association extends its sincere appreciation to its partners and sponsors for their unwavering support, collaboration, and shared commitment to strengthening civil society in Zimbabwe. The successes recorded during the year would not have been possible without the financial, technical, and strategic contributions of partners who continue to believe in NANGO's mandate and vision.

Throughout the year, partnerships played a critical role in enabling NANGO to advance its strategic priorities, particularly in the areas of coordination, policy advocacy, civic space protection, compliance support, and institutional strengthening. Partner support enhanced the organisation's ability to convene inclusive platforms, develop evidence-based knowledge products, deliver capacity-building interventions, and respond proactively to emerging sectoral challenges. This collaboration ensured that NANGO remained responsive, credible, and effective in serving its members and the broader civil society ecosystem.

Beyond programme implementation, NANGO deeply values the trust, guidance, and constructive engagement extended by its partners. Continuous dialogue, shared learning, and mutual accountability strengthened the quality and impact of interventions while reinforcing a collective commitment to transparency, good governance, and sustainable development. These partnerships fostered innovation, resilience, and adaptability, enabling the organisation to navigate a complex operating environment and deliver meaningful outcomes for stakeholders.

As NANGO looks ahead, it remains committed to nurturing and expanding strategic partnerships grounded in shared values, mutual respect, and long-term impact. The Association looks forward to deepening collaboration with existing partners while welcoming new alliances that advance an enabling environment for civil society, amplify collective advocacy, and contribute to inclusive and accountable development in Zimbabwe.

NANGO expresses its profound gratitude to all partners and sponsors who supported the organisation during 2025. Your continued partnership remains instrumental in empowering civil society, strengthening collective voice, and shaping a more just, resilient, and participatory society.



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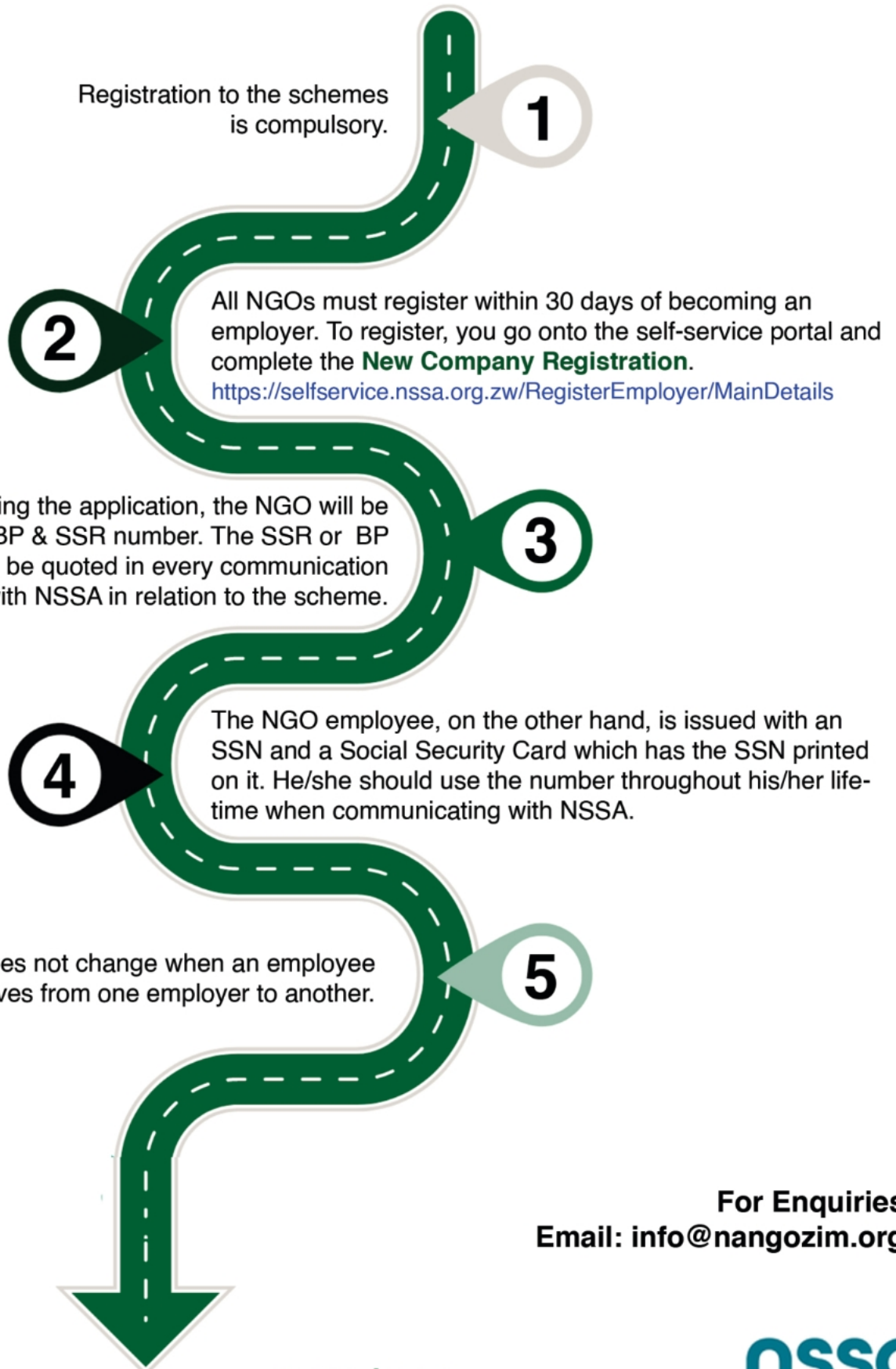
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2 McGowan Road, Milton Park  
Harare, Zimbabwe.

[info@nangozim.org](mailto:info@nangozim.org)  
[www.nangozim.org](http://www.nangozim.org)

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