

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT

20
22



ZNCWC

PVO NO. 385/68



NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC), continued to strive for: **A Zimbabwe where the best interests of the child are upheld**” through the various project activities, advocacy and coordination initiatives. ZNCWC complements Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) efforts in ensuring that the rights of every child in the country are protected and fulfilled. We applaud the Government for initiating the civil registration blitz that

occurred from April to September 2022. This went a long way to ensure children, as well as their parents, have the necessary identity documents. We also applaud the Government of Zimbabwe for the alignment of the Marriages Act No. 1 of 2022, which has outlawed child marriages, the Guardianship of Minors Amendment Act 2 of 2022, which has updated guardianship of children, and the Constitutional Court ruling that has raised the age of consent to sex from 16 to 18 years. These legal and policy amendments are in line with recommendations given to the Government by international treaty bodies such as the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). These will also go a long way in strengthening the country’s child protection framework.

Though 2022 was a difficult year in terms of the funding environment, however, we are grateful to our longstanding partners TDH, UNICEF, World Vision, and Christian Aid, just to mention a few, who supported us to carry out our major activities, which are reflected in this report. COVID-19 remained a challenge within our programming. The vulnerability of children increased in 2022, especially due to a lack of support for school fees that resulted in children dropping out of school as a result of the continued economic challenges the country is facing. As reported by the media across the country, sexual exploitation of children increased in 2022. The emerging issue of drug and substance abuse among children and young people and is concerning, but we are relieved that the Government has established an inter-ministerial task force to address this issue.

Last but not least, we want to thank the National Executive Committee for providing overall leadership to the organization during difficult times when resources were limited. We also encourage the Government to completed the alignment of child rights legislation to ensure children enjoy their rights. Thank you.

Who are we?

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Vision | A Zimbabwe where the best interests of the child are upheld |
| Mission | To coordinate the Child Rights sector in Zimbabwe through advocacy, research and innovative membership driven approaches for effective child development and programming. |
| Values | <p>Inclusiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will strive to leave no child behind and design our programs and activities in a way that ensures the effective inclusion of all children regardless of gender, disability, Rural urban divide, vulnerability, etc <p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We endeavour to act and behave with honesty, transparency and accountability towards our children, members, partners and authorities in order to develop and sustain trustworthy and respectful relationships <p>Responsiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We promote systems and procedures that ensure that we react swiftly and proactively in an engaging, empathetic and pragmatic way. <p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will ensure that the participation of the Child and our memberships is our primary way of working as well as promoting engagement of all stakeholders |

Guiding Principles

Best interests of the child- all activities, projects and initiatives to be carried out by the organization and its membership have to be in the best interests of the child.

Mentorship-we believe in skills and knowledge sharing amongst the membership to realize best practices in organizational management and programming.

Child participation- children have to participate meaningfully in decision making processes on issues that affect them, which include policy formulation and programming.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) Annual Report for the year 2022 was compiled to present an accurate account of all project and organisational activities carried out in the year. The year started with no resources to carry out activities and to support the administration costs of the organisation, resources were only available in February and July 2022. The report gives an overview of the state of Zimbabwe's children in 2022 as the world recovers from the shock and effects of COVID 19, the operational environment the organization has been implementing child rights advocacy activities; in the economic, social and legal context. The current operational portfolio of ZNCWC consists of 2 projects; the on-going Terre des Hommes (Germany) (TDH) the child and youth driven peace initiative phase II project. The just ended Christian Aid supported project the child rights capacity strengthening of ZNCWC in responding to children's issues Phase II. The purpose of this report is to show the progress ZNCWC has made towards achieving its strategic objectives in 2022. The report will highlight summaries of various program activities undertaken, including communications, resource mobilization and stakeholder coordination, regional and international advocacy engagements. The Annual Report also gives an overview of the Child Rights Coalition (CRC) activities that the organization coordinated. The report will also highlight challenges faced in the reporting period and possible recommendations for the next operational year.

The two projects that were being implemented by ZNCWC in the period under review were:

- The Child and Youth Driven Peace Initiative – supported by TDH Germany.
- Child Rights Capacity Strengthening of ZNCWC in Responding to Children Issues Phase II - supported by Christian Aid Zimbabwe (ended December 2022).

The major successes achieved by ZNCWC in the period under review included:

- Reaching thousands of children and young people directly and indirectly in Zimbabwe through the various projects, including distribution of COVID 19 PPEs and dignity kits for girls, the nutritional gardens established at Tichakunda Home in Hatcliffe Harare, trainings of children including members of the Junior Assembly on COVID 19 vaccines so as to increase its uptake among children and youths, child protection systems, participation, ecological child rights, disability inclusion, and through several commemorations such as International Day of the Girl Child, Day of the African Child, Universal Children's Day amongst others, and the Annual Child Rights Coalition Conference.
- Successfully hosted the 2021 Zimbabwe Annual Child Rights Coalition Conference on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2022 which was held under the theme: "Together for Children in 2021 and beyond" and successfully hosted the 2022 Annual Child Rights Coalition Conference on the 21st and 22nd of November 2022 which was held under the theme: "Our rights-Our present and Our future".
- Successfully reviewed and developed a new 3-year organisational Strategic Plan and a 4-year Advocacy Strategy.

- Successfully elected and oriented new ZNCWC National Executive Committee. The Board had a capacity strengthening training on leadership and governance.
- ZNCWC Staff Capacity strengthening in communication, financial management, resource mobilisation, safeguarding, communication, monitoring and evaluation.
- Carried out and documented findings of the Situational and gender analysis: Violence against Children (VAC) in COVID 19. And a baseline study for the project: “Child and Youth Peace Driven Initiatives Phase II”.

The key lessons learned in the reporting period included:

- Resource mobilization remains a key issue in sustaining the organisation.
- Situational analysis is key – constant surveillance of the everchanging operational environment at the operational level

2.0 PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022.

2.1 Christian Aid funded projects;

The year 2022 began with two (2) continuing projects from 2021 funded by Christian Aid, which were The COVID 19 emergency response project and ZNCWC capacity strengthening in responding to child rights issues (Code 1) project. The project supported the Hatcliffe district COVID-19 taskforce team which was trained by the Ministry of Health and Child Care on information dissemination, responding to cases and compliance with health regulations and protocols governing the national response to COVID-19. The project provided a critical element supporting the coordination meetings and platforms for the taskforce. A total of twelve (12) meetings were supported. One of the major components of the action plans was the need to continuously raise awareness on COVID-19 whilst also enforcing the World Health Organisation's guidelines on response to the virus. In this way, Government cadres on the ground, namely the Health Promoters, Child Care Workers, Youths Officers among others were tasked with awareness raising in the community. The risk to this was that these grassroots cadres were not trained in the given task which would likely compromise the quality of credible and scientific information or let alone, they would not be able to respond to questions which required technical expertise. This gap was later filled in the Code I Phase II project.



Some of the beneficiaries who benefited from COVID 19 distributions.

The project managed to reach people from hard-to-reach areas in Hatcliffe such as those in the Baghdad and MaCabin areas, who benefitted from the distributions. Face masks, hands free hand-washing kits, soap were part of the PPEs distributed. Dignity kits were distributed to girls aged between 9 and 18 years of age, the package included two (2) cotton panties, one (1) piece of green bar soap, three (3) single packets of sanitary pads, one (1) tooth brush, one (1) tooth paste and one (1) bathing towel. The distributions were done at Hatcliffe Community Hall for the elderly and disadvantaged families and in schools a total of 6 schools were reached which are Tichakunda Primary and Secondary School, Hatcliffe 1, 2 and 3 Primary School, Friendship High School and Grace Primary School. Each school selected a number of disadvantaged learners as beneficiaries. Table below shows items which were received from Christian Aid over those which were distributed.

| Item | Total received | Total distributed | Not distributed |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Masks | 3 000 | 1219 | 1781 |
| Hands Free kits | 50 | 38 | 12 |
| Sanitary Pads | 2000 | 1544 | 456 |
| Cotton Panties | 625 | 625 | 0 |
| Soap | 625 | 625 | 36 bars |
| Tooth brushes | 625 | 625 | 0 |
| Small Towels | 625 | 585 | 40 |
| Colgate | 365 | 354 | 11 |

These actions contributed to reducing the spread of the virus and stemming the increase in new cases. However, deficiencies were noted in enforcing strict masking up which required sustained awareness raising to effect behaviour change in that regard.

The children at Tichakunda School were very happy with our livelihoods intervention where we planted vegetables. These have been supplementing the children's diet and nutrition whilst surplus is being sold. The Headmistress had this to say about the intervention;

“Tirikufara zvekuti nekutibatsira kwamaita kuti tivetine garden pachikoro pano. Nguva zhinji tinotambura kuti tiwane muriwo wekubikira vana kana tisina ma garden. Tinozopedzisira takuvapa mushoma mushoma pamushoma watinenge Tawana. Tinovimba kuti tichawana muriwo wekudya uyezve newekutengesa kuti tigotenga nyangwe hupfu wesadza, sipo yevana yekugeza, ma pads kana mabhuku nemabhilo.” Loosely translated this means that Tichakunda School and Orphanage were happy with the establishment of the vegetable gardens at their premises. They indicated that so many times, they struggle in providing for the children such that they end up feeding them with the little available, however with this garden they are hoping to have enough for the children to eat and excess for sell and buy school stationery for the children.

The success of this intervention has revived interest in the school to undertake fish farming which they had abandoned due to limited resources and support. The idea is to supplement the children's diet, nutrition and make profits from surplus.

Feedback from one of the girls aged 14 years.

“inini semwana sikana nguva zhinji ndinoshandisa machira ndiri kuma periods nekuti vabereki vangu havakwanise kunditengera mapads asi nhasi ndirikufara nekuti ndapiwa mapads mahara, Handichasekwi nevamwe ndaspoiler hembe yangu nekuti ndave nezvekuchinja nguva nenguva uye ndakukwanisa kuenda kuchikoro nyangwe ndiri kuma periods nekuti ndave nezvishandiso zvakawana.” Loosely translated this means that, this young girl was happy with the dignity kits provided as she used to miss school during her period days. Her parents could barely afford to buy her a packet of sanitary pads. With the aid given she will have happy periods and attend school during her periods.

This aptly reveals that girls were empowered with the issuance of dignity kits and this assists them to fulfil and enjoy their rights to education. Their dignity as girls was restored and their confidence boosted.



Some of the girls who received dignity kits.

Total Reach the two Christian Aid funded projects, (The COVID 19 emergency response project and ZNCWC capacity strengthening in responding to child rights issues (Code 1) project)

A total of 700 received 2 or more items of the distributed items.



134 Health Promoters, Child Care Workers, Youths Officers and Community volunteers were reached through the coordination meetings.

143 ZNCWC staff members, children and child rights coalition members were reached directly in the code 1 project.



200 pupils benefitting directly from the nutritional garden at Tichakunda

5,179 people reached indirectly through COVID 19 vaccination campaigns.

6,918,703 people reached through mass media in the COVID 19 vaccinations radio programs and



social media campaigns.

143 Junior parliamentarians and Councillors, Youth Volunteers, Community Case Workers, Health promoters received COVID 19 Vaccination information dissemination training.

12 Schools visited in the COVID 19 Vaccination awareness programme in Hatcliffe.



COVID 19 vaccination awareness raising in schools.

Story of change from the Christian Aid funded Project

Information is power to us children

My name is Gladys Kaimba, I am a Health Promoter under the Hatcliffe Health Committee as well as a Community Case Worker (CCW). My work involves going in the communities every now and then. If I am not working in the communities, I will be at the Local Poly clinic. Being at the local clinic has given me an opportunity to meet and talk with patients, monitor number of clients visiting the clinic during the day as well participate in regular mobile vaccination exercises.

In my community, people came for COVID 19 vaccination in their numbers when it was introduced early 2021 and the numbers then dropped. Numbers of children who came for the vaccines remained low because young people thought that, COVID 19 vaccines are for adults, especially those who are going to work and that with the declining cases, COVID 19 prevention regulations including the COVID 19 vaccine is no longer necessary. Some could

not even gather the confidence to come for vaccination because of the myths they heard concerning the COVID 19 vaccines.

After engagement meetings with ZNCWC on COVID 19 Vaccines information campaigns in schools and communities' numbers of children and adults coming for the COVID 19 vaccine increased. Previously when we used to do our mobile vaccine exercises in schools, we could vaccinate at maximum 100 students but the figures of one mobile vaccination exercise which was conducted during project implementation from 16 -23 September 2022, rose drastically to 434 (232 girls and 202 boys) in 9 schools (Hatcliffe II Primary, Hatcliffe I primary, Hatcliffe 3 Primary, Tichakundan Primary, Friendship High School, Green Light School, Hatcliffe High, Devine School, and Tichakunda Secondary School). Children in school uniforms are also seen coming for their COVID 19 vaccines. The number of new cases in the area have since decreased to 0-5 new cases per month and 0-2 deaths per month. As at the project end a total of 5195 people were vaccinated either with the first, second or third dose between the period of June – 10 December 2022. NOTE: Statistics provided where obtained from the Local Clinic.

The project team also managed to equip 30 Members of the Junior Council and MPs with scientific and credible information about the COVID 19 vaccines so that they cascade the information down to their different constituencies. We distributed fliers and posters with scientific and credible information to demystify myths and misconceptions around COVID 19 vaccines.



Capacity Strengthening of Junior Parliamentarians and Councillors on COVID 19 vaccines.

2.2 tdh funded project, **Children and Youth Peace driven initiative phase II.**

Through tdh support, ZNCWCs is implementing a three-year project to create safe schools and communities for children and youths in selected urban areas of Harare Metropolitan Province, namely Hopley and Hatcliffe. This is the continuation of the project ZNCWC-Zimbabwe-2019 which started in August 2019 and ended in July 2021. The project overall goal is to build a culture of peace and ensure non-violent ways are adopted to resolve conflicts. The project is building upon gains realised during the first phase of the project. Through training on child protection laws and policies, capacity building children, youths and caregivers on conflict management and peace building, advocacy for improved budget allocation to child protection systems; the project seeks to ensure that violence and abuse against children and youth is reduced through changing community members attitude, beliefs, and perceptions on violence. The project works with Child and Youth Led Groups, Child Protection Committees, Law Enforcers to ensure a multi-sectorial approach in preventing violence and abuse and build a culture of peace. Children and youth are capacitated to be mediators of peace and take a lead in championing peace initiatives at local and national levels. Policy makers are being engaged to ensure adequate resources are earmarked for child protection systems so that they are effective in carrying the protection mandate. The project target children and young people with disabilities and other key populations (inclusive of disabled and LGBTIQ). Duty bearers were reached through various capacity building sessions and policy dialogues. The project collaborates with like-minded Civil Society Organisations, local authorities, government structures at local and national level, child and youth led groups to realise safe spaces for every child in Zimbabwe.

The Project contributed to the following:

Collaborative initiatives to reduce violence and handle conflicts peacefully specifically focusing on child youth-led collaborative initiatives to reduce violence and handle conflicts peacefully. Under this indicator the project. The following achievements were noted:

Held a community awareness campaign against harmful practices in Hatcliffe in which 60 Children (40F/20M) and 19 Young people from International Youth Network (10M/9F) participated

6 Junior Parliamentarians (2M/4F) participated in the Parliamentary Caucus Launch for the Child Rights, 6 Young People from International Youth Network (3M/3F) also participated

2 sessions were conducted on radio and on TV to raise awareness on child protection laws and policies. This was done on Heart and Soul online TV and on Radio Zimbabwe and 2(1M/1F) young people participated reaching out to over 1 million listeners

1 TV show was also conducted with ZBC and 4 young people participated (2M/2F) to raise awareness against harmful practices in Hatcliffe

3 Community Dialogues conducted. Children and Youth also managed to facilitate on the dialogue conducted in Hatcliffe on Child Rights Violations. 120 Children (40/ 80F) and 15Young People (7/8) participated

3 District Child-led Child Protection Committee Meetings conducted

25 Young people (12M/13F) also participated on social media campaigns on ending harmful practices against children

205 Children (120F/85M) aged 13-17 and 75 young people (30M/45F) aged 18-25 children and youth were active in child/youth led initiatives to reduce violence and handle conflicts peacefully.

1. Action plans have been developed through the Child Protection Working Group, under this indicator the project managed to develop two action plans which are;

Child Rights Parliamentary Caucus Action Plan and protection Working Group Action Plan

205 children aged between 13 – 17 years, 75 young people aged 18 – 25 were directly reached in the tdh funded project.

The tdh project conducted 2 major research studies, a baseline study and a gender and situational analysis on violence against children (VAC) in the COVID 19 pandemic. The highlights of these 2 studies are given as follows:



The specific objectives of the baseline study were as follows:

- To assess the level of knowledge of children, young people and target groups in terms of the laws that protect children, including assessing effectiveness of child protection laws.
- To understand the experiences of children and young people in project areas with regards VAC and GBV (Hopley and Hatcliffe) (gender analysis of VAC/GBV)
- To assess the effectiveness of community child protection systems in the project areas, including gaps and recommendations for strengthening these systems to inform project delivery

The study reached 53 children and young people, 20 parents and care-givers and 12 key informants through individual questionnaire interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs).

Below is a brief summary of the key findings determined in the research study:

Knowledge levels of children, young people and target groups and effectiveness of child protection laws.

- 71.69% of children and young people indicated that they were aware of laws and policies that protect children in Zimbabwe, compared to 28.3% who were not aware
- 39.6% of children and young people agreed that the laws and policies that protect children in Zimbabwe are effective in protecting them from possible abuse and harm. In contrast 16.9% disagreed whilst a significant 26.4% were unsure

Experience of child and young people in terms of Violence against Children (VAC) and gender-based violence (GBV) in the project areas.

- Most respondents were of the opinion that Girls/young women were most vulnerable to VAC and GBV, owing to patriarchy, their vulnerability to sexual violence, sexual exploitation and harassment
- Respondents from the key informant interviews (DSD and ZRP-VFU) indicated that rape, sexual assault and child marriages were the most common VAC/GBV cases reported
- Only 18.9% of children and young people feel safe all the time/most of the time in their communities. Approximately 30.2% feel safe at times, whilst 28.3% feel safe less often, and significant number of 22.6% stated that they rarely feel safe/not safe at all.

Effectiveness of community child protection systems in the project areas, including gaps and recommendations for strengthening these systems to inform project delivery.

- The majority of children and young people indicated that they were aware of the community child protection structures (CPS) in their respective communities (73.5%).
- 62.2% of the individual children and young people highlighted that children and youth participate in the community child protection structures
- 39.6% rated the effectiveness of the CPS at somewhat effective, and only 2% of respondents felt that the CPS was very effective
- The gaps identified in the CPS were mostly resource incapacitation, weak coordination and feedback mechanisms between the CPS, children and the community

Recommendations drawn from the study.

A summary of the key recommendations included the following:

- Expediting the harmonization and alignment of laws through enactment of Bills (Children’s Amendment Bill, Child Justice Bill)
- Public education/awareness campaigns in communities on child rights, VAC/GBV prevention and non-violent ways of resolving conflict
- Enhancing engagement and capacitating child-led and youth-led groups for increase child participation community child protection structures, VAC/GBV prevention
- Increased capacitation/Mobilization of all child protection stakeholders for enhanced collaboration/coordination in VAC/GBV prevention programming.



The objectives of the situational and gender analysis study were as follows:

- To assess the perceptions of children, young people, and target groups regarding the gender differential impact of COVID 19 on the target communities (physical, social and economic impact of the pandemic on girls/women, boys and men)
- To determine the child rights violations/forms of VAC and GBV experienced by children and youth, different groups of children (e.g. vulnerable groups like OVCs, children with disabilities and girls) in the context of COVID 19
- To analyse the reporting and response mechanisms that were responding to VAC and GBV in the context of COVID 19
- To gather recommendations that will be used to inform advocacy strategies for policy influencing and decision- making regards strengthening child protection systems for the prevention of VAC and GBV.

The study reached 79 children and young people, 30 parents and care-givers and 9 key informants through individual questionnaire interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs).

In the three research sites; in which tdh-Germany has operational projects with implementing partners ZNCWC (Hopley, Hatcliffe) and Community Arts Project (Mabvuku), these communities have intersecting vulnerabilities. Hopley and Hatcliffe are peri-urban locations which emerged from informal settlements, whereas Mabvuku is a high-density area. These are densely populated, low-income areas where unemployment rates are high. There is limited health, education, child protection and social services. There are hotspots within these areas where sexual exploitation and other forms of VAC/GBV are rife, for example, “kwa Antony” in Hopley and “Pamuzinda” in Hatcliffe. In the research study, it was determined that the COVID 19 pandemic intensified the already fragile child protection situation in these three areas. Most respondents indicated an increase in VAC and GBV incidence in the three areas since emergence of COVID 19.

Below is a brief summary of the key findings determined in the research study:

Perceptions on the impact of COVID 19 on communities

- Of the 79 children and young people interviewed, 58 % were of the opinion that their lives were greatly affected by COVID 19.
- Most children and young people i.e. 22/38 of males (57.89%) and 17/41 of females (41.46%) indicated that schooling/ education was disrupted/ including dropping out of school due to the COVID 19 pandemic
- Key informants concurred that school closures, restricted movement and lockdown restrictions had a negative impact on social services, health and education, increased vulnerability of vulnerable groups in the COVID 19 context

Violence against Children in the COVID 19 context

- The study revealed that 56.96% (45/79) of children and young people in the 3 research sites had experienced, or knew someone who had experienced some form of VAC. In comparison,

43.03% (34/79) of the respondents did not know or experience any form for VAC in the COVID 19 context.

- It is interesting to note that 22/41 of the girls and young women (53.6%) compared to 60.52% of boys/young men (18/36) stated that they had experienced, or knew someone who had experienced VAC in the pandemic
- Most children and young people (56/79= 70.88%) stated that there was an increase in the rate of VAC and GBV in the COVID 19 context. Only 1% of the respondents felt that the rate had decreased.

Reporting and response mechanisms for violence against children in the COVID 19 context.

- 67% of the survivors did not report the violence to the police or service provider, or did not even try to seek help following the incident of VAC or GBV that their experienced.
- Only 11% of respondents indicated that some type of a report was made to relevant authorities.
- Of those who reported the cases of VAC and GBV, only 2% of respondents indicated that the survivors received help and whose cases were completed as indicated by the figure below.
- Approximately 29% of respondents revealed that the survivors did not receive any help, or that their cases were completed.

The following recommendations were given:

- Completion of the alignment of child rights laws to the 2013 Constitution, particularly the Children's Amendment Bill which provides for the protection of children.
- All stakeholders should be involved in coordination initiatives and be monitored for their progress
- Ensure child and youth participation by setting up a feedback desks for youth in communities and capacity building of partners in the child protection system
- Community awareness raising campaigns on ending violence against children, and ensure services are available to children at local level.

3.0 COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 The Child Rights Coalition Annual Conferences.

ZNCWC successfully hosted the 2021 Zimbabwe Annual Child Rights Coalition Conference on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2022 which was held under the theme: "Together for Children in 2021 and beyond" and successfully hosted the 2022 Annual Child Rights Coalition Conference on the 21st and 22nd of November 2022 which was held under the theme: "Our rights-Our present and Our future".

The Child Rights Coalition Conference 2022 was held in Harare at the Rainbow Towers Hotel from the 21st to 22nd of November 2022. It was held under the theme: "Our rights, our present and future". The meeting was attended by several civil society organisations working on child-related

issues, Senior members of the Parliamentarians, representatives of the Junior Assembly, Government Ministries, policy makers, children, private sector, media houses and other relevant stakeholders. Every year, the Child Rights Coalition conduct an annual conference to reflect on emerging issues on child rights; achievements, challenges and how the situation of child rights can be improved in the Zimbabwe and plan a road map for the fulfilment of child rights in Zimbabwe. The purpose of the conference was to bring together key actors in the Child Rights Sector to discuss the implementation of child rights in 2022 going forward and proffer recommendations for improvement for 2023.

Conference objectives where:

- ✓ To share on the state of child rights in Zimbabwe, including current challenges faced in the COVID 19 pandemic (child protection, education and social service sectors)) and discuss on interventions,
- ✓ Deliberate of the possible intervention to ensure that children realise their rights present and, in the future, and
- ✓ To evaluate the achievements and challenges of the Child Rights Coalition for the year 2022, share good practices and plan for 2023 implementation.

The following were discussed as the key priority areas for 2023.

| CHILD PROTECTION | HEALTH |
|--|---|
| VFU operate 24/7 and 365 days. Decentralised system | Ensure provision of PSS to children in need |
| Teach good parenting skills | Facilitate access to GBV services within 72hrs |
| Awareness on child rights and responsibilities to parents | Ensure children have easy access to health facilities - Transport |
| Birth registration -training on things are no longer critical to get a birth certificate | Children’s cases to be treated as emergencies at health facilities |
| Safety of children during elections | Mental health act amendment (2006) to address post-COVID issues |
| Child participation and use media for development | Medical bill to be made an Act |
| EDUCATION | DISABILITY |
| Safety on children attending extra lessons | Prioritise children with special needs |
| Ensure implementation of the 2 nd chance programme | All children be afforded equal access to education, health care services, work and employment, and social protection. Address attitudinal and environmental barriers to participation |

| LEGAL | GENDER |
|--|---|
| Alignment of laws e.g amendment of the criminal codification and criminal act. | Education act that has given the girl child another chance- |
| Child justice bill to be passed to law | Programming for boys |
| Provision of evidence to be made flexible for sexually abused children in courts | |
| Prioritise cases of children and reduce time with the perpetrator at courts | |

3.2 Child Rights Coalition Quarterly meetings.

1. All the Child Rights Quarterly meetings were conducted as planned in the period under review, Support for the meetings came through from Christian Aid, tdh SOS, World Vision and UNICEF amongst other partners. Main issues discussed were sexual exploitation of children both online, at homes and in schools. Bullying in schools.
2. Capacity strengthening of coalition members on resource mobilization, advocacy and child safeguarding.
3. Commemorated International day of the girl child in Hatcliffe Harare as partners.

Our Funding Partners.



ZNCWC Staff members.



National Director
Reverend Taylor Nyanhete



Finance and Administration Manager
Kundai Dzinotywei



*Finance and Administration Officer
Rosette Muteweri*



Programs Officer - Ashley Mamvocha



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Rachel Gonayi.*