



Civic Forum on Human Development

2019 Annual Report



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ACRONYMS

ARDCZ	Association of Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe
BVIP	Blair VIP
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBP	Community Based Planning
CCDS	Centre for Community Development Solutions
CFHD	Civic Forum on Human Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DDC	District Development Coordinator
ELB	Epworth Local Board
EU	European Union
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
HCD	Human Centred Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
LGB	Local Governance Barometer
LGDA	Lower Gुरुve Development Association
MoEPD	Ministry of Energy and Power Development
NREP	National Renewable Energy Policy
PDC	Provincial Development Coordinator
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Systems
PHHE	Public Health and Hygienic Educators
RDC	Rural District Councils
RE	Renewable Energy
REAP	Renewable Energy Awareness Program
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TSP	Transitional Stabilization Program
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

1. INTRODUCTION

The annual report provides an overview of the work of the Civic Forum on Human Development (CFHD) from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. The CFHD is a network-based organization formed in 1995 with the core mandate to foster positive communication, dialogue and consensus building involving civil society organizations and stakeholders for improved human development, service delivery and local economic development in rural and urban local authorities of Zimbabwe.

Since its inception, the CFHD has worked with more than 25 local authorities in creating vibrant local dialogue platforms, enhanced communication between civil society and local authorities, local economic development and strengthening of local government institutions to deliver quality services to residents. The organization is apolitical with proven competences in the areas of democratic local governance, local economic development, peace building, social accountability, human centred development, advocacy and lobbying skills, inclusive service delivery, disaster risk management and capacity building of local organizations.

CFHD has played a leading role in improving the well-being of marginalized and vulnerable communities through strengthening collaboration and engagement between citizens and service providers. This has been achieved through the support of the European Union (EU), United States Development Agency (USAID), HIVOS, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN-Habitat and recently UN-Women and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Our **Vision**

Inclusive, resilient and just societies where the rights of citizens are recognized and local institutions are empowered to drive their own development.

Our **Mission**

To transform all systems and processes that contribute positively to human development based on respect for people's participation, human rights, empowerment, service delivery and responsible policies.

Our **Values**

Fairness

Innovation and quality oriented

Responsiveness and Timely Action

Mutual Accountability

Network driven

Environmental and Climate Smart

Socially Responsible

Sustainability Focused

1.1 Chairperson's Statement



The Chairperson of the CFHD, Mr. S. Kuveya

It is my pleasure to report another successful year for the Civic Forum on Human Development. The year was filled with bumps which ranged from a reduction in staff compliment, political and economic instability as well as natural disasters which affected some of our programming. However, I am pleased to inform you that 2019 was one of the best years we have had as we managed to successfully implement five projects.

Those of us who have had the priviledge of being part of CFHD since its inception are grateful for the resilience and passion of all those who paved the way and laid the groundwork for our great organization, a leading national human development and advocacy champion. The unprecedented speed and magnitude of change today demands an innovative game changer capable of adapting to the ever-changing situation. The CFHD's transformational approaches have been challenging conventional thinking and exploring new directions to reach its strategic goals continuously striving for excellence, doing more with less and being future driven.

These are extraordinary times to be Chairman and it has been a very unusual time for the Civil Society sector: economic instability making participatory budgeting more complex, natural disasters making community outreach and field work impossible and cash shortages also

making activity planning difficult. No organization – ourselves included – has been unscathed. Credit goes to Mr. Masendeke, our Chief Technical Director, and the whole team for making it work during these difficult times.

My reflections are that the industry as a whole has learnt quite a few lessons: firstly, the overwhelming importance of risk assessment, need for quick re-alignment of planned activities and this has also created more opportunities for us as we managed to come up with concept notes to deal with prevailing situations, one of which was funded.

At the CFHD, we know that being complacent will not help anyone but we continue to expand and look into other aspects of human development that we had previously not ventured into. We are operating in a period of continued uncertainty. We have learnt lessons in recent months and we are constantly reminded of the importance of being resilient and innovative in the way we work and plan. Many thanks to our different stakeholders for the continued support. We look forward to getting better in the year 2020 as we aim to get better and better each year.

Thank you.

S. Kuveya

National Chairperson

1.2 Director's Remarks



CFHD Chief Technical Director and Co-founder, Mr. A. Masendeke

The year 2019 was a record one for the CFHD as we continuously recorded bigger achievements in terms of programming, reach and number of projects being implemented. The CFHD started with an urban focus reaching out to 21 local authorities demonstrating the importance of institutionalizing citizen participation and dialogue, consensus building and conflict transformation mechanisms for good local governance and inclusive service delivery. Since 2009, we have been focusing on rural areas reaching out to 25 rural district councils and creating a formidable network of over 350 community based and civil society organizations being successfully connected to diverse processes of inclusive local governance and service delivery as well social accountability using community-based planning and gender transformative approaches.

In 2019, we implemented a diverse range of projects across Zimbabwe which focused on:

- Strengthening Social Accountability in Rural Local Governance Systems of Zimbabwe funded by the European Union.*
- Human Rights Monitoring and Protection Project funded by International Organization for Migration/SIDA.*
- Enhancing Sustainable Access to Safe Clean Water and Gender Sensitive Sanitation Services in Epworth funded by UN Habitat.*
- Strengthening Renewable Energy Awareness in Rural Areas of Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe (REAP), funded by HIVOS*

- Strengthening movement building to end violence against women and girls in the Mashonaland Central Province funded by UN-Women working in partnership with Lower Guruve Development Association.
- Councilor Training Development Programme supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

This report gives an in-depth information analysis on how these programmes continue to successfully contribute to human centred development, social change coalitions and collaborative partnerships that are bringing meaningful transformation in the lives of marginalized and resource poor men, women, girls and boys in diverse communities. In a context of shrinking economic opportunities, degradation of local natural resources, food shortages due to perennial droughts and climate change, CFHD continues to lead the way in empowering communities to understand and transform their situation through visioning, community-based planning, dialogue with local and central governance systems and through practical actions and innovations for social and economic transformation.

We have gathered evidence that shows that effective community empowerment and local institutional transformation requires working on both supply and demand sides and communities need to be effectively engaged and capacitated through community-based planning and development approaches. Inclusive and accountable service delivery can be achieved through mutually inclusive service delivery processes that are gender-sensitive and attractive to multiple resource-based partnerships.

As we move into the future, we aim to create various centres of excellence at the district and community levels to act as learning hubs that can easily be accessed by other interested communities, local authorities and development agencies. CFHD has also established a national human development training and resource centre to respond to needs for technical support, mentoring and coaching in the approaches that have proved successful as well resource mobilisation and network building services for civil society development and transformation in real practice. We look forward to your contacting us and our partners across Zimbabwe.

As we enter a new year, a year that the CFHD celebrates its Silver Jubilee in existence, we are confident of growth and will continue to strive to penetrate more unchartered territories. There is no failure for the Forum but our mandate is to continue to be a resilient organization for resilience services to local organizations and communities.

I thank you.

A. Masendeke

Chief Technical Director

1.3 Programme Areas of Work

CFHD works closely with the central government, local authorities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), women and youths-based organizations or groups and supports citizens with mentorship and technical assistance in setting their priorities and demanding their entitlements. Its core working model with all its target groups is participatory, collaborative, innovative and responsive for effectiveness and sustainable impact. The organization has five focal areas of work which are illustrated below:

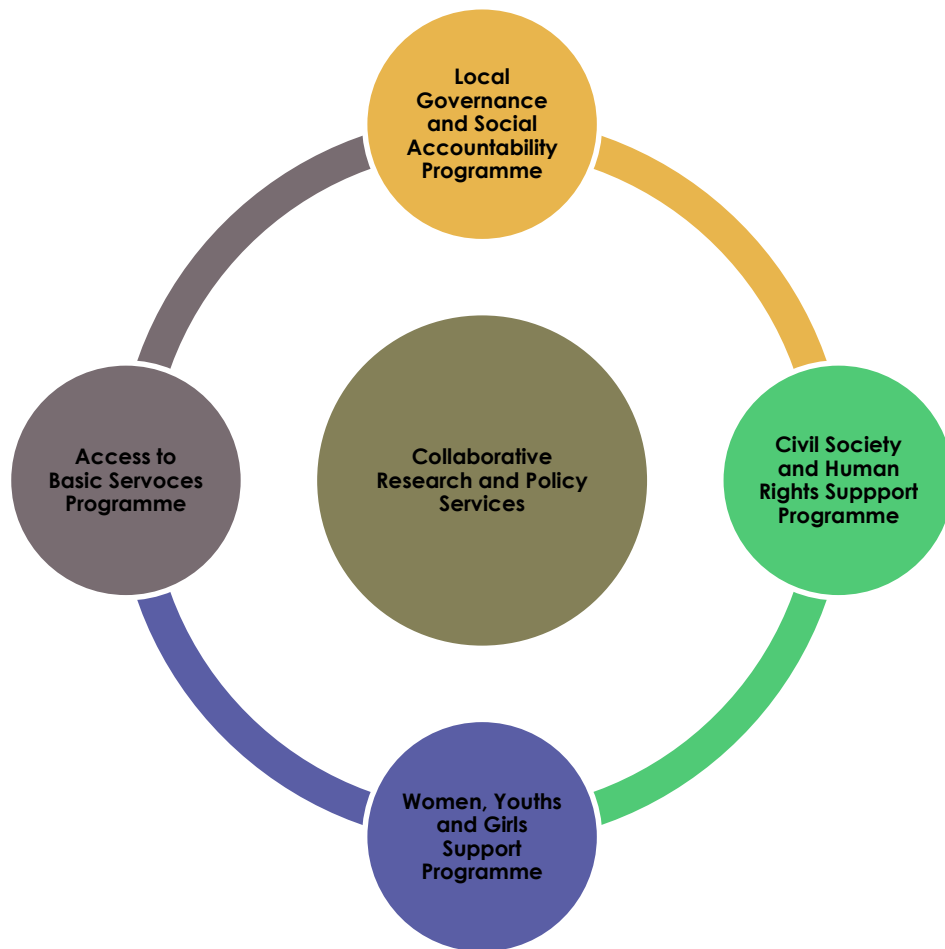


Figure 1: CFHD Focal Areas

The focal areas have evolved over the years since the establishment of the CFHD and this has enabled the organization to expand its operations to more than 25 districts of Zimbabwe inclusive of both urban and rural areas and these are illustrated in the map in figure 2 below:

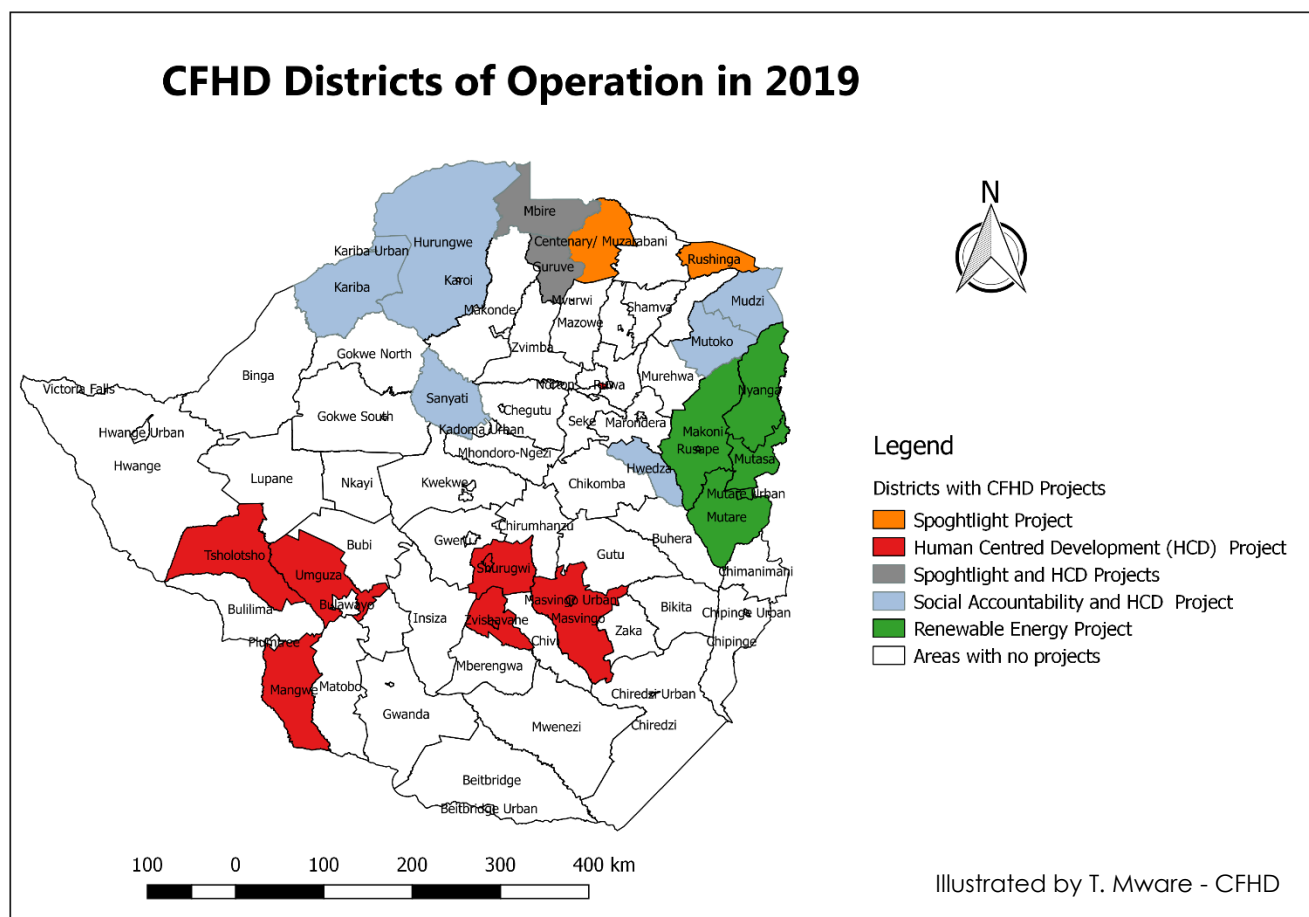


Figure 2: CFHD areas of operation

1.4 Political and Social Context

In 2019, Zimbabwe continued to experience social, economic and political crises that resulted in unprecedented levels of inflation, high unemployment and steep decline in the country's economy. The GDP contracted by 12.8% in 2019 due to poor performance in mining, tourism, and agriculture. Foreign currency and electricity shortages affected mining and tourism. This resulted in increased protests, particularly the shortage of fuel and other essential goods, as well as a sharp decline in wages amid soaring inflation. The year was characterized by the contraction of agricultural production following an El Nino induced drought which worsened the situation in rural areas. Additionally, Cyclone Idai also worsened the situation as it affected three key provinces namely Manicaland, Masvingo and Midlands province. These three

typically account for 30% of agricultural output¹. The drought, furthermore, led to broader impact on the electricity and water sectors, causing widespread rationing and tariff adjustments to manage demand and costs.

In 2019 the government mandated the use of the Zimbabwean dollar as a sole legal tender on June 24th, ending the multicurrency regime in place for over a decade. The development briefly halted the smooth implementation of project activities for the CFHD. The exchange rate deteriorated from 2.5 Zimbabwe dollars per US dollar in February 2019 to 20 Zimbabwe dollars per US dollar in November 2019.

On the socio-economic front, forced evictions were recorded as well as abuse of workers' rights by companies. Nurses and doctors' strikes affected the provision of health delivery in rural and peri-urban areas of Zimbabwe. Access to clean water, continued to be constrained, with some towns resorting to water rationing resulting in conflicts between the supply and the demand side. Four years after Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court declared child marriage unconstitutional and set 18 years as the minimum marriage age, the government has not put structures in place to implement the court decision and ensure that girls under 18 are not forced into marriage.

The CFHD projects that poverty will remain stagnant in 2020 as positive impacts of a rebound in agricultural production will be countered by the negative effects of continued high inflation, further undermining the purchasing power of the poor. Continued cash shortages as well as weak targeting of public spending on social safety nets will continue to constrain social programs and the impact on poverty. Despite, these challenges, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has continued voicing his commitments to human rights reforms and transformation of the economy. The CFHD remains optimistic that the continued economic instability will not generate into public violence given the high tensions on the ground and calls by the main political opposition for a transitional government.

¹ <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/2019-cyclone-idai-facts>

2. STRENGTHENING SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN RURAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS OF ZIMBABWE PROJECT

2.1 Overview of the Project in 2019

The year 2019 marked the end of the Social Accountability Project that was implemented over a period of three and a half years. The project was implemented in partnership with the Association of Rural District Councils of Zimbabwe (ARDCZ) and the Centre for Community Development Solutions (CCDS) in the 6 districts of Mutoko, Hwedza and Mudzi (Mashonaland East) and Sanyati, Hurungwe and Nyaminyami (Mashonaland West). Significant progress was made by the project in strengthening the capacity of the supply and demand side actors in developing transparent and accountable local governance and social accountability in rural areas of Zimbabwe.

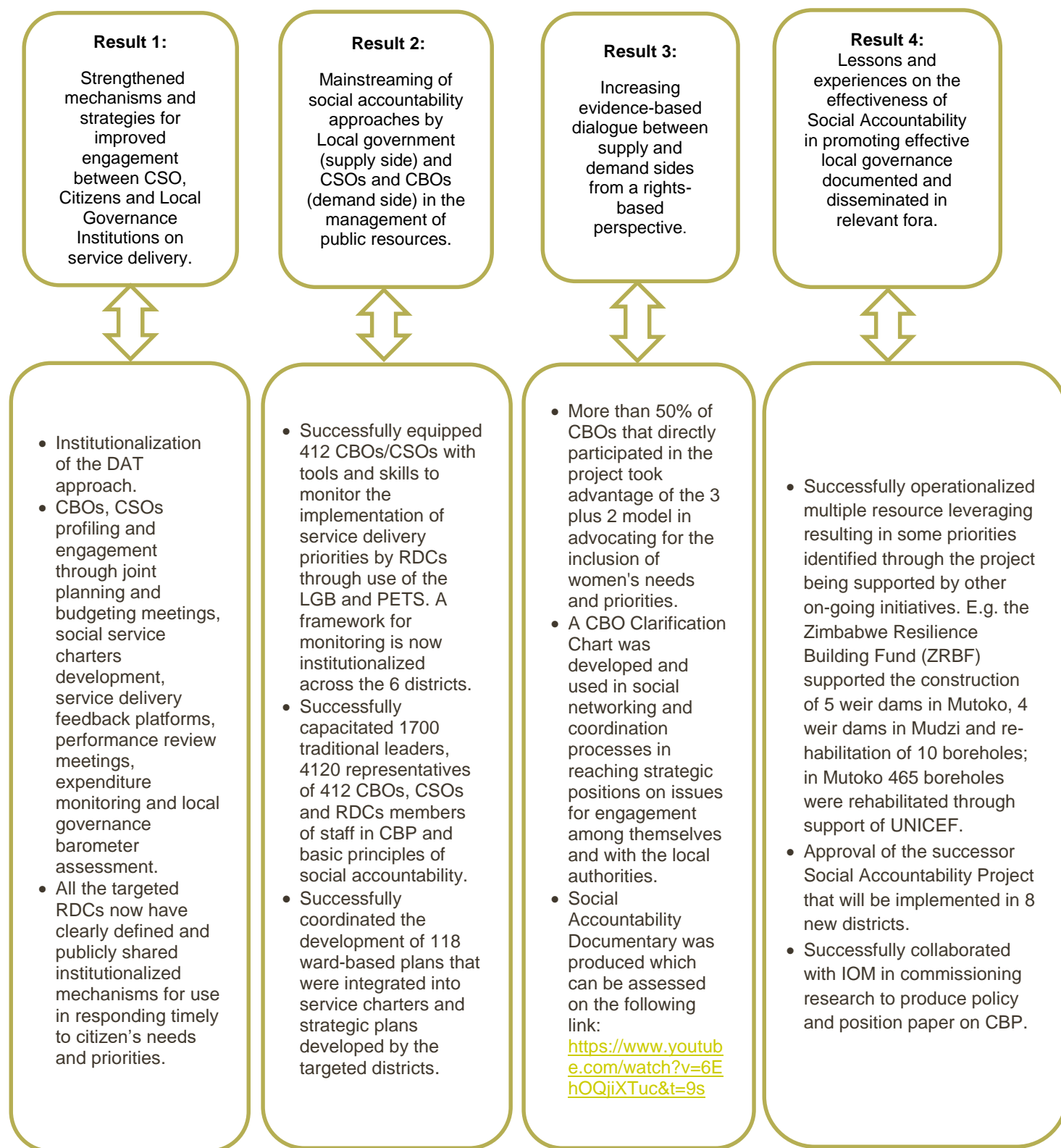


Youths driven income generating projects in Mudzi District Suswe ward 7

The project demonstrated the effectiveness of inclusive service delivery and participatory local governance anchored by Community Based Planning (CBP) and Social Accountability Approaches in strengthening inclusive planning and effective public financial management processes. From the evidence based dialogue and monitoring processes with the participating CSOs, CBOs and RDCs, the approach has created multiple opportunities for empowering a diverse range of CSOs and CBOs to effectively network, collaborate and engage with key actors within the entire local governance system to address strategic and gender sensitive needs and priorities of women, youths and other vulnerable groups in communities as the underlying principle in the planning and budgeting process of local authorities. The end of project evaluation that was conducted by an external consultant concluded that Social Accountability approaches were mainstreamed in all the six targeted districts through mentoring and training of CBOs and CSOs on strategic use of evidence gathered for lobbying and advocacy. The CFHD is highly grateful for the support rendered by CBOs, RDCs, project partners, community leaders and other stakeholders who all contributed towards the successful implementation of the project.

2.2 Achievements made by the Project

The Social Accountability Project made key achievements in strengthening social accountability and inclusive service delivery that are illustrated in the diagram below:



2.3 Exit Strategy and Future Project Priorities

The Social Accountability Project established mechanisms that will ensure continuity of set strategies beyond the financial support of the EU. The project used the light touch facilitation model which is an approach that enables local actors to drive the whole planning, implementation and capacity building process at district and sub district level under the mentorship of the CFHD, ARDCZ and CCDS. It is envisaged that since the local drivers are resident in the district there will be continuity in the approaches that were established in the project. Sustainability was strengthened by the fact that the project improved the capacity of at least 6 RDCs to institutionalize and respond to emerging needs from multi-stakeholders in their areas of jurisdiction. 412 CSOs and CBOs now have the capacity to critically engage with public officials and councilors to demand justifications and explanations for their performance in ensuring the effective implementation of the 5 social accountability processes using an array of monitoring tools. The consortium and relevant project stakeholders agreed for the project to be scaled-up to other districts under the Strengthening Civil Society Capacity for Scaling-up Social Accountability in Rural Local Authorities of Zimbabwe. The proposal for the scaling-up of the project has since been submitted to the EU, PACT and the Netherlands Embassy. The 6 districts that participated in the just ended project will participate in the successor projects for learning and project reflection purposes. Because the CFHD is a network-based organization with an affiliation of CBOs across Zimbabwe, some of the CBOs that participated under the Social Accountability Project have since been roped-in as network members and will have access to a broad range of services that include capacity building, networking, reflection, peer to peer learning and joint resource mobilization initiatives.

The 3 districts of Mutoko, Hwedza and Mudzi that were targeted by the project in the Mashonaland East Province are amongst the best performing districts in the province

Mr. Chikomo from Provincial Development Coordinator's Office



DAT members from Mutoko District during a project reflection meeting.

3. ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE CLEAN WATER AND GENDER SENSITIVE SANITATION SERVICES IN EPWORTH PROJECT.

3.1 Overview of the Project

The first quarter of 2019 marked the end of the Enhancing Sustainable Access to Safe Clean Water and Gender Sensitive Sanitation Services in Epworth Project. The project successfully managed to achieve all its set targets and has created a huge demand for gender sensitive sanitation systems in Epworth. Local CBOs and representatives of the various socio-economic groups of Epworth had their skills and practices in the management of water and sanitation services enhanced. This was through training of representatives of CBOs and of the Epworth Local Board on community-based water and sanitation management within the context of the project. The project successfully improved the functionality and reliability of water points through capacity building of pump minders that are now capable of maintaining existing and new water points in wards that benefited from the project. Capacity building of the pump minders was done in partnership with Santinton Contractors, an innovative private company that promotes appropriate sanitation options for poor people.



Pit latrine of Mr. Mafara of ward 3 before it was rehabilitated by the project (Left) and the initial progress that was made by the project in rehabilitating the pit latrine (Right).



The easy flush system is very user-friendly for us older persons who reside in an area with no access to portable water.

Mr. Mafara- Resident of Epworth Ward 3

An illustration of a completed easy flush system at Mr. Mafara's Homestead

The project also promoted water testing at water points in collaboration with private companies such as Aglabs and Chematron who are involved in the development of appropriate, reliable and cost-effective water testing and treatment options for people living in informal settlements such as Epworth. The project supported the rehabilitation of 30 pit latrines through the installation of easy-flushing systems which use only 2 liters of water for flushing as compared to 9 liters used by conventional flushing systems. The design of the toilet seat is also sensitive to the sanitation needs of children. Outreach activities to create awareness on hygienic practices were conducted during the implementation of the project by the Epworth Local Board, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), water committees and Public Health and Hygienic Educators (PHHEs). The project has generated huge demand from non-participating households which would require a much bigger intervention to satisfy the demand. A documentary of the project showcasing the impact of the project for wider circulation was produced and is available for public sharing.

3.2 Achievements made by the project

The Water and Gender Sensitive Sanitation Project made significant achievements in promoting the use of gender sensitive sanitation systems in peri-urban, urban and rural communities for low income earners. The project has created a huge demand for gender and sanitation systems. The key outputs of the project are summarized in Box 1 below.



Women were also involved in the construction of the BVIP toilets

- 6 CBOs (Combined Epworth Residents Trust, Shanduko, Simuka Ufambe, Epworth Women Empowerment Group, Epworth Business Association and Mukando weMadzimai) and representatives of the Epworth Local Board were trained in water and sanitation services. The CBOs were taken through the key principles involved in community-based water management. The 6 CBOs were tasked to and successfully engaged with 76 Peer Health and Hygienic Educators (PHHEs) from across the 3 targeted wards of Epworth and reached out to 11,500 community members targeting women headed and resource poor households without any form of water and sanitation. The PHHEs were instrumental in promoting community-based water management approaches paying particular attention to hygienic practices in Epworth that reached out to 15,400 people.
- A total of 76 (25 males and 51 females) pump minders including 2 councilors from ward 1 and 2 were trained in community-based water management approaches by the project. A key result of the training was consensus on possible technologies to be used by the community in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sensitive to the needs of the elderly, youths, women and the disabled. Specific skills and expertise in pump minding were imparted by the project after the selection of technologies. It is through the recommendations that emerged from the training workshop that the easy-flushing system was adopted for use to improve the flushing systems of pit latrines in Epworth and enhance their gender sensitivity for effective use by household members.
- Two private companies Chematron and Aglabs conducted a workshop that trained 30 households on sustainable community-based approaches to water purification on 28th March 2019 at the CFHD offices. The training workshop introduced to selected representatives of the PHHEs the common types of water contamination, the water treatment processes, household water treatment and safe storage options. Linkages were also successfully established between the local communities and organizations that are involved in water testing and treatment.



From left: leach pit hole before and after the insertion of blocks

- A total of 30 Blair VIP (BVIP) latrines were rehabilitated through the support of the project in wards 1, 2 and 3. The baseline assessments that were conducted before the implementation of the project revealed that the Epworth had very few useable/habitable latrines. During the rehabilitation of the latrines there was demand by Epworth Local Board (ELB), CBOs and residents for the new models of BVIP latrines than what could be accommodated by the project. The beneficiaries were selected based on the level of vulnerability (housing a person living with a disability, elderly housing and low-income household). A total of 30 community members were imparted with skills for building and maintaining the BVIP latrines which were constructed through public and private partnership involving Santinton Contractors.
- The latrines were successfully rehabilitated through a community-private partnership that involved Santinton Contractors, which believes in total community involvement in community sanitation across its programming. 30 BVIP latrines had their toilets installed with an easy-flush system that enables locations without access to pressurized water systems to use a gravity-based flushing system. During the rehabilitation of the pit latrines a total of 30 builders (15 males and 15 females) were trained in the construction and installing of the easy-flush toilet system.
- Through the project, 76 PHHEs successfully reached out to reach out to 30 households each translating to 2280 potentially reaching a population of 15,400. It has also been observed that the households with improved BVIP latrines have also been sources of information on improved hygiene as they received over 500 enquiries from non-participating households.

3.3 Future Priorities on WASH

The CFHD has earmarked a number of priorities for the expansion in the use and investment in innovative water and sanitation technologies in peri-urban, urban and rural communities of Zimbabwe. The main priorities that have been identified include:

- The need to strengthen existing partnerships with companies in the private sector such as Chematron, Santinton Contractors and Aglabs and forging new strategic partnership with relevant institutions.
- Development of fundable proposals to other donors for future funding on water and sanitation technologies that are sensitive to the needs of the women, elderly, infants and people living with disabilities.
- Development of a database of individuals, households and institution that are interested in the using the technologies.
- Promotion of water and sanitation issues as cross-cutting issue in all CFHD programming.



Casting of sheets that were used in the construction of leach pit

4. SCALING-UP COORDINATED PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS INCLUDING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN ZIMBABWE

4.1 Overview of the Project

Over the past two years, the CFHD has been part of an International Organization for Migration (IOM) led consortium that is implementing a project on “Scaling-Up Coordinated Protection, Promotion and Enforcement of Human Rights for Citizens and other Vulnerable Groups Including Internally Displaced Persons in Zimbabwe” that is being funded by SIDA. The project is aimed at improving human rights monitoring and protection through support to evidence-based mechanisms for creating dialogue, communication, collaboration and coordination with multiple stakeholders working in the human rights sector particularly in marginalized rural settings of Zimbabwe. In 2019, the CFHD implemented project activities in 18 Districts of Zimbabwe that were focused on strengthening human rights monitoring and protection through strengthening evidence based human rights programming and dialogue with CSOs, CBOs, consortium members and other key stakeholders working with marginalized groups, women, youths, vulnerable groups and ordinary citizens.



A Peer Educator facilitating a workshop at Makwarimba ward 5 Hwedza district on women's rights monitoring and protection

The CFHD noted a number of human rights violations such as poor service delivery, selective food aid and farming inputs handouts, child marriages, exclusionary practices by service providers, increased cases of Internally Displacements Persons (IDPs), demonstrations, intra and inter-party conflicts and violence. The CFHD is highly appreciative of the concerted efforts by various institutions that include CSOs, CBOs, local authorities and constitutionally established commissions. There was continued concern on the slow progress towards national reconciliation and healing, limited economic recovery and the continued marginalization of communities in the social, economic and governance discourse. 2019 witnessed one of the worst economic turmoil in Zimbabwe that was characterized by a rise in inflation, shortage of foreign currency and limited supplies of fuel as well as price increase of basic food commodities and pharmaceuticals. The situation was exacerbated by the occurrence of natural disasters such as Cyclone Idai that affected the Manicaland Province and drought that has affected all parts of Zimbabwe².



Photo by A. Mharapara - CFHD

The CFHD noted a number of human rights violations such as poor service delivery, food aid, inequality in distribution of farming inputs, child marriages, exclusionary practices by service providers, increased cases of Internally Displacements Persons (IDPs), demonstrations as well as intra and inter-party conflicts. The CFHD is highly appreciative of the concerted efforts by various institutions that include CSOs, CBOs and local authorities.

Nyaminyami District ward 7 community reflecting conducting a joint mapping exercise of common human rights concerns in the community

Thematic dialogue workshops were one of the key activities that were implemented under the human rights project.

² <https://www.statista.com/statistics/455290/inflation-rate-in-zimbabwe/#:~:text=Inflation%20in%20Zimbabwe%20rose%20to,to%20319.04%20percent%20in%202020.>



Photo by F. Pawandiwa - NCT



Photo by A. Mharapara - CFHD

From the left is Mutoko DDC emphasizing a point to CBOs and to the right is Mr. Taruvinga of Hwedza DDC with the district councilors

4.2 Human Rights Mobile Clinics

During the period under review the CFHD coordinated successful hosting of human rights mobile clinics in Gokwe and Mutoko districts. The clinics were done in commemoration of the Africa Human Rights Day and the International Human Rights Day. The purpose of mobile human rights clinics is to increase access to human rights information by hard to reach communities. These clinics are key in strengthening collaboration between human rights actors in the IOM consortium and local government institutions. The mobile human rights clinics were held at shopping centres managed to reach out to a wide range of community members comprising of men, women, youths and children. Other stakeholders that attended were representatives from the Office of the President, representatives from the local authorities, representatives from resident government departments/Ministries, traditional leaders, councilors and local CBOs and CSOs.



Photo by L. Chinomona- CFHD

Part of the congregation that attended the Gokwe Human Rights Clinic



Mr. Mware of the CFHD giving his remarks during the Mutoko Human Rights Mobile Clinic

4.3 What Emerged from the Human Rights Clinics

- Better understanding of human rights using the constitution and other legal documents.
- Improved understanding of the project by the district provincial and authorities who were previously skeptical.
- The project managed to reach out to previously hard to reach communities as well as communities which were previously left out in project planning activities.
- Improved coordination and networking.
- The activity contributed to better collaboration and coordination amongst members of the communities.

4.4 Achievements made by the Project

The human rights monitoring and protection project made substantial attainments in strengthening human rights monitoring and protection in rural and urban areas of Zimbabwe. A summary of the achievements made by the project are as follows:

- Increased awareness of broad range methods of monitoring human rights violations that include: missions, observations, interviews, site visits, surveys, focus group and audio-visuals. This has resulted in increased reporting of human rights violations.
- Successful use by CBOs and human rights actors of local level development structures such as VIDCO and WADCO as platforms for strengthening peer to peer learning and networking. 5 CBOs in Mutoko district confirmed that they are now working effectively with local development structures such as the VIDCOs and WADCOs.
- Development of a database of CBOs with thematic areas for use in promoting peer to peer learning. The database comprises of CBOs and CSOs that have successfully engaged in peer to peer learning which is one of the key human rights awareness approaches being promoted by the project. This database has enabled us to share toolkits with these CBOs/CSOs on existing human rights documents which they can refer to when a need arises.
- According to the Mr. Bako the CEO of Hwedza RDC, the peer to peer approach has resulted in improved working channels between the council and its key stakeholders which has led to improved revenue collection.
- Successfully coordinated the hosting of mobile human rights clinics in Gokwe and Mutoko districts. The mobile clinics resulted in improved access to information and knowledge in human rights monitoring and protection to previously hard to reach communities comprising of women, youths, people living with disabilities and the elderly.
- The mobile clinics have also resulted in improved collaboration and engagement between civil society human rights actors and officials from Government Ministries/Departments that are resident at district level.
- Generated important information and knowledge from the human rights monitoring and protection project that has been used to inform the smooth implementation of other CFHD programming particularly the social accountability and gender empowerment project.
- Capacity for the project to link-up with other on-going human rights initiatives at district and ward level. For instance, Tujataane Trust of Nyaminyami was invited by the district authorities to coordinate the distribution of constitutional handbooks translated in Tonga in Mola ward 3. Nyahunhure Community Trust has been assisting the Mutoko RDC in coordinating work on local governance and citizen participation.
- Successfully supported the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing in developing a draft human settlement policy that incorporated citizen voices and views. A draft document on the human settlement policy has since been developed.

*"Mobile Human Rights Clinics
should be conducted on an
annual basis in Mutoko District"*

Mr. Mukamba - Mutoko District
Development Coordinator

4.5 Human Settlements Policy Validation Workshop

The CFHD with financial assistance from the IOM and UN-Habitat collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing in conducting a national stakeholder validation workshop on the Human Settlements Policy in Zimbabwe. This workshop brought together national stakeholders from several ministries and institutions from Mashonaland East, West and Central, Matabeleland North and South, Midlands, Manicaland, Harare and Bulawayo provinces to deliberate on the draft policy and ensure citizen voices and views were correctly represented in the draft policy document. A total of 123 participants (92 males and 31 females) attended the workshop which was held at Stephen Margolis Resort in Harare on the 15th of August 2019. The workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Honorable July Moyo.



Hon Minister July Moyo giving his opening remarks

In his address during the workshop the Minister, Hon. July Moyo, highlighted that in order to achieve the 2030 vision of having world class cities, there is need to promote inclusivity of all players at rural and urban local authorities.

The validation workshop created a dialogue platform for the review and validation of the Zimbabwe Human Settlement Policy and identified gaps and issues of human rights protection, social inclusion, IDPs and gender equality based on stakeholder experiences and field lessons by IOM and its partners for an informed Human Settlement Policy in Zimbabwe. The outcomes enabled review of the human settlement policy draft before it was finalized and taken through the various stages of approval by the Cabinet.



Photo by F. Chidzvondo - CFHD



Photo by F. Chidzvondó - CFHD

Participants listening to the opening remarks by Hon. Minister July Moyo and a group discussion during the validation workshop of the Human Settlement Policy

4.6 Key Lessons and Experiences

The project has enabled the CFHD to learn key lessons and experiences that will inform future programming of the CFHD. The main lessons and experiences are:

- Strengthening the capacity of CBOs is key to the sustainability of the human rights work. This has been demonstrated by their capacity to coordinate human rights initiatives without the full technical and financial support of the project.
- There is a huge disconnection between human rights work and conflict transformation processes at the local level. Target actors need to be taught about human centred conflict transformation processes. The creation of a learning hub on CBP can also create multiple evidence-based platforms.

- There are opportunities for expansion of human rights-based approaches between the project and the central Government. This was demonstrated by the collaboration of the project and the former Ministry of Local Government, National Housing and Public Works.
- CBOs should be capacitated to participate more effectively in Human Settlement Policy dialogue processes so as to protect citizen interest and rights.
- Access to human rights knowledge and information that is simplified and easily comprehended by rural communities is still very limited. This can be strengthened through a multi-pronged approach involving peer learning and networking, creating learning and dialogue platforms.
- In order to have precise and evidence based public resource monitoring, it is very important for the relevant information/documents to be obtained from the local authority. However, the experience of council official being suspended has shown that access to information is still a challenge since no hand over take over was done with the current acting officers therefore, other projects have been left unattended due to lack of information on what needs to be done, where and when.



Photo by T. Chirape - RAFYT

Youths training workshop in Masvingo District



Photo by a. Mharapara - CFHD

Learning circle involving representatives of the RDC, CSOs and CBOs

4.7 Future Priorities for the Human Rights Project

The CFHD and the Human Rights Partners Network members have earmarked a number of initiatives for the 3rd and final year of the project. Such initiatives will include:

- Resource mobilization for successor projects on human rights monitoring and protection targeting SIDA and other donors with interest to funding citizen rights.
- Institutional capacity building of CBOs and members of the human rights network to ensure sustainability in CBO and CSO-led human rights work.

- Development of simplified information on human rights monitoring and protection that can easily be comprehended at community level by all age groups.
- Forging of vibrant linkages and networks with other NGOs and CBOs that are currently not linked or working with the CFHD.
- Expanding CBO and CSO support networks at local level for evidence-based policy influencing and for a stronger and effective voice.
- Localization of human rights learning centres for easy access to information, technical and referral support services.

5. STRENGTHENING RENEWABLE ENERGY AWARENESS IN RURAL AREAS OF MANICALAND PROVINCE IN ZIMBABWE (REAP)

5.1 Overview of the Project

2019 marked the launch of a HIVOS funded project on Renewable Energy that CFHD is implementing which is titled Strengthening Renewable Energy Awareness in Rural Areas of Manicaland Province (REAP) in Zimbabwe. The project is being implemented in the four districts of Manicaland Province namely Nyanga, Mutasa, Mutare and Makoni. The objectives of the project are to raise awareness of CBOs, local leaders and citizens on renewable energy options available for use at household and community level; and to strengthen dialogue and learning platforms for increased uptake of renewable energy options in rural areas. The period under review saw the forging of a formal working relationship with the Ministry of Energy and Power Development which has committed itself to collaborate with the CFHD in raising awareness on renewable energy. This has facilitated the smooth operationalization of the project at provincial and district level.



Manicaland Provincial Project inception workshop in Mutare District

The project has been supported greatly through the participation of Ministry officials in some of the project activities. The project inception workshop was held at the Mutare Holiday Inn on the 10th of October 2019 and was attended by various stakeholders that included all the targeted RDCs, a representative from the Ministry of Energy and Power Development (MoEPD), representatives from the office of the Provincial Development Coordinator and Community Based Organizations. The key activity that was conducted during the period under review was the project formative assessment which enabled the identification of gaps, challenges and opportunities on renewable energy. The findings from the formative assessment are being used to inform the capacity building programme of the project for targeted communities and the RDCs District Action Team (DAT) as key drivers for strengthening RE awareness in the last phase of the project.

5.2 Formative Assessment




Focus group discussion in Mutasa during the formative assessment exercise

The project conducted a formative assessment in the 4 project districts. The purpose of the assessment was to identify available renewable sources that can be developed to strengthen the utilization of renewable energy technologies and to enable the collective identification of gaps, challenges and opportunities on renewable energy. The formative assessments outcomes are being used to inform capacity building programmes of the project for targeted communities and the RDCs' DAT as key drivers for strengthening RE awareness in the last phase of the project. These key findings from the formative assessment are as follows: -

- There are vast RE resources in all the districts that include solar (in all districts), wind (Makoni and Mutasa), hydro (Mutare, Mutasa, Nyanga), wood fuel from wood waste (Mutasa and Nyanga). However, there is need for feasibility studies that can map out potential sites especially for solar fields and wind power stations. This also involves linking RDCs with the private sector through capacity development of the RDCs to come up with comprehensive Renewable Energy Action Plans with the support of the provisions in the National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP).
- There is willingness by people in communities to invest in RE technologies. The willingness shown is a drive to strengthen awareness in RE so that investments can be made with informed decisions. This involves the need to create linkages with private sector actors that

address the bottom of the pyramid market in the demand of the RE as well as those at the top of the pyramid.

- Firewood emerged as the most common source of energy across all districts. The use of firewood has resulted in the excessive cutting down of trees that has led to deforestation. The massive rate of deforestation is also creating some problems with growing reality of climate change.
- There is lack of engagement of rural communities in the current Renewable Energy initiatives which is resulting in dissatisfaction and conflicts between the local communities and on-RE going projects.
- Energy initiatives have tended to follow a top bottom approach without consideration of the demand of the people in the communities. This is because other initiatives have not been benefiting the communities directly hence the lack of awareness other RE sources.
- Development of RE technologies is also largely associated with risk of vandalism and theft especially of components like solar panels, batteries, and cables which is a detrimental factor to increased uptake of RE technologies at institutional level³.



"THE REAP SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL THE SEVEN DISTRICTS OF THE MANICALAND PROVINCE SINCE IT IS KEY IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS WE ARE FACING IN THE PROVINCE" MR. SEENZA PDC OF MANICALAND PROVINCE.

5.3 2019 Project Milestones

The REAP project managed to record substantial milestones during the period under review. The milestones include:

³ REAP Formative Assessment Report 2019

- Successful launch of the REAP project in the Manicaland Province which was embraced by the Provincial Development Coordinator, Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Resident CSOs and CBOs and the four projects districts.
- Establishment of knowledge on existing knowledge and information in renewable energy in the project targeted 4 districts.
- Establishment of a framework for collaboration and engagement with the Ministry of Energy and Power Development in promoting RE energy work in Zimbabwe.
- Recognition of the CFHD as a key player in RE initiatives by the targeted project RDCs.

5.4 Future Priorities

The CFHD and stakeholders have been building some consensus on priorities and initiatives for implementation in 2020 for the REAP. The targeted four districts have been identified as key drivers in the implementation of pilot initiatives on renewable energy. The project activities will be guided by the framework that is illustrated in Figure 3 below:

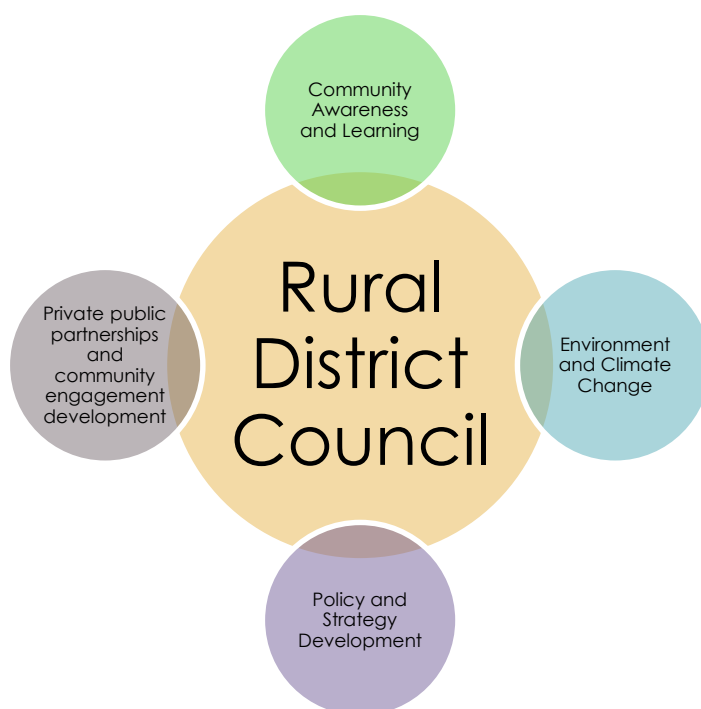


Figure32: Framework for Implementation of Project Activities

5.4 CFHD Future Priorities for REAP Project

- Resource mobilization on identified and emerging challenges and problems on RE and climate change.
- Development of simplified information and knowledge products on RE that can easily be comprehended by local communities.
- Development of strategic partnerships with the other RDCs CBOs, CSOs and the private sector not targeted by REAP.
- Raising awareness on the National Energy Renewable Energy Policy at hard to reach communities.
- Integration of renewable energy issues in other areas of CFHD programming as a cross cutting issue.

6. STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT BUILDING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE



Hon. Minister Prof A. Murwira giving remarks at the launch whilst Mr. Bishow Parajuli and Ms. Henriette Geiger listen on

6.1 Overview of the Project

In the last month of 2019, the CFHD in partnership with Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) and Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Group (FACHIG) and secured funding to implement a 13-month project titled Strengthening Movement Building to End Violence Against Women and Girls in the Mashonaland Central Province. LGDA is the lead partner for the project which is being implemented in the four districts of Mbire, Guruve, Rushinga and Muzarabani. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through supporting gender social movement approaches that empower women and girls to end, avoid and escape from violence and violent situations. The key targeted groups of the action are women, girls, men, boy's traditional leaders and councilors residing in the targeted districts. The action is being implemented in 16 wards identified as hot spots in the 4 districts of Mashonaland Central Province. The implementation strategy of the project will have a ripple effect that will flow to other wards not directly targeted by the project and influence behavior pattern of communities. The project will also participate in key district, provincial and some national events thereby spreading the message en-mass. The specific objective of the action is to contribute to the elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through supporting gender based social movement approaches that empower women and girls to end, avoid and escape from violence and violent situations. The key targeted groups of the action are women, girls, men, traditional leaders and councilors in the targeted 4 districts. The 4 project outputs of the project are:

- Community advocacy platforms are established/ strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities.
- Women Rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on the prevention and response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including SGBV/HP and Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) more broadly.
- Women rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on VAWG, including SGBV/HP and promote women and girls SRHR.

- Women rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP and promoting SRHR with relevant stakeholders at subnational, national, regional and global levels.

6.2 Key Project Priorities

Implementation of project activities will commence in the beginning of year 2020. The main project priorities in the first quarter of the project will include the following:

- District sensitization and inception workshops.
- Project mapping exercise that will inform the project baseline.
- Development of knowledge products and information on Gender and Women empowerment that can easily be comprehended at community level.
- Awareness raising on issues in Sexual Gender Based Violence, harmful Practices, Sexual Reproductive Rights.

7 THE FUTURE

The CFHD continues to champion issues on human centered development and will continue to broaden its partnership base so as to reach more people. Despite the socio-economic challenges in the current context, the forum remains confident of achieving more as it continues to strategize and become resilient in all programming through strategic partnerships. Some of the future priorities for the forum are presented below:

