

***The only things worth learning are the things you learn after knowing it all – Harry S. Truman***

A phrase often heard around ZGF is that ‘we are a learning organisation’. This means seeking not only new ways of doing things but right ways of doing things. Learning for us is about **knowledge in action**, it is not static and it is flexible.

As part of our organisational learning ZGF began the process of drafting a programme strategy for the next five years. As most organisations do, we spent quite some time thinking about the work we do supporting civil society in Zambia, how we do this work, the environment we are working in and most importantly what have we achieved since inception in 2009.

The result of this reflection is ZGF programme strategy 2017-2021 which takes into the account the reality of the civil society sector not only in Zambia but across the world. It is a context in which funding is decreasing, resources are scarce and technology is playing an increasingly important role in advocacy work. What we learnt during the process is that **sustainability matters**, not just in terms of funding and donor dependence but also for our environment. We have witnessed the effects that climate change can have on a country and we would like to play our part in encouraging better stewardship of our environment. We also learnt that while our mandate is to support civil society, a proactive effort to create spaces where civil society, media and duty bearers can collaborate will ultimately help us achieve our mission of ‘a more accountable government working with citizens working together with active citizens to implement pro-poor policies’.

We are excited about the next five years and look forward to investing more in Zambia civil society. We will be sharing more of our strategy with you in the coming months but this [presentation](#) provides a quick overview of our work, our impact and our future. In the meantime take a few moments to read about the work happening in the civil society and policy arena in Zambia.



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Picture: Photo courtesy of Times of Zambia

Life for former prisoners is almost as unbearable outside jail as it is behind bars, with many finding it difficult to integrate back into society. Worse still, some family members turn their backs on them.

A former prisoner, Mrs. Sharon Muleba shared her experience about the time she was imprisoned in Mukobeko Maximum Prison after beating her maid

who died afterwards.

“I was sentenced to 25 years in prison after I caught my husband with the maid in bed and beat her on the head, and she died afterwards. Together with my husband, we were convicted together for 25 years for the death of our maid and secretly burying her body near the river. We were however, released during a presidential pardon in commemoration of Africa Freedom Day after serving four years in 2007,” she said. Sharon described being separated from her children as the most difficult aspect of prison life.

“All respect of being a woman and human were taken away from me. I left four children at home who remained with no one to take them to school and I was shattered. The oldest was 12, then the others 10 and 8 whilst the youngest was 6 years old. I was often worried about the status of my children and wished I had not given birth at all. Being in prison was tough and I had sleepless nights all the time. We were called different names by officers that worked in prison,” she added.

Today, Sharon is out of jail but faces a myriad of challenges many former inmates can relate to as they try to reintegrate into society. What is certain is their communities do not forgive and forget.

“The community still call me a killer despite being pardoned,” lamented Sharon.

Holding the hand of people like Sharon is AGE Justice International, a non-governmental organization that has been working on the rights of female prisoners, male prisoners and circumstantial children these are children who live with their mothers in prison. Currently AGE Justice is being supported by ZGF on a one year project focused on influencing policy on human rights for female prisoners and their circumstantial children.

“Many prisoners feel rejected by society once they are released. Prejudice, intolerance and stereotypes abound; this affects those who have used their time in prison effectively as much as those who have not,” said AGE Justice.

AGE Justice said they were working with communities ensuring that they play their part in the rehabilitation process of former inmates.

“We have been sensitising and educating the general public about the dignity and value of prisoners and at the same pushing for the review of the Prison Act. Apart from engagement meetings with communities, we produced jingles and music with appropriate messages about female prisoners and their circumstantial children. We have also seen an increased number of stories from the media educating the public about female prisoners’ rights,” said AGE Justice.

AGE Justice also revealed that that the prison conditions in Zambia are not conducive for women prisoners thus they were giving former female prisoners a voice by allowing them to share their stories at various platforms.

“The Prisons Act should be reviewed to accommodate the interests of female in-mates and their circumstantial children. The prison conditions in Zambia are not conducive for female prisoners and their circumstantial children. The disease burden is very high in prisons with many prisoners reported to frequently suffer from diarrhoea and scabies. Sleeping conditions in prisons are not good. Female prisoners with different kinds of ailments share the same space and beddings with children. The dignity of a woman is injured at the time of menstruation due to the fact that the female prisoners are not allowed to wear underpants when serving the sentence,” according to a report by AGE Justice.

Sharon has however, found a way to contribute to her community by sharing her experiences to change the way prisoners are viewed by the society. She is currently working with AGE Justice in their support to female prisoners.

## On the verge of displacement Mansa woman fights on

Like many families in her area, Edith Chilambe (29) of Chimpulumba village, Mansa district faces displacement from her home following Mansa Municipal Council's decision to demolish her house to pave way for the expansion of the district.

For years, Edith, a mother of six, struggled on her own to fight against land rights infringement until she learned about ZGF's grant partner Mansa District Land Alliance (MDLA) in 2015. MDLA has been promoting active citizenship among rural communities in Mansa, Mwense, Nchelenge and Milenge districts in demanding social accountability for improved service delivery.

MDLA supported Edith's cause and others from the beginning by conducting community engagement meetings aimed at enhancing community participation in service delivery programmes and land rights.

"There was much ignorance among us on land rights and social accountability but with the help of MDLA we became aware that government could not relocate us without a proper plan. The council was using threats to force us to sign displacement consent forms and to leave our houses. However, from the first encounter with MDLA, I gained confidence and was sure we could fight displacements," Edith said.

MDLA Coordinator Kalaba Tyson said, "In the past year, we held series of meetings engaging citizens on issues to do with social accountability and land rights. There is no sustainable development without social accountability. Our aim has been to enhance citizen participation in monitoring the utilization of the land development funds for improved wellbeing of vulnerable women, men and youth".

As a result of exposure to various social accountability trainings, Kalaba says the community members have demonstrated ability to critically analyse the new developments in the area. To protect her right to land, Edith set up a committee in her village to ascertain the ownership of the fields and negotiate how much they would be compensated.



*Picture: Edith and one of her children*

“We are no longer as passive as we used to be. I organised a committee in the village and together we have been engaging the municipal on issues to do with compensation for those who have agreed to be relocated. We have been

telling the council that we settled here for a long time and this has not only been our home but our source of livelihood. Most of us are farmers and we sustain ourselves by selling our crops. I have made it clear that I can only sign displacement consent documents when I agree with government on compensation terms,” she said.

“Yes, we are being told that this is now state land but we are now aware that there are rules that govern the transition. We won’t allow government to fuel poverty by wrecking our fields. They should put up proper infrastructure in the areas they want us to reside. We need proper health facilities, schools and roads” Edith added.

Mansa Municipal Council, Director of Planning, Ian Chibale acknowledged that council was selling land to pave way for development.

“We are selling the land on a first come, first served basis. We have been working with other stakeholders to ensure that proper consultations are done. We are aware that certain parameters need to be followed before displacements are done. We have also made the land affordable as small pieces of land are going for ZMW 3,000. The money can be paid in installments,” he said.

MDLA has been lobbying for dialogue space for interaction between the community and councils in rural communities.

“We have been engaging councils on issues of interaction with communities. Public relations offices have not been fully utilized by most councils hence the low publicity of policies being implemented by respective councils. Communities are not aware of what will be going on because councils have not been effective in breaking down various developmental issues that affect communities,” said the MDLA Coordinator.

Through the hard work of MDLA along with people like Edith, Mansa Municipal Council now present policy briefs to communities, display information on their notice boards, advertise and publish crucial information in the media for the benefit of communities.

### ZGF prioritises electoral governance and education in 2016

The changing global and national priorities require a robust and more targeted response by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in their policy engagement work. In responding to this emerging need, ZGF prioritized two thematic areas in 2016: education and electoral governance. The two sectors were selected based on their potential for contributing significantly towards the achievement of ZGF’s overall objective of making government more accountable and responsive to the implementation of pro-poor policies. In particular, ZGF considers education as one of the decisive levers which can enable poor people escape poverty. ZGF also believes that electoral governance can play a critical role in holding political leaders accountable to the fulfilment of their electoral promises through sustained engagement throughout the electoral cycle.

The actual process for supporting the work of CSOs around the two themes commenced with conducting a snapshot mapping of organizations carrying out policy engagement work in the education and electoral governance sectors.

#### **Getting started**

The mapping exercise culminated in convening learning and sharing events on the two thematic areas. The electoral governance learning and sharing event was held at Gian Pieros Hotel on 25th June 2015 with 31 participants drawn from across Zambia. The event deliberated on the intricacies surrounding the narrow and almost exclusive focus on election monitoring by majority CSOs instead of engaging with the entire electoral cycle. The event recognized that this practice had slowly reduced the conceptualization of electoral governance to being a ‘one-off event’ as opposed to a process requiring sustained

engagement. Thus, the participants realized the need for sensitization on the link between elections and development processes to ensure the continuous engagement of political leaders throughout the electoral cycle. The participants also observed the need to design initiatives targeted at promoting the participation of people living with disabilities in electoral governance.

### **Focus on education**

The education learning and sharing event was held on 26th August 2015 at Grand Palace Hotel and attracted 27 participants from CSOs and INGOs working in education as well as a representative from the Ministry of General Education. The event discussed the need for organizations working in the education sector to be well vested with education policies at both national and international levels including the education related Sustainable Development Goals. It was envisaged that such knowledge could help widen the scope for policy engagement among grant partners by way of using commitments contained in international and national policies as a basis for engaging government. The discussions during the event also established that having knowledge on the current education processes is key in enhancing the relevance, legitimacy, effectiveness and overall impact of policy engagement initiatives. The participants also launched an education learning and sharing platform on the ZGF Website which serves as a hub for knowledge sharing and learning on advocacy in general and education related current affairs.

Using the learning from the two thematic events to develop a consensus on the pertinent issues of focus in the two thematic areas, ZGF designed two limited calls for proposals. The call for proposal was launched on 18th February 2016 at Tsopano Centre to a group of invited organisations selected from the participants of the previous learning and sharing events. The respective calls focused on the Joint Policy Action Support (JPAS) Grant and the Initiative Support Grant. The JPAS Grant support targets collaborative CSO policy engagement and service delivery work involving at least three organizations doing policy work of common interest for up to 12 months. While the Initiative Support Grant targets smaller and emerging Civil Society Organisations seeking to undertake initiatives combining policy engagement, service delivery and organisational capacity development. The call was limited to invited applicants who were drawn from a list of those organisations who had attended the previous learning and sharing events under the two thematic areas and those working in the thematic areas who were not current partners of ZGF.

A rigorous and tightly-scheduled assessment process followed which included a proposal writing session for those organisations who succeeded to the full-proposal stage after the concept not stage. Full

proposals were assessed with several organisations successful signing grant contracts (see table of newly signed grant contracts on page 18).

The work is not done yet as a second group of applicants from the original contingent is still under review. We look forward to sharing the exciting work that these organisations will be doing in their respective areas and congratulate all the successful applicants on the awarding of their grants

### Chief Simamba leads the way in community sanitation



*Chief Simamba at his residence*

Sanitation remains one of the key health issues in Zambia with many people in rural areas lacking access to adequate sanitation facilities. Chief Simamba of Siavonga district has made significance strides in promoting water and sanitation standards in his chiefdom.

In 2015, Chief Simamba introduced community awards where one outstanding community receives a floating trophy for promoting good sanitary standards. The awards are given during the Lwiindi traditional ceremony, an annual thanksgiving festival that attracts a lot of people from all parts of the country. The Chief celebrates the Lwiindi ceremony by consuming the first meal of the new season's harvest. Chief Simamba told ZGF that he introduced the awards to encourage his communities to build toilets, dish racks

and rubbish pits to ensure hygiene standards are upheld. Nabutezi community, which has a toilet for every household, scooped the first trophy in 2015.

“Poor hygiene, shortage of water and lack of sanitation facilities such as toilets is causing pollution of the environment. Most homes have no toilets thereby exposing people to waterborne diseases. It’s even worse as children mostly below the age of five spend most of their time playing in the shallow dry river beds that are faecal polluted. Mindful of all this, I decided to introduce community awards in order to celebrate health because having sanitation facilities means good health. If you go to Nabutezi you find that almost every household has a toilet which is what I want to see in all the other communities,” he said. To determine the winner, Chief Simamba said communities are monitored throughout the year by headmen and he also visits each community from time to time.

“This is a results based initiative so selecting the winner is not difficult. I work with the headmen and I also get to visit and monitor the communities. Transport is a challenge at times, such that I have to use the boat to visit communities located on the island,” Chief Simamba said.

However, the chief says it has been an uphill task having everyone adhere to the call of building toilets. “At first when I said every household needed a toilet, people were highly resistant as they argued that they could still use the bush. I however, encouraged them to build toilets using the simplest and cheapest material. You find that for a start some families have built their toilets using poles, grass and reeds,” Chief Simamba explained.

A by-law has also been passed making it compulsory for every household to have a toilet. The introduction of the community awards and by-law has seen an increase in the number of toilets being built in Chief Simamba’s chieftom. Furthermore, Chief Simamba commended Harvest Help Zambia (HHZ), a local non-governmental organization and ZGF Grant Partner for advocating for the development and implementation of water and sanitation policies and programs through community participation in Simamba Ward of Siavonga.

“It was really difficult to bring people on board but through community meetings held by HHZ, people are now forthcoming as they understand why they need to make use of the toilets and have access to clean water,” Chief Simamba said.

HHZ Director, Alexander Kasenzi said not only were the communities uncooperative but it was also difficult to bring the chief on board.

“When we started doing the community engagement meetings educating people about water and sanitation policies, the chief was hostile at first as he thought we wanted to bring unrest in the communities. With time we found common ground with the chief as he began to understand that community participation was crucial for the development of the community,” said Kasenzi.

Kasenzi said the introduction of the community awards was a reinforcement of their advocacy work in water and sanitation programs in Simamba wards.

“The introduction of the awards is a clear endorsement of furthering the good cause of promoting sanitation programs. It is a noble idea that we think can be replicated in other communities,” Kasenze said.

HHZ has been playing a pivotal role in increasing policy awareness and action on water and sanitation in Simamba wards by organizing drama trips and performances on water and sanitation in the area.

“Apart from the dramas we have also been airing water and sanitation programs on Kariba FM and holding awareness meetings. As a result of these programs we have seen strengthened and coordinated working partnerships between the community and the local authority. This is evidenced by the rehabilitation of the Mundulundulu water reticulation system in Siavonga. To alleviate water challenges the local authority has been helping in bringing water to the people of Simamba using a bausser,” said Kasenze.

Chief Simamba hopes to attain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in the near future for promoting behavioural change on water, sanitation and hygiene in his community.

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### Grant Partner Feature: Civil Society Input in Draft Agriculture Policy

Project conducted by: **Platform for Social Protection Zambia (PSP) in collaboration with the Civil Society Scaling up Nutrition Alliance (CSO-SUN)**

Agriculture is the primary sector of many economies. It is the sector responsible for granting food and nutrition security to all human being and it is responsible for social stability and health. According to the Central Statistical Office agriculture contributes 16% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Zambia while the National Labour Survey of 2012 states that just over 2.8 million people are involved in agricultural activities.

It is within this background that the Platform for Social Protection (PSP) and the Civil Society Organisation for Scaling up Nutrition (CSO-SUN) embarked on a project to ensure that civil society input was included in the formation of the National Agricultural Policy (NAP).

The organisations shared the position that agriculture “is the main source of livelihood of the most nutritionally and economically vulnerable households in Zambia”. The project took place in the context of a nationwide stunting rate of 40% combined with a 19% obesity rate, which contributed to poor primary health indicators, namely malnutrition which relates to both over and under nutrition.

This context, combined with other cross-cutting issues such as gender, HIV and AIDS, disability and conservation of the environment, created a pressing need for a NAP which not only took into account the needs and opinions of the agricultural sector’s primary commercial stakeholders but also prioritised the needs of the most vulnerable members of the population. Thus the issue needed to be approached from both a producers’ and a consumers’ point of view in order to fairly benefit society as a whole.

The project aimed to support the creation of a NAP that would incorporate nutrition and social protection interventions by promoting policies that would encourage production for consumption of diverse and highly nutritional foods such as animal protein and legumes. The recommendations that were submitted to policy makers for the formulation of the NAP were jointly created by various members of civil society. Several meetings, forums and discussions were held in the target districts of Lundazi, Chipata and Lusaka.

### **Accessing Support**

PSP was successful in accessing a Rapid Response Support Grant from ZGF which provided capacity development support as well as financing for the project. Working closely with ZGF, PSP and CSO-SUN created a work plan and log frame for the project which detailed activities and key indicators. This allowed for the creation of a solid roadmap for the four week project. Although there were some administrative challenges concerning the opening of a bank account for the grants monies to be deposited into, the partnering approach to implementing the project allowed for open communication while resolving the issue.

### **Implementing Change**

CSO-SUN initially informed government of their desire to incorporate civil society input into the NAP by reaching out to stakeholders for recommendations that met the stakeholders’ needs. The national level stakeholders included the Ministry of Agriculture, Harvest Plus, the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research

Institute (IAPRI), the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF), the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU), World Vision and Save the Children among others. The district level stakeholders included the Chipata Women Farmers, the Mongu Farmers Union, the Samfya Community of Care Providers and Care and Hope for All. Several consultative forums were held with all stakeholders in order to create a roadmap for the project and the formulation of the NAP recommendations. The project required cooperation and collaboration with government which CSO-SUN secured by using a positive media strategy that limited but targeted media coverage. This relationship with the government was instrumental in the project's success as it allowed for the recommendations to be received favourably.

Funds that were initially allocated for a much larger media campaign were utilised to increase coverage in an additional district; resulting in a total of three (3) districts covered. Several meetings with national and district level community-based organisations allowed CSO-SUN to limit duplication, utilise the organisations infrastructure and communication networks, but most importantly, to enter the various communities with key knowledge from reliable sources. This allowed for the various meetings to have impressive gender inclusive turnouts despite the drastic reduction in the project's timeframe from six months to a mere four weeks due to the government's decision to expedite the completion of the NAP. CSO-SUN and PSP prioritised having the voices of the ordinary community members heard before those of the chiefs. They wanted the poor underprivileged members of civil society to finally be granted a voice and provided them with specially designated platforms during the meetings. They also provided the people with an opportunity to exercise their right to participate in the policy making process.

During the community meetings, CSO-SUN and PSP showed the explicit links between the farmers and the local government structures when it came down to policy making. They explained why the NAP mattered and how it affected them. They focused on explaining how they were directly affected by and would benefit from the NAP as well as the importance of taking ownership of the issue of malnutrition. They highlighted the fact that collaboration of Zambian farmers was essential in the fight against malnutrition because they determine what was produced and sold for consumption. Thus by making diverse and highly nutritious foods easily available, the nation's nutrition and health indicators could improve.

However it was not all straightforward and some difficulties were encountered when attempting to explain the linkages between the cross-cutting issues of disability and HIV/AIDs when compared to those of gender and the environment. The use of a mixture of formal and informal meetings such as small concerts with local musicians that sung about the issues at hand was of great aid in spreading awareness. Due to limited resources, communities that belonged to geographically close regions such as Chipata and

Lundazi were combined. Cultural barriers posed some difficulty in this process since certain traditions did not align with the recommendations made by CSO-SUN and their nutritionists. In these instances, the organisation had to convene meetings with the chiefs and try to reach a common ground of understanding that was not dismissive of their culture. This would prevent the communities from feeling as though the policies were being imposed on them by outsiders. It also encouraged the communities to play an active role in the implementation of the policies even after the project's completion.

PSP and CSO-SUN submitted their policy recommendations to the government on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 90% of the recommendations were included in the draft [National Agricultural Policy](#). The full list of recommendations can be found [here](#).

### The Responsibilities of a Board Chairperson in a Civil Society Organisation



By Mwenda Mumbuna

One question I ask participants of various board training is for them to give me three main functions of a board chairperson.

It is always fascinating that participants would come up with a lot of answers such as being a leader or ensuring that members of the board respect the rules of the board. I remember in one board training, one participant stating that the

board chairperson was the “father of the organisation”. I found this interesting especially that in the Zambian context, a father was a person who was not only respected but feared by his children and even siblings. When I further enquired why a board chairperson should be likened to a “father” I was told that the Board Chairperson had more “powers” than the other board members and his decisions were final. It is an interesting perspective and insight and yes, this is an expectation of many people I asked – but not surprisingly my answer was that this is certainly not how a board chairperson should be perceived.

I would continue to ask the question what to “chair” a meeting meant and for this question, most respondents would indicate that it meant directing the meeting while some said it was about opening the meeting. I would add and say that the third function is that of closing the meeting. Board decisions are only made in a board room based on the principle of collective responsibility. Collective responsibility means that no one member of the board has more decision making powers than the other. The board

chairperson can have a casting vote but that does not mean that he/she has more powers. It is just a means of breaking a deadlock when there is tie in a vote. In a board meeting, the Chairperson of the board facilitates the meeting and ensures that appropriate and timely decisions are made in an acceptable manner. Thus the responsibility of the Board Chairperson is to encourage all members of the board to feel that they are valuable and thus make contributions on all matters that are brought forward for discussion. The board chairperson also ensures that the discussion during the meeting remains interesting, engaging and constructive.

The Board Chairperson needs to ensure that the board meeting starts and ends as agreed in the Standing Orders (Board Charter) that is the written document containing policies and procedures that govern the board. The Board Chairperson also ensures that constructive conclusions are drawn from each discussion before moving on to the next issue, and when a conclusion cannot be made, this should be clearly stated. The Board Chairperson, however, has other responsibilities or functions which should be outlined in the organisation's constitution and/or the board manual, including, for example, providing policy guidance and organizational overall leadership and/ or being the chief spokesperson of the organization. The Board Chairperson also chairs meetings of the board and of the Annual General Meeting and presents the report of the board at the Annual General Meeting.

Other functions of the Board Chairperson which can be stipulated in the constitution and/or board manual are to supervise the implementation of policies made by the organization, call Extraordinary General Meetings where necessary and to spearhead resource mobilisation, and identifying new fields of fundraising for and sustaining the organisation.

*Mwenda Mumbuna is a consultant with more than 20 years' experience of working within, with and for international and local nongovernmental organisations in establishing and supporting their organizational and institutional development. His training portfolio includes topics such as strategic planning, capacity needs assessment, corporate governance, and facilitation.*

*ZGF has a toolkit on **Board Governance** that is free to Grant Partners and can be purchased at a small fee by other interested organisations. Email [toolkits@zgf.org.zm](mailto:toolkits@zgf.org.zm) for more information.*

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Through the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) Civil Society Support programme ZGF provides technical capacity development support to eight grantees and their five co-applicants over a period of three years. The eight grantees are Avocats Sans Frontiers (co-applicant Young Women Christian Association), Norwegian Church Aid, (co-applicant Women and Law in Southern Africa), Plan Norge (co-applicants YWCA and Legal Aid Clinic for Women), Women for Change, Women in Law and Development in Africa, Voluntary Services Overseas (co-applicant Zambia Land Alliance), Stitching Free Press Unlimited (co-applicants House of Consciousness and Alliance for Community Action) and Barefeet Theatre.

### **A quick catch up**

In September and October 2015, selected grantees signed their contract with the European Union (EU). ZGF's role in the programme now began in earnest with the financial, organisational and programmatic assessments of the grantees being done. The ZGF team liaised extensively with all grantees together they agreed on what support each organisation required to make their project a success.

Some organisations began their projects with a baseline survey. ZGF, through an experienced consultancy team, provided capacity development support to this process in order to enable the grantees to collect accurate baseline information for their respective projects. To build clear expectations and commitment, a tripartite agreement was created to help all parties fully understand their roles and responsibilities and successfully complete baseline activities under their projects.

### **The learning continues...**

ZGF conducted a social inclusion and policy engagement workshop for the grantees and co-applicants of the Civil Society Support programme. The participants focused on learning how to better include people living with disability or with HIV/AIDS in their policy engagement actions. In addition, the workshop facilitated learning on how to effectively and successfully engage with policy makers and other duty bearers at different levels to jointly improve access to justice for women.

### **What is Access to Justice under this project all about?**

Six of the eight grantees that under the EDF programme have projects focusing on access to justice. Specifically, the projects focus on increasing legal literacy amongst citizens; providing paralegal and legal advice aimed at helping citizens – in particular vulnerable groups; providing free or affordable legal aid services; providing capacity development support to



access to justice organisations, focusing on policy engagement and lastly providing innovative approaches which encourage attitude and behaviour changes within communities and policy actors.



### **What is Media Development under this project all about?**

The remaining two grantees are focusing on media development. These initiatives are aimed at encouraging attitude and behaviour changes on protection of human rights, gender equality, democratic participation and economic empowerment. In addition the projects will promote innovative models of debate and collaboration between media, civil society and citizens; improve journalism; promote freedom of information; have a strong focus on policy engagement and increase capacity of independent media outlets or community radio stations.

Learn more about ZGF's work on the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Civil Society Project by visiting the page on our [website](#).

## **Environmentally Friendly CSOs**

ZGF's goal of providing training to support CSOs in being eco-friendly was realized with a training on environmental issues for civil society organisations. The training was facilitated by Mr Alexander Hanyuma from Zambia Institute of Environmental Management (ZIEM) who developed a curriculum that reflected the current legal framework for environmental protection in Zambia and also included practical ideas on how CSOs can incorporate environmentally friendly practices in their day-to-day activities. This effort

built upon ZGF's previous work in the creation of CSOs' role and responsibility in contributing to the blue planet's sustainability and survival of humanity.

In this training, the participants were introduced to environmental issues, threats and opportunities for Zambia such as those relating to climate change and pollution. After the training session as a way forward, the participating CSOs formed a CSOs Consortium to spearhead issues of the environment in the country. The mandate of the Consortium includes:

- Climate Change Policy engagement of duty bearers
- Evidence based on environment policies and information dissemination on environmental issues
- Resource mobilization for project implementation in environment and climate change
- Climate Change finance governance and tracking in the country
- Climate Change knowledge management regarding environmental Audits and Compliance by environmental agencies in the country.

The structure of the Consortium is as follows: ZIEM will serve as the Secretariat in the interim with CSPR as vice secretariat, and the elected Chair is ZAYODE, with KCCC as Vice Chair, while other CSOs will serve as committee members of the Consortium. The CSOs that participated in the formation of the Consortium included Age Justice, PAHRFD, Barefeet, RFDP, WLSA, YWCA, CCSDP, TIZ and ANR.

### JCTR Social Audit Trainings

ZGF partnered with JCTR to build the capacity of their outreach teams to initiate and conduct social audit on public infrastructure and other social services being offered by the government. The ZGF team carried out the trainings in the 6 outreach areas in Mongu, Kasama, Livingstone, Kabwe, Kitwe and Monze.

ZGF carries out on-demand custom trainings for a fee. If you're your organisation is interested in the suite of trainings we have available contact us as [info@zgf.org.zm](mailto:info@zgf.org.zm)

### Muchinga: growing the demand for social accountability

As part of ZGF's efforts to ensure continued capacity development, networking as well as providing opportunities for learning and sharing among the CSOs in social accountability monitoring and policy engagement, ZGF facilitated a learning event in Muchinga bringing together eight CSOs and two

NZP+ Mpika

**ISSUE: LONG HOURS OF WAITING TO ACCESS ARVS AT MPIKA DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

Community Radio Stations (CRS) all earmarked to receive **Imbuto support** (a small fund for community based organisations in Muchinga to carry out social accountability initiatives) and

forty-six CSOs that are under a scoping exercise for possibility of receiving similar support. Here are few highlights of the developments in Muchinga since ZGF began working with the organisation in 2013.

- After training **social accountability** NZP+ had a meeting with the health care providers at Mpika Hospital. These health care providers were directly linked to the hospital under ZPCT Kasama.
- With the use of **scorecards** ZPCT discovered that most people came from different and far away areas just to collect their drugs at the district hospital and people never followed their appointments.
- An idea of forming groups of six in each community was suggested. This was to reduce congestion as each group had one representative. The representative was to get drugs on behalf of other group members. This was on a rotating basis, where each member had a month to represent other group members.
- Instead of splitting people between the hospitals it was decided that they train community ART support workers. These were to help dispense drugs. NZP+ is yet to hold a meeting with the community over the community ART support workers and also on the groups of six.

## New Grants



### Civil Society for Poverty Reduction [CSPR]

• Earmarked Institutional Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 800,00



### Caritas Zambia

• Earmarked Institutional Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 1,250,500



### FODEP

Joint Policy Action Support Grant - 9 months - ZMW 299,932

Inclusive Participation of Citizens in the Electoral Process



### Non-governmental Organisations Coordinating Committee [NGOCC]

Rapid Response Grant - 6 months - ZMW 1,249,901.70

Ensuring the expanded Bill of Rights which includes justiciable Social, Economic and Cultural Rights enshrined in the National Constitution through the National Referendum.



### Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection [JCTR]

Earmarked Institutional Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 1,249,993.97



### Kasama Christain Care Centre

Mini-Initiative Support Grant - xx months - ZMW 200,00

Combat child labour and increase access to education through policy engagement in Kasama and Mungwi



### The Sani Foundation

Joint Policy Action Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 300,000

Support the employment for youths with intellectual disabilities



### People's Action Forum

Initiative Support Grant - 18 months - ZMW 599,648.00

To improve enrolment and retention of girls in Mazabuka in 10 community schools by 2017.



### Restless Development

Earmarked Institutional Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 800,000

Provision of targeted technical support to youth and youth focused CSOs.



### Support for Poverty Reduction [SPRIZ]

Joint Policy Action Support Grant - 12 months - ZMW 298,396

To contribute to the reduction of incidences of tobacco child labour in Nkala area of Kalomo district of Southern Province by June 2017.



### Alliance for Communtiy Action

Initiative Support Grant - 24- months - ZMW 535,050

'Ask project' on elections.

## SAY it with ICT



ICT-enabled communication is becoming more prevalent in Zambia, driven by the sheer number of mobile phone subscribers. Recent figures from the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) estimate that 64.5% of Zambians have mobile phone access with 13.5% of phone owners having smartphones.

According to the survey, the majority of those with smartphones use them to access applications such as WhatsApp, Viber, Facebook, Skype and Twitter for communication using instant messaging or voice calling. ZICTA also found that the percentage of people reporting that they knew how to use the internet nearly doubled in two years from 4.8% in 2013 to 8.8% in 2015.

Electronic governance (E-governance) was identified by the government as a priority area with the launch of the e-governance statistical data portal in December 2014 and the creation of the e-governance Division in 2015. ICT has also influenced the way public resources are managed through the Integrated Financial Management Information System [IFMIS]. It has changed how public agencies communicate with citizens, for example service alerts are sent via SMS from ZESCO. This type of systematic service where the public sector uses ICT-enabled solutions to handle its daily work will only become more popular. This leads to an important question: is there an opportunity for citizens to use ICT based platforms to produce better governance outcomes? If so, what would such platforms look like and where could the links with duty bearers be made? These questions influenced the topic of the third SAY Café under the theme: '**SAY it with ICT: how ICT can enable citizen voice**'. By citizen voice here we mean the sum of all the wants and needs of citizens.

The SAY Café is a talking series that encourages discussion on different policy issues from a first person jargon-free perspective. The concept encourages the sharing of ideas in an informal setting in order to grow active citizenship. This particular SAY Café took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March at the ZCAS campus with a panel of speakers who had projects that encouraged ICT use for citizen voice. These were Asikana Network, Ideas Lab Group and Viva Campaign. The three organisations had designed apps specifically for the Zambian context and shared their story of the apps and ideas with the audience.

[Asikana Network](#): The Women's Rights App: the app provides information to users on laws, policies and protections for people who may have experienced gender based violence (GBV).

[Ideas Lab Group](#): created the highly popular Constitution of Zambia (amendment) app that allows users of android mobile devices to access the supreme law of the land. The [free app](#) has already been downloaded over 5,000 times on Google Play Store

[Viva Campaign](#): The interactive app encourages constituents to connect with their elected officials at local and national government level by creating an online community where users sign-up to their constituencies. The app uses the social networking concept where users (both citizens and elected

officials) create their profiles, post updates and invite people to events. The app, which includes all 150 constituencies is also available for free on [Google Play Store](#).



*Picture: Daniel Nonde of Viva Campaign app answers questions*

Once presenters had shared their stories of the creation of their apps and their future plans for the organisations and apps, attendants were allowed to ask questions and engage with the topic.

Overall the sentiment was that there was so much more to do to encourage ICT enabled citizen voice in Zambia – led by Zambian-made interventions that fit the Zambian context. The hope is that there will be a more events that encourage the sharing of ideas and

innovations to encourage the growth of this sector.

**Connect with us**

**Have Any Questions?** Email us at [zgf@zgf.org.zm](mailto:zgf@zgf.org.zm)

**Have an idea for an article?** We would love to hear it! Let us know what topics you would like to know more about.

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