

# Annual Report

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## Director's Note

**T**he year 2022, will go down memory lane, as a year of wonderful opportunities and lessons. It will be remembered for its numerous challenges, with a bearing on civic and operational space. Despite all these challenges, CYDT continues to reach greater heights. The organisation survived the global COVID 19, pandemic at the same time contributed effectively to the national discourse of ensuring sustainable youth empowerment through calling for a legislative framework that supports youth participation in decision making and leadership. For years now, CYDT has been calling for a well-defined and constitutionally supported youth quota. The organization trust that adoption of women and youth quotas is very key to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the promotion of democracy through inclusive institutions. More so the organisation escalated its commitment to empowering young women by sourcing working equipment for women in mining.



However, the organization noted that COVID 19 crisis has differently affected citizens, and that its repercussions will be felt by many for years to come hence the need to create safe spaces where youth and leaders meet up to discuss challenges faced and co-create solutions. This is a way of fostering an integrated youth consultative approach to issues that affect their well-being.

More so, the deepening economic crisis is profoundly impacting to youths and their families. Its effects are rippling through the multiple contexts in which young people are situated. Within the nuclear family, stresses such as job loss, unemployment and loss in family savings and income; place strain on relations of the family as a whole hence pushing youths to drug or substance abuse.

During the year, we have seen young people being vulnerable as they undergo critical developments transition in life. Majority of them are forced to postpone their plans for higher education and instead seek increasingly scarce jobs in order for them to contribute to household income. This has seen a number of young people being forced to do menial jobs, in which they get exposed to manipulation and underpayment.

This calls for programming that supports young people to be self-sufficient and financially independent. It is crucial that these young people have the knowledge and skills to succeed in life, if we are to break the cycle of poverty and inequality in our societies. Therefore, during the course of the year, the organization tried to unlock youth potential through access to decent mining as a way of driving progress towards sustainable, inclusive development.

Project Name	Funding Partner	Project areas
Bridging the gap: Women Realize their Social & Economic Power in mining	PISCCA	Gwanda, Matobo Mzingwane
Enhancing Youth Voice in Governance & Leadership	NED	Beitbridge, Bulilima, Matobo, Gwanda and Zvishavane
Strengthening youth engagement in local governance to further grassroots development	Diakonia	Bulilima, Gwanda and Mangwe
Promoting social relation with informal traders in Beitbridge	GIZ-AU	Beitbridge
Promoting Access to Justice, Transparency and Accountability	GIZ	Gwanda Mzingwane and Matobo
She matters: Give her the right of way Project	NDI	Bulilima and Gwanda

The organisation continue to contribute towards capacity strengthening of other Community Based Organizations in Matabeleland South and parts of Midlands. Our dream is to ensure that these CBOs are able to demonstrate ability to manage grants and deliver services to their members.

Throughout the year, CYDT adopted Positive Youth Development in its programing. As such, the organisation ensured that youth gain **competence, confidence, identify connections while developing character**, that allow them to be self-actors and initiators. We also ensure that our programing model them to be **caring** individuals for them to be responsible citizens. *The PYD model; asserts that basic psychological conditions are significant determinants of a youth well-being (Lerner, 2009), especially in this advent of increased substance and drug abuse.*

As an organisation that always value youth as members of the community with a unique capacity and resources that can be further developed, nurtured and cultivated, we felt that adopting PYD model will complement our efforts to maximize on Asset Based Community Development approach.

**#ZwakalaNtanga – the future is promising**

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## CHAIRPERSON

### *Chairperson's Note*



**2022** marked a historic turn around in our programming where we managed to combine advocacy and livelihood. As an organisation we trust that the process of becoming a community advocate requires mastery of both the technical knowledge and skills related to the discipline of practice “soft skills”, that include good communicator, mobilizer and some trainings. However, of late the organization realized that for youths to deliver effectively, they need to also get support such that they are able to start up income generating projects for the betterment of their future and that of their families. As an organisation that seek to strengthen women in mining, we then empowered women miners with equipment for them to serve their members at the same time generate income for sustainability.

In its quest to facilitate the formation of an active youth movement that is

able to stand for issues affecting the generality of youth despite political, social and economic backgrounds, the organisation conducted a number of meetings aimed at facilitating a coordinated youth voice. These meetings presented an opportunity to reflect collectively and imagine together with our mentors whom we believe came before us. This is a way of promoting tolerance and creating a support base for youth related issues.

In 2022, the organisation maximized in collaborations especially with the Mother Ministry (ministry of Youth in all the districts). This was a way of sustaining our projects beyond the funding period, knowing that the Ministry will continue with activities around strengthening youth capacities, lobbying for increased youth involvement in decision making and leadership.

Allow me to extend appreciation to CYDT Partners, Stakeholders and Board of Trustees, Secretariat, members and support base for trusting and believing in us throughout the year. Without your sterling support we couldn't make it this far. Despite all the challenges presented by the local, national and global context, CYDT excelled due to the support given.

On behalf of the board of trustees allow me to deeply thank you, Siyabonga, Tatenda and Thank you so much.





# Our operational landscape

## Political landscape

Although a new constitution was adopted in 2013, government has not implemented a holistic program of taking the constitution to the people and hence youths still have limited knowledge of the content and substance of their rights especially the civil and political rights. Civic activity particularly on human rights continue to be viewed with political suspicions hence the efforts to limit the impact by placing onerous requirements for NGOs to access communities. The unending demands and requirements on MOU applications and renewals remains a challenge for many CBOs and CSOs. This has created uncertainty to the future of these organization that continue being a communication bridge between citizens and the authorities. The fact that organizations working on youth participation in decision making, governance and community development is highly politicized, create an unfriendly environment for non-state actors to freely conduct advocacy work. This is despite the calls to open up space for CSOs so that they complement government efforts especially around youth empowerment through information dissemination and skills development. Zimbabwe's political landscape remain extremely polarized; this has resulted in low levels of young women and men's participation in electoral and governance processes, and this continues to be a setback towards achieving a sound youth representation in local decision-making structures. The recent political violence recorded across the province and in other areas



where there were by-elections; are a clear indication of a violent electoral environment in 2023, which is a major threat to meaningful and effective participation of youths.

## 1.2 Economic Environment

The prevailing political environment has a bearing on the performance of the economy. The unofficial introduction of a 3-tier prize system across the province proves that our local currency has significantly lost value. The situation is even worse in the border town where local currency is not regarded as a legal tender. Service providers are charging in foreign currency, a situation which further expose youths to poverty and inequality as they cannot access services where they are required to pay in foreign currency. As a result, young people are generally frustrated with no employment and substantiated source of income. It has been noted that the national government is also losing trust on the local currency, seeing that some services in government offices are now pegged in USD. However, mining has of late proven to be a source of livelihood for young people though it comes with its share of challenges as the sector is highly polarized. Such developments further fuel violence and social divisions among the youths. Despite all these challenges, youths need to be sensitized such that they see value in participating in the country's democratic processes.

## Social Environment

Citizens are not united due to increased polarization and the looming divide and rule manifesting through the topical political hashtags. Most of the time youths scramble and jostle to be identified with these Hashtags as a survival tactic. This contributes to social disintegration as citizens are chasing whatever puts food on the table at the same time thriving on manipulating each other. More so politicization of food aid is the major contributor of social disintegration. Again, the collapsing social service delivery affect the rate of youth responsiveness as they spend time chasing for social services and needs, therefore getting them to grasp electoral information becomes difficult under the prevailing situation hence the need to maximize on peer to peer reach-out. There is need for CYDT programing to ride on social ways of mobilizing youths such as community meetings (Inkundla), social tournaments and women get together forums.



# SUMMARY

**T**his report will give an outline on CYDT work in 2022. It shall detail achievements at the same time share on the challenges encountered. The report serves as the medium of communication in as far as CYDT work is concerned. It gives the organisation opportunity to appreciate the partnerships and collaborations made as a way of promoting youth development and engagement. Projects implemented during the course of the year shall be summarized so as to give a preface on the focus of the organization and outcomes achieved.

The report will also share on the annual reach of CYDT activities across all project. It will also share on the strategies or approaches used to realize results. As an organization that operates at local level with some national level interactions, the report will seek to demonstrate impact made and how we seek to leverage on such. Lessons learnt will be shared at the end of the report and how the organization will ride on them as a way of leveraging on them and produce better results. The report will also share insights and challenges of working in resource reach communities especially during election period. It will also unpack the collaboration made and the impact thereof.





# 2022 Flagship achievements



- Managed to capacitate 3 CBOs on Grants Management and RBM
- Established strategic partnerships as a way of sustaining youth participation advocacy
- Managed to improve youth access to human rights information – this was done through physical/online meetings. It was also made available on animations and information materials
- Managed to conduct a participatory project (s) evaluation process so as to afford our stakeholders, and members opportunity to give feedback on our operations at the same time influence our programming.



- Produced newsletters with stories from the communities on service delivery, corruption in the mining sector and youth participation
- Received recognition from local and national level partners for being consistent in pushing for legislative framework that institutionalizes youth participation in decision making and governance
- Continued to produce user-friendly resource materials such as training manuals – and these are being adopted by critical stakeholders and partners
- Improved working relations with mother ministry and policy makers
- Tracked, documented and published our success stories. For more visit [www.cydt.org.zw](http://www.cydt.org.zw)
- Coordinated youth voice in calling for necessary approaches that will foster systematic youth involvement and engagement by both policy makers and the ministry of youth.
- Established a vibrant youth network that maximizes on peer to peer youth vote mobilization #TellAFriendCampaign
- Production of youth user-friendly information material such as podcast, documentaries and newsletters
- Riding on digital media to sensitize youths such as YouTube and TikTok
- Conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Leadership Bootcamp – for youth aspiring leaders
- Ensuring that young women empowerment becomes practical – CYDT bought a Compressor for women in mining in Matobo – this was based on the thrust that equipped miners become more productive.
- Achievement of a 30% youth quota at local government level as a result of combined lobbying and advocacy. <https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/youth-women-quota-celebrated/>
- Capacitation of staff members on sustainable ways of community-based programming
- Produced policy framework on informal traders – as a way of influencing systemic relations between youth informal traders and authorities in Beitbridge.
- Sustaining Women Miners Association in mining communities so as to realize women economic justice
- Petitioned parliament on possible means of institutionalizing informal traders through enacting legal means that protect them



# Our Niche



**C**YDT's niche and focus remains unique and appealing to the targeted audience. The fact that we engage youths as partners and capacitate them as project beneficiaries, motivate them to own the process and commit to practice what they learnt beyond the spaces provided by the organization. The organization also embraced youth coaching as a niche which typically focused on modelling youth thinking and focus – with the aim of having youths who are well groomed, who make big life decisions and transitions, who are confident to take up any challenge in leadership. In a nutshell, we are coaching youths to become responsible citizens, self-actors and initiators such that they influence what is peculiar to them. Coaching generally helps a person to realize the power they have in changing their current state and explore new avenues. Therefore, when dealing with young people, you need to listen to their story, before you coach them to their destiny. This makes them identify with the services being offered.

As CYDT, we maximize on youth-adult partnership, as a way of addressing negative stereotype about youth capacity and ability. Therefore, fostering adult and youth

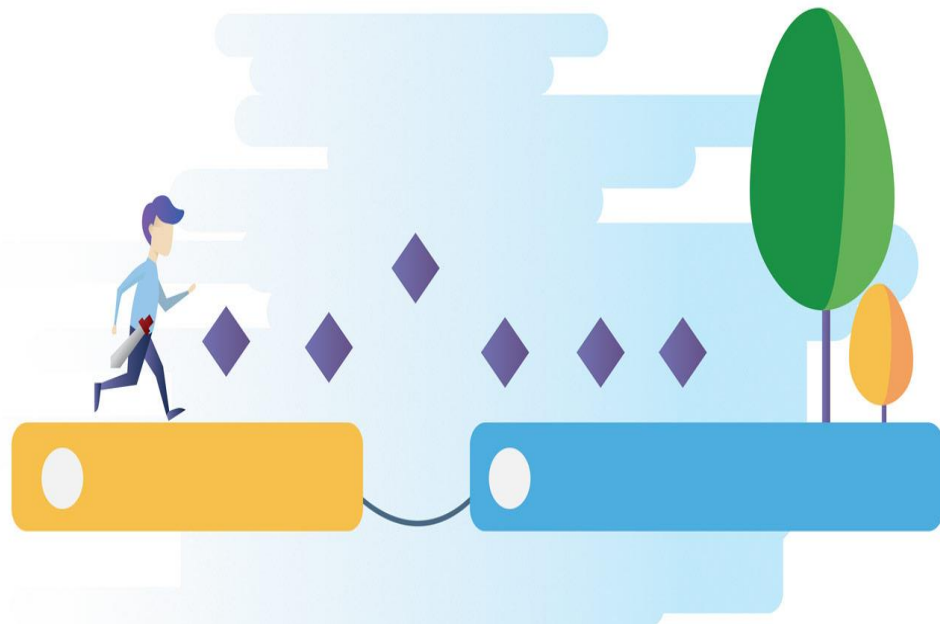
partnership create a fertile ground for the two groups to tap into each other's energy, knowledge and strengths. It helps young people to develop strong commitments on fighting for social justice which remains a barrier in attaining total youth empowerment. Again, this becomes a vehicle of trust and confidence building between adults and the youths – where adults begin to share power to make decisions and respect youths input in all sector. This becomes a niche to ensure that adults recognize youths as assets and understand what the youth will bring to the partnership at the same time be willing to provide additional training and support when youth need it. However, we emphasis on the need for the youth and adults to embrace change during the partnership.

## Celebrating the milestones

It seems only appropriate to take a moment to pause and reflect when reaching important milestones, and with this new year, the *Community Youth Development Trust* and

its members, took to time to pause and reflect on our milestones. You may have already noticed the bright celebratory mood, displayed throughout the year as we turn 7. We believe that when a child turns 7, he or she has achieved a great milestone that needs to be showcased and reflected upon.

To date, CYDT has taken a lead in coordinating community based organisation in the southern region of the country, which has seen some CBOs supported to get funding from international donors. The ability by the organisation create space for CBOs to collaborate and work together as hand and glove towards a common goal. This became a support system which limited violation of CBOs either by other organisations and local structures.





The ability to adopt Positive Youth development and 3 lens approach to youth participation, managed to deepen, CYDT acceptance as a critical stakeholder in the youth empowerment movement. The fact that the organisation conduct advocacy at local level and see it through to the national level, saw the petition demanding 30% youth quota gaining more ground. The report shared by the parliamentary portfolio committee on the petition detailed the steps that will be taken, leading to another constitutional amendment in respect of the youth quota system.

The organisation empowers youths with knowledge and skills to make a difference in local and national socio-economic and political discourses based on three advocacy priority pillars enshrined in our strategic documents adopted in 2018 that include Local and National Level Advocacy (civil and political rights to influence governance agenda) Sexual Reproductive and Health Right (socio-economic rights) and Youth Livelihood Support (youth empowerment). Therefore, as an organisation we managed to program and realized results, as shared under the session of "flagship achievement".

## Geographic Coverage

### Matsouth Map



## Our Programing

# approach

Youth programing cannot be done effectively without the involvement of the youths. Youths are to be initiators of their issues and model how they want them addressed, which means that an organisation comes in as midwife. Driven by the mantra Nothing for Us, Without Us is for Us, CYDT ensured that youth involvement start at the conception stage (design). We involve youth in our planning, they take the lead in the implementation and play the role in sharing success stories and sustaining the outcomes. By so doing ownership of the process is inherited by youths and lasts for generations to come as they pass on the button to the next generation.

The organisation embraced **youth engagement as a tool of encouraging a coordinated youth voice**. This came after a realization that integrating youth engagement in program design and implementation is critical to sustaining development impact over time. However, our main focus was also on influencing policy change where initiatives to foster a change on the legislative framework were emphasized. This is a way of promoting domestication of these policies from national to local level. Therefore youth-driven interventions focus on the individuals who will shape future policy, enact positive change in their communities, and drive innovation. Creating campaign hashtags that resonate with the youth social needs increased the ownership of those hashtags. #Youth4Governance encourage effective and meaningful participation of youths in governance spaces while #ZwakalaNtanga motivates youths to speak up, demand space and hold everyone to account while they take the lead in influencing policy change.



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# Our Main Activities

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# #1

## Service Delivery Annual Conference

During the conference, young people shared how they got involved in local authority processes, demonstrating that local authorities are now open to youth involvement and invite them as at when there are activities. They unpacked the tools they use to track on service provision such as the State of Service Delivery Reports, which were produced every year since 2019 under the support of Diakonia. From what they shared, it was noted that youths have become self-initiators and are taking responsibility to ensure that evidence is in place such that when holding leaders and duty bearers to account they have a reference point.



Having noted that delivery of services to citizens should be at the heart of all local authorities as they are the first port of call to citizens on local governance issues, informed the convening of this conference which was done in partnership with Gweru Residents & Rate Payers Association. The conference was attended by 45 participants composed by Youth Social Accountability Champions, Residents' Associations and other Local Government Stakeholders. Despite it being a platform to deliberate on service delivery, it also presented opportunity for GRAA to share what they believe are best practices



when engaging with local authorities. It became a conducive space for cross learning considering that when checking out, each participant shared their takeaway from what they learnt or embraced as a best practice.

More so, Gwanda Municipality's treasury department, took the opportunity to beam up the proposed 2023 budget in comparison with the 2022 one. Participants appreciated the opportunity considering that for some of them, it was their first time to see local authority coming out in open on income and expenditure hence justifying the need to increase tariffs.

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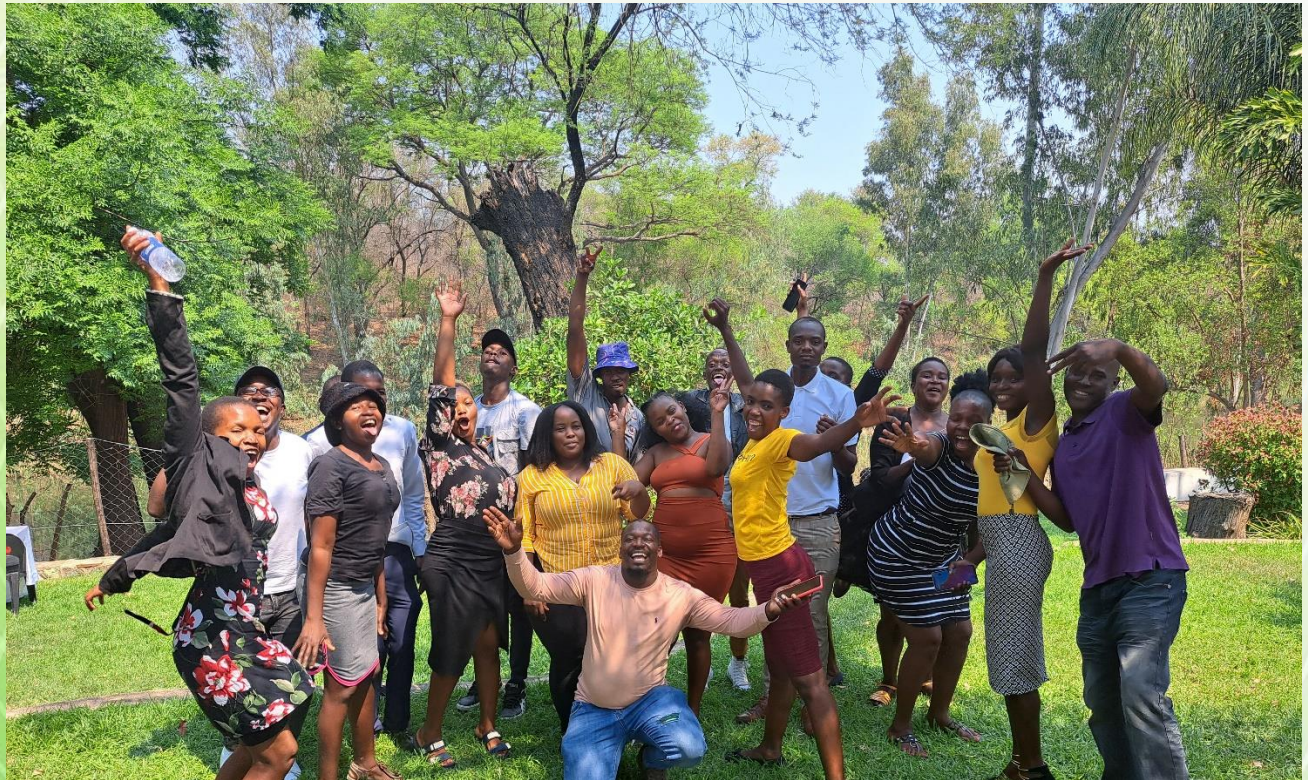
## Youth Leadership Bootcamp

This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership Bootcamp since we introduced the activity in 2021. Youth Leadership Bootcamps are slowly becoming a space for aspiring young leaders to share lessons of the journey and reflect on what they need to change for them to become vibrant leaders. The process was designed to deliver transformative personal experience for participants, through capacity building and assisting them to generate innovative thinking so as to become effective leaders in their respective communities and districts. Through a highly competitive processes, CYDT managed to invite youths with interest to contest as leaders to apply for this bootcamp. The exercise made it easy for the organizations to ensure that those who participated during the previous process are excused from the current one.



Using an internally designed, bootcamp guide, the inspirator managed to take through the aspiring youths through a process of self-discovery, where they did not only develop tangible

skills to make them more competitive; but which also helped them to gain valued insights in leadership. He ensured that young leaders are prepared, shaped and empowered to lead themselves and others differently and effectively while communicate confidently, think creatively and inspire others to become effective community members.



It is key to note that the selected venue was out of town and allowed participants to refresh and take a walk when they feel overwhelmed with the training. By so doing young leaders were encouraged not to run away from situations but to walk through situations and creatively come up with solutions.

However, young leaders appreciated the space, as they shared that the space was conducive for shared learning at the same time afforded the opportunity to share experience. They implored the organization to continue hosting such spaces for them to gain more confidence in public speaking, which is critical for any leader.



# 3

⇒ *Strengthened Collaboration between ZACC and CYDT in the fight against corruption in mining communities - Matabeleland South.*



Supported by GIZ, CYDT managed to collaborate with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission to heighten the fight against corruption. Through our outreach activities, physical meetings and online meetings, miners were able to engage with ZACC at the same time make follow up on the reported cases while radio programmes provided opportunity



to nationalize concerns from local miners. Collaboration with ZACC, opened opportunities for jointed campaigns opportunities many other stakeholders.

This engagement has proven that ZACC embraces CYDT as a critical stakeholder that can link them to the right audience from mining communities. However, we continue to call upon ZACC to prioritize finalizing reported cases from Matobo, Mzingwane and Gwanda among other areas. Curbing corruption in the mining sector has a possibility of having a positive impact to the country's economy. Again, artisanal and Small-scale miners have proven to be the major contributors to the gold reserves as reported by parliamentary briefs.

## ⇒ Provincial Mining Indaba



During the implementation of the project: ***promoting access to justice, transparency and Accountability,***

CYDT has been holding provincial mining indabas, which are high level engagement forums between miners and stakeholders within the mining sector. As such, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022, a provincial Mining Indaba was held in Gwanda, at the Palm River Lodge, which was attended by 50 participants. Artisanal Miners from Matobo, UMzingwane and Gwanda attended the Indaba and representatives from ZACC, Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, ZELA and parliament portfolio

Committee were represented. The Indaba afforded artisanal miners from the three project areas to table their issues before duty bearers, cooperates and stakeholders such that an action plan can be crafted towards addressing the issues and challenges.

To note was the attendance of DR Svure, a member of the parliamentary portfolio committee on mines and mining development and DR Nyaude from the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission. The latter managed to share their strategies around fully addressing corruption cases reported to them by miners at the same time shared efforts



made around protecting whistle blowers. It was important for ZACC to share such because most cases of corruption had been coming from the miners who were working with CYDT as whistle blowers, hence they needed feedback to show that their efforts are not in vain as well as to understand about their security and safety. The mining Indaba was held in the belief that once there is a clear roadmap towards addressing the plight of artisanal miners and that of mining communities, corruption will be combatted.

## 5 ⇒ Purchasing A compressor for Women Artisanal Miners in Matobo

Women are an essential part of artisanal mining, taking on roles from panning and processing, to trading goods and services. They rely on the income from this informal mining economy to support their households and dependents. However, women miners face a lot of challenges which include marginalisation from accessing and participating equally in mining activities, lack of financial capital, limited or lack of equipment and lack of technical knowledge thus hindering women's livelihood opportunities. Realising these challenges, Community Youth Development Trust implemented a project from October 2021 to October 2022 and the project sought to transform the mind-set and livelihoods of women artisanal miners in Gwanda, UMzingwane and Matobo districts by enhancing their financial security, strengthening their role in mining, and promoting gender equality and participation in artisanal mining activities. The project managed to increase women artisanal miner's knowledge on gender, mining rights and financial management, improved their opportunities to access mining claims, available mining grants and economic spaces as well as improve their financial sustainability management skills through credit and lending schemes and their financial sustainability through respective financial literacy measures. A key highlight of the project is the purchasing of a



compressor for Thokozani women Miners Association in Matobo. The compressor has eased a lot of manual work for the women miners thereby increasing their productivity and the compressor has brought about financial gains for the association as it is hired out to other miners for a fee.



# 6

## ⇒ Peer to peer Youth Mobilization #TellAFriendCampaigns

In support of young people's moral and civic participation, the organization launched the Tell-A-Friend campaign that aimed at conducting a nonpartisan voter mobilization and civic education initiative for young voters across the Province. As a result of this campaign, we have seen an increase in youth agency, which can be attested by their ability to self-coordinate and reach out to their peers with civic information. The Tell-A-





Friend initiative, encouraged youths to mobilize their peers to register to vote. This activity motivated youths to embark on a youth mobilization campaign, educating their peers about the electoral processes. Generally, we recorded a number of first time voters who managed to get registered through this initiative. In some areas such as Bulilima, Gwanda and Beitbridge, youths partnered with some local business people in providing transport for those who were mobilized. It was noted that having youth taking an active role in mobilizing their peers, made them to further understand the role they could play in the country's electoral processes.



## Fight Against Drugs Abuse, Misuse and Addiction: The Birth of Champions of Change

As a result of social and economic difficulties, a number of young people have resorted to drugs abuse as a way of trying to escape reality not knowing that drugs have a serious negative health implication on their lives. To fight against this growing pandemic that could destroy youth lives, CYDT conducted activities to help stop drugs misuse, abuse and addiction by young people in districts that include Gwanda, Matobo and Bulilima. In these meetings, CYDT trained young people to become Champions of Change so they can go around their communities speaking out against substance abuse.

While there is no standard way to prevent young people from abusing drugs, the organisation taught the Champions of Change some pertinent ways they need to follow to help their peers stop abusing drugs:

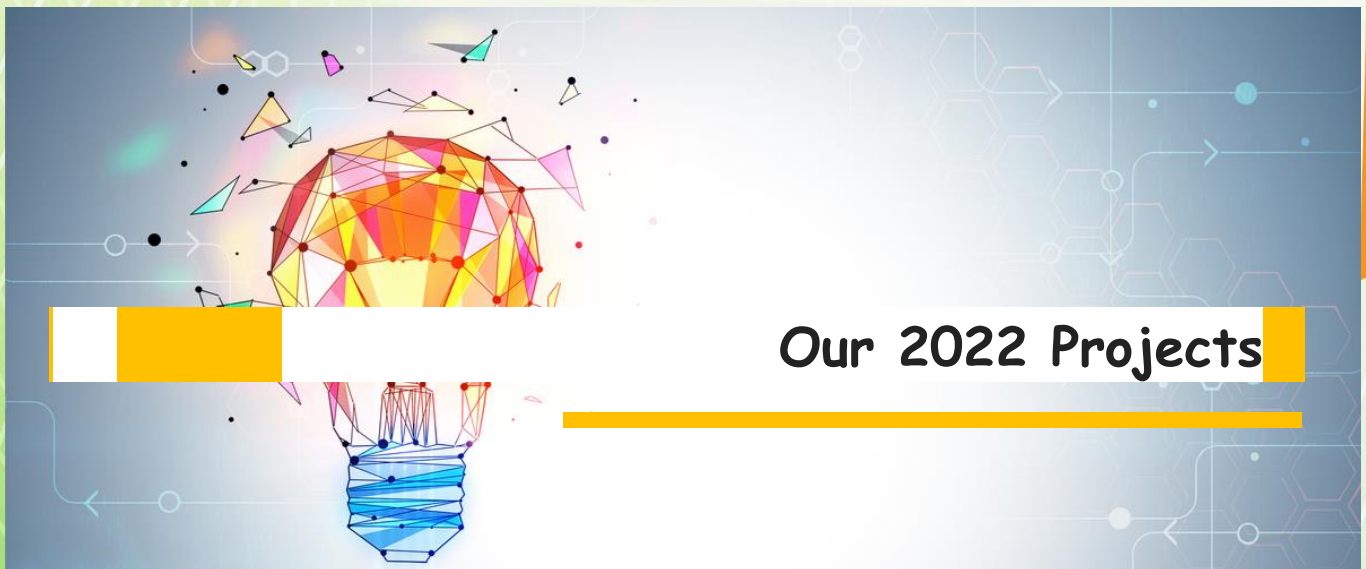
- Firstly, the Change Champions must have enough knowledge and understanding about drugs abuse (how it starts and develops to become an addiction) so they are able to effectively engage their peers on the subject.





- Secondly, the Champions must challenge their peers to fight temptation and peer pressure. Many young people have become victims of substance abuse after being initiated by their friends, hence the importance of the Champions going around their communities, encouraging their peers to avoid being tempted into using drugs.
- Thirdly, the Champions of Change need to encourage their peers to immediately seek help when they notice the first signs of drugs abuse and addiction.

The Change Champions have so far reached out to their peers, encouraging them to avoid taking drugs while others have helped some of their peers stop abusing drugs. While the journey is not yet complete, CYDT is pleased by the progress made in 2022 to fight drugs abuse in Matabeleland South.



## Our 2022 Projects

### 1) Bridging the gap: Women Realize their Social and Economic Power in Mining

The project was a continuation from October 2021 and ended in October 2022. The project sought to afford women in mining an opportunity to further lobby for formalisation and legalisation of women artisanal mining associations as well as contribute towards creating economic empowerment opportunities and employment for women and improve their living standards/livelihood in Gwanda, Matobo and UMzingwane. Selected women miners received training on Miners Rights, ASM mining regulations and sustainable (green) mining as a way of building their life/technical skills and increase awareness that assisted them to play a significant role in safeguarding their social and economic rights within mining communities. Reputable



partners such as Zimbabwe School of Mines and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights were engaged to provide these trainings and impart relevant skills. To improve the targeted women's access to mining claims, mining equipment and financial and administrative support, the project identified strategic partnerships so that women artisanal miners are able to get services they need for their activities. Also, the project managed to establish Internal Savings and Lending Scheme (ISALS) to ensure that the project will sustain itself beyond the project life span.

# RESULTS

The project managed to strengthen the capacities of 270 women artisanal miners on gender equality and women mining rights.

- Three associations in the three project areas was established (Thokozani Women Miners in Matobo, Masiyephambili Women Miners in UMzingwane and Visionary Women in Mining in Gwanda), thereby becoming a movement for women miners
- Change of attitude of traditional leaders when it comes to women artisanal miners - traditional leaders have become the advocates of women in mining.
- Women artisanal miners' ability to self-mobilize - prove that they are empowered and come to realize they power they have in influencing the local level mining agenda.
- Two knowledge tools in the form of training manuals were produced and are being used by women mining associations to further train their members.
- The project also managed to improve the livelihood of women artisanal miners as some machinery was bought to make their lives easy as well as increase productivity. The Compressor bought for Thokozani women miners is also being hired out by the association to other miners, making money for them.



## 2) Enhancing Youth voice in Governance & Leadership

CYDT implemented a project that sought to enhance youth voice in governance and leadership. The project started in June 2021 and ended in June 2022. During the course of the project, CYDT realizes that youth are now actively participating in local level processes and are contributing meaningfully in decision making. They have demonstrated the ability to come together and come up with communiques, position papers and petitions in a bid to register their displeasure on issues or as a way of influencing processes.

Despite their active participation, it is sad to note that a lot needs to be done to ensure youth are represented in decision making forums. There is need for them to be given space such that they occupy these positions and prove their ability. The organisation trust that despite how vulnerable youths might seem to be, they display a certain capacity that needs to be tapped and explored. This becomes opportunity enough for the organization and the youths to continue lobbying for the implementation of the policies around youth participation and representation.

# RESULTS

- The CYDT petition demanding the parliament to increase youth representation and participation by 30% continues to influence government decisions to improve youth participation in parliament. In 2022 Cabinet approved the Electoral Amendment Act 2022, which seeks to among other objectives create seats to be contested only among women and youths.
- Youth participation in governance has risen in project areas, whereby youths are not only attending government processes but are also actively and effectively participating by voicing out and also influencing some decisions within their communities.



- Youths motivated to contest in the upcoming elections. More than 35 youths have come forward with the interest of contesting elections after the realisation that their representation is important so as to push for youth issues.
- Ability of the organisation to mobilise youths from different backgrounds and political parties to speak in one voice pushing for youth participation and representation in key decision making positions.

### 3) Strengthening youth engagement in local governance to further grass-root development

Having started this project in 2018, 2022 marks the end of this project with significant strides. For the final year, 2022, the project sought to further strengthen young women and men's capacities so that they can be able to be representatives in local governance spaces. The project leveraged on the gaps identified and capitalized on lessons learnt and relationships created for the youths to effectively and meaningfully influence provision of social services that responds to their needs and that promote their inclusion in critical decision making spaces. The project continued to enhance capacity of rights holders such that they are able to sustain voluntary participation and engagement in life of their communities at the same time give them the voice and enabling environment to continue influencing decisions that will see Bulilima, Gwanda and Mangwe RDCs having youth councilors and duty bearers.

## RESULTS

- Capacitated social accountability champions who are monitoring service delivery issues and providing reports. These champions are also collecting evidence so that it influences programming.



- Inclusion of youths in ward structures like WADCO and VIDCOs not only as youth representatives but taking up chairmanship and other top positions.
- Successful lobbying and advocacy- In the case of Gwanda where youths managed to lobby and advocate for the Municipality of Gwanda to take over the water treatment plant and end a dual control of the plant with ZINWA.
- Accountable and Transparent councils. Councils in Gwanda and Bulilima are now able to account for their decisions and actually lay bare of their plans to the residents.
- Young women are now able to speak up on their challenges and actually influence some decisions regards to service delivery that speaks into them.
- Continuous engagement in social media platforms led by social accountability champions thereby sustaining the gains of the project

#### 4) Promoting social relation with informal traders in Beitbridge

The project was implemented in Beitbridge town, which has seen an increase in informal trading over the years. The project sought to address the socio-economic needs of women and female youth in as far as their rights are concerned as they have been raising the violation of these social and economic rights over the years. The journey throughout the implementation of this project was a fruitful one as the organisation managed to develop new strategic partnerships with, ZIMRA officials and Immigration, and maintained partnerships with the Ministry of youth, arts, sport and recreation, Municipality of Beitbridge. This brought about the success and smooth running of the project and a conducive working environment as well as a safe space for engagement with the informal traders. The project managed to empower female youths and women involved in cross-border trading with knowledge and understanding of their economic and social rights as well as measures they can take to protect themselves.



# RESULTS

- Successfully petitioned the government through the ministry of women affairs small and medium enterprise to create a legislative framework that recognises the existence of informal traders.
- Managed to draft and present a policy framework to guide the operations of informal traders
- Provided platforms for mutual understanding between vendors, ZIMRA and Immigration personnel
- Trained 60 informal vendors on conflict resolution and conflict management and these have been key in trying to maintain peace and conflict which usually is the order of the day within this sector.

## 5) Promoting Access to Justice, Transparency and Accountability

The project ended in June 2022 after three years running. The main aim of the project was to strengthen social relations through promoting transparency and accountability in the mining sector targeting Gwanda, Matobo and Mzingwane districts. Building on its past experiences of exposing corruption through 'The Whistle-blower newsletter and Documentaries', this project capacitated youth and local leaders on conflict resolution and good governance and it centred on transparency and accountability at the same time giving ZACC and miners opportunity to engage and strategize on how to address local level corruption taking place in identified areas. Realizing the impact of mining in human and economic development the project sought to increase youth and women voice on natural resource governance and conflict management at local level. Despite having the project implemented in 3 districts of Matabeleland South, it managed to have a national impact through the engagement of Zimbabwe Anti-corruption



commission, parliamentary portfolio committee - mines and minerals development and National Peace Reconciliation Commission. This project was very key in assisting CYDT to achieve its internal set objectives as expressed in its advocacy strategy adopted in 2020, which guides the organization around promoting youth social and economic development.

# RESULTS

- Cohesive communities working together to fight corruption - Throughout the project, trained community peace ambassadors became instrumental in monitoring and documenting conflict and shared reports with CYDT and NPRC. This is a culture that was instilled from the onset of the project that conflict issues should be documented and monitored. Even now that the project ended in June, the organisation continues to receive reports from the communities.
- Strengthened collective and inclusive decision making on local resource governance - the project afforded artisanal miners and duty bearers engagement platforms, which became safe spaces to discuss and dialogue around policy related concerns in regards to local resource governance. Stakeholders like MP's from the parliamentary portfolio committee on mines and mining development attended these forums and gave feedback regards to policy issues.
- The project managed to formulate localised policies for resource governance - This project has managed to lobby for institutionalization of natural resource governance by local authorities, who happen to be the primary port of call by communities in natural resource districts. These policies, though still in their draft form are considered to be working documents which needs to be finalized and adopted as local policies by the full council.



## 6) She Matters: Give her the right of Way

The project sought to mobilize young women in Gwanda and Bulilima districts so that they are well informed on their rights and responsibilities as potential voters through dissemination of accurate information. The project took cognizance of the fact that elections are a process not an event. Hence, women should prepare for them on time either as voters or as candidates. This will encourage them to self-mobilize, organize and coordinate activities that will help them to make informed decisions and get registered to vote. The choice of the project areas was informed by the fact that women in the two districts have a history of under-representation both as electorate and as candidates which can be attested by the number of women in local government and parliamentary seats. The project initiated the concept of peer to peer mobilization which was adopted as a strategic concept to encourage youths to organise and motivate their fellow peers to register to vote. This project was a 6 months' project which came to an end in October with the organisation having managed to assist 311 youths to successfully register to vote.

# RESULTS

- Ability to register 247 young women 64 young men and 5 persons with disability.
- The project managed to enhance local ownership, the fact that youths were the ones on the driving seat encouraging their fellow peers in their local communities to register vote



# Lessons Learned



- Establishment and or creation of community structures is a way of preserving project gains and results of the project, such that post project funding communities continue with the advocacy work.
- The concept of peer to peer mobilisation is the best strategy in encouraging youths not only to register to vote but to also to participate in all civic processes.
- Information dissemination - remains critical in building citizen's urgency and responsibility around influencing governance and service provision.
- Community Engagement - strengthens democracy and improves the link between public policies and community needs; as such engagement platforms are quite imperative so that youth needs are looked into.
- Fully capacitated women can play a significant role in the formalization of ASM. Currently, most women are operating without formalizing their work therefore with the information and knowledge provided by CYDT, some WAMs are now in the process of formalizing their operations.



- Working with traditional leaders in promoting women empowerment becomes a sustainability measure and give advocacy community roots.
- Women empowerment programs should bring in tangible equipment or machinery for women as this will help in sustaining the project even when it has long ended.

## Challenges

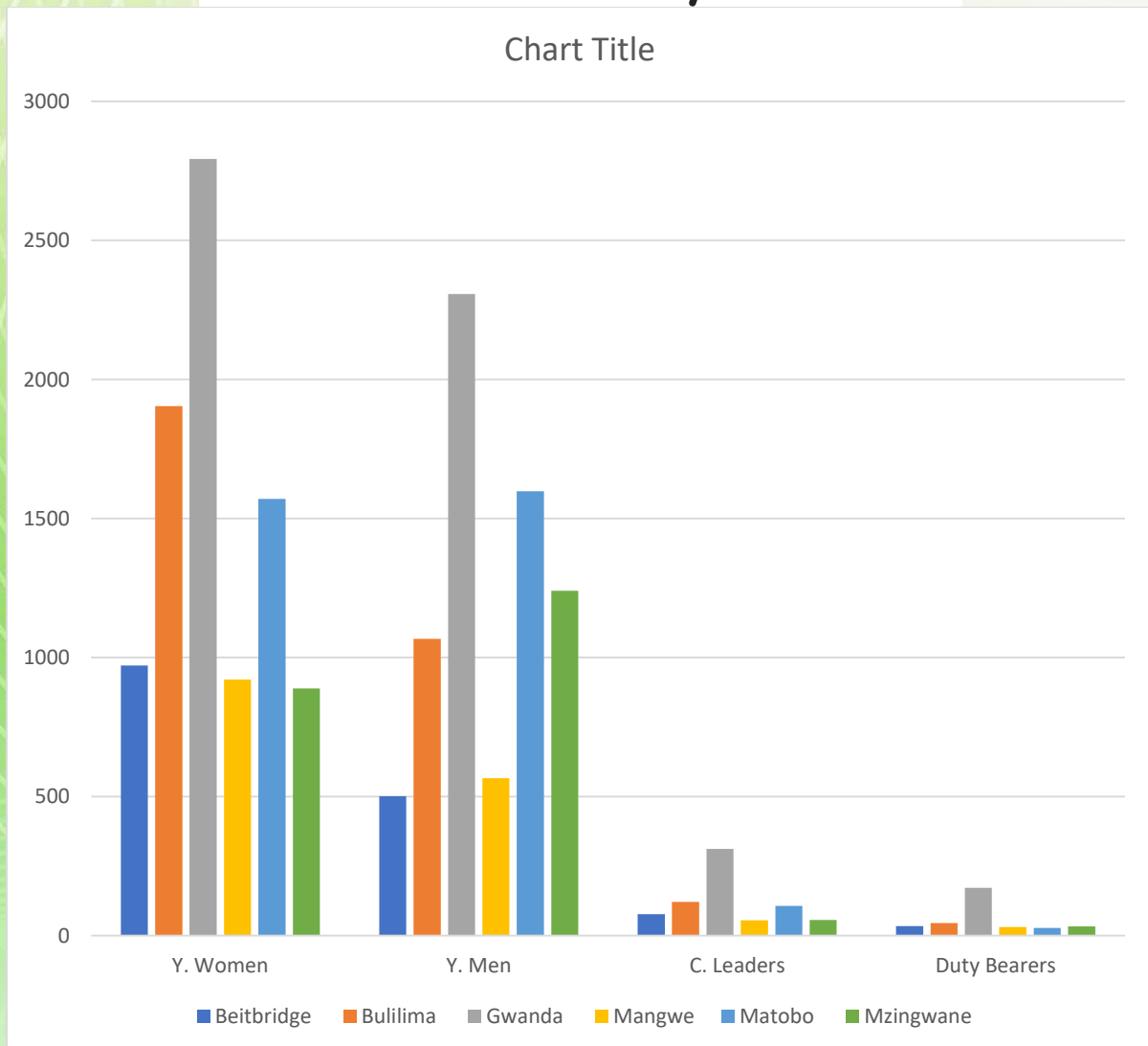
### Challenges

- Year 2022 had a lot of by-elections, which caused political tensions within communities, hence making the environment unfriendly for youth to meaningfully participate.
- Shrinking Civic Space- civic activity particularly on human rights continue to be viewed with political suspicions hence the efforts to limit the impact by placing onerous requirements for NGOs to access communities. Some MOU's in some districts elapsed, making it difficult for renewal.



- Prevailing economic environment make it hard for youths to engage on governance issues as they are more concerned about putting food on the table.
- Lack of political will to implement localised as well as national policies for youth participation and representation of youths in key decision making positions.

## Our Reach for the year 2022.







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