



CYDT

2023 Annual Report

www.cydt.org.zw

Produced by:

Community Youth Development Trust

Design & Layout:

© Community Youth Development Trust 2023

Address No 4, Rainbow Mall

1st Avenue, Gwanda

Social page links:

<http://cydt.org.zw>

@Cydtmatsouth

<https://www.facebook.com/communityyouthdevelopmenttrust/>

#ZwakalaNtanga



Table of Contents

Director’s Note.....1

Chairperson’s Note.....3

Mission and Vision.....4

Our Universal Intervention Strategy Map.....5

1.Our Significance.....6

2.The Operational Landscape.....7

 2.1.Political Landscape.....8

 2.2.Economic Environment.....9

 2.3.Social Environment.....10

3.Celebrating Our Milestones.....11

4.2022 Flagship Achievements.....14

5.Geographic Coverage.....18

6.Programming Approach.....19

 6.1.Access to Documentation – Reloaded.....20

 6.2.Youth Governance and Election Project.....22

 6.3.Silent Voices: Championing Youth Voices in Local Governance.....24

 6.4.Fostering Youth Political and Leadership Participation.....26

7.Flagship Activities.....28

 7.1.Assistance to Acquire Primary Identity Documents.....29

 7.2.Service Delivery Annual Conference.....30

 7.3.Peer to peer Youth Mobilization #TellAFriendCampaigns.....31

 7.4.Youth Socio-Political Indaba.....32

 7.5.X Factor Campaigns – Roadshow.....33

 7.6.Election Battles of Ideas Town Hall Meetings.....34

8.Lessons Learned.....35

9.Challenges.....36

10.Impact Metrics: Our Reach for the year 2023.....37



Director's Note



I am thrilled to share with you our annual report for the year 2023. As we reflect into the year, it is undeniable that we all faced unprecedented challenges ranging from the contested election results, economic slow-down to drought occasioned by the existential threat of climate change and the limited job opportunities to the generality of young people. Despite these difficulties, the organisation continued to make great strides in strengthening youth capacities to make a positive difference in their respective communities and lives. This report paints a picture of the many challenges faced by the organisation throughout the year and the many achievements documented thus far. Through support and unwavering dedication of our team, the support of our partners (in their diversity) and the resilience of young people we serve, we were able to make an indelible mark and meaningful impact among those around us.

In order to achieve our mission of promoting the well-being and inclusion of young people in development and governance through partnerships, capacity strengthening and advocacy, we recognized the need to also strengthen our internal systems to improve institutional security and staff safety. This helped us to ensure that we are operating at the highest possible standards and that we are able to maximize the impact of our work. However, the organisation lost one staff member during the course of the year and gained two additions. These two additions have brought a wealth of skills and experiences to the team, helping us to strengthen our capacity to implement projects and expand our reach through making greater impact in the communities we serve while contributing to achievements of our priorities as outlined in our strategic plan. Again, CYDT worked with local youth champions in pushing for peer-to-peer mentoring and sensitization, which became a great success towards ensuring a localized youth movement.

CYDT also took steps towards strengthening the capacity of member organisations particularly those who were receiving direct sub-grants. This did not only allow CYDT to provide additional resources and support to these organisations, but it also empowered them to make a direct impact based on their respective communities' priority areas. One of the hallmarks of CYDT is an evidence-based approach to our work proven by the number of baseline studies and needs assessments conducted which then inform our relevant programing. These include a Provincial Youth Manifesto, SRHR Needs Assessment and Study on Youth Participation in local governance among others. Our work also complements that of our partners; hence we have strong partnerships and collaborations.

None of the above achievements would have been possible without the generous support of our donors and partners. We are grateful for the support. As we look into the future, I am confident that CYDT will continue to grow Its programs portfolio to respond to emerging issues affecting youths such as climate change, unpaid care work (young women), mental health and drug awareness, decent work and economic empowerment of the youths who are among the most vulnerable groups. We look forward to build upon our foundation in 2024 and beyond, to nurturing existing partnerships and forging new networks in order to realize more impact. Much appreciation for taking time to read our Annual Report and for ongoing support. We couldn't have done it without you.



**“#ZwakalaNtanga –
the future is promising”**
Director



On behalf of CYDT board and the secretariat, I would like to appreciate and acknowledge all activities, efforts and successful interventions made this year with the support of our partners, stakeholders, the general public and the youths across Matabeleland South province and beyond. It was not easy, but our team-spirit, hard work, consistency, and our unending desire to see an empowered youth led us to the finishing line of 2023. The organisation entered the year 2023 in a difficult situation due to limited funding. While this enormously placed us on the backfoot of our goals and expectations, it did not stop our committed CYDT team to carry out non-funded offline and online activities that did not require any financial support. The organisation is grateful and thankful of the funding received during the course of the year, which was critical in helping us fulfil majority of our 2023 goals and objectives.

Chairperson's Note

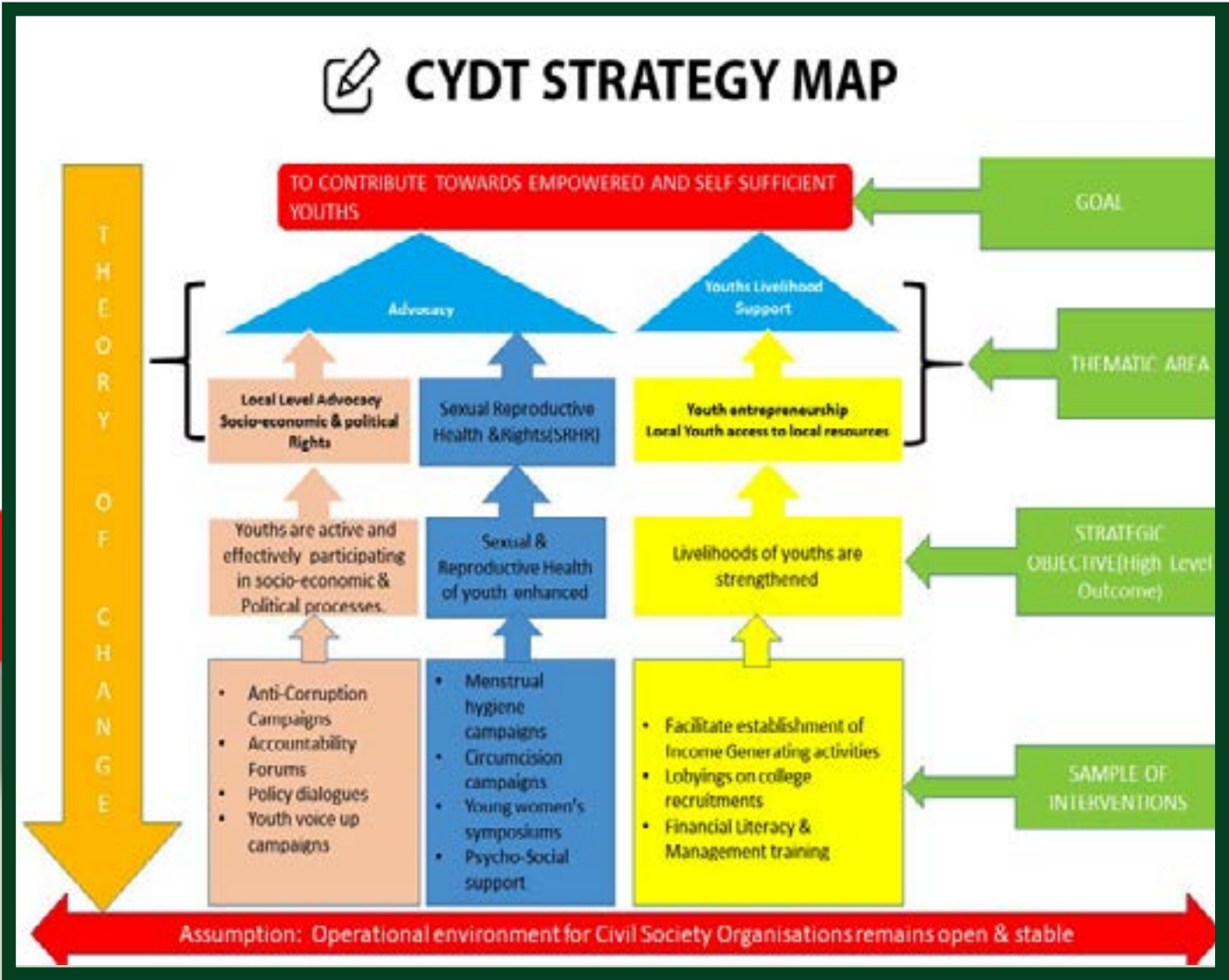
Due to the 2023 harmonised elections, the operating space was not conducive enough as tensions increased among candidates and political parties. Since our activities are apolitical, the organisation was able to implement its activities without any records of conflict and violence. However, there were concerning cases faced by the organisation and the stakeholders that made the operating environment unfriendly. CYDT recorded for the first time a high number of youths turning up not only to register as first-time voters, but also as candidates in different wards. It was a first in the Zimbabwean elections to have such a youthful House of Assembly. This was due to the implementation of the youth quota which CYDT has been advocating for. This development came with so much celebration as we continued to advocate for more youth representation. The organisation appreciates and thanks the supports received from partners, stakeholders, and the youths this year; may this support continue to grow in 2024!

Mission & Vision

Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) was established in 2012, but formally registered in 2015. We envision that youths are inspired, empowered, and realize their full potential. Our mission is to empower youths in Matabeleland South, with knowledge and skills to make a difference in local and national socio-economic and political discourses. Our primary focus is to pay attention to the needs of young people in Matabeleland South Province, based on three advocacy priority pillars enshrined in our strategic plan adopted in 2018, which include:

- a. Local and National Level Advocacy,
- b. Sexual Reproductive and
- c. Health Right and Youth Livelihood Support.

Our Universal Intervention Strategy Map



To achieve the above strategic goals, CYDT is founded on unparalleled values of accountability, equality, empowerment, responsive teamwork, and respect for diversity.

1. Our Significance

CYDT's significance manifests in its niche and focus which 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 operates at community level, meaning that all its interventions are owned and safeguarded by the community members. It also managed to serve as the primary link or middlemen for resources and actions considering that the organisations sourced resources that supported actions at community level for the benefit of the youths. Therefore, to ensure that youth are responsible and lead by example, the organisation went on to maximize in coaching young people especial those who exhibited interest in leadership. Coaching makes youths more confident, thirsty for new challenges and want to excel in their endeavours. They become self-actors and initiators such that they influence what is peculiar to them. Therefore, when dealing with young people, one needs to listen to their stories, before coaching them towards their destiny. This makes them identify with the services being offered.



Again, the organisation rides on youth-adult partnership, as a way of addressing negative stereotypes about youth capacity and ability to contribute towards positive changes in the communities in as far as development and leadership is concerned. Fostering adult and youth partnership creates a fertile ground for the two groups to tap into each other's energy, knowledge and strengths. It helps young people to develop strong commitment in fighting for social justice, which remains a barrier in attaining total youth empowerment. Again, this becomes a vehicle for trust and confidence building between adults and the youths – where adults begin to share power to make decisions and respect youths input in all social and economic development sectors. 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.



2.The Operational Landscape

The year 2023 was a challenging year, both operationally and conceptually, as it demanded our best programming creativity and innovations. The socio-economic and political environment required resilience, evidence based programming and active engagement with policy makers and rights holders, which we did with extraordinariness.’

2.1. Political Landscape

Zimbabwe's political landscape in 2023 was characteristically conflictual and uneven. The country emerged from yet another hotly contested election, held in August 2023 whose outcomes were widely condemned by local, regional and international election observers. The elections were generally peaceful compared to previous elections, but the government is facing a legitimacy crisis, after failing to rectify electoral malpractices and shortcomings identified by regional and international election observers. The work of civil society organisations, a constituency we belong to, was generally hampered by the gazetting of the Private Voluntary Organisation Bill (which is still in the enactment process) and the introduction of repressive provisions appended to the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Amendment Act which introduced provisions on patriotism. The provisions restrict citizens' freedom to speak out against injustices, especially when conducting regional and international advocacy initiatives in accordance with international human rights laws.



The year 2023 also saw the deletion of the main opposition party from playing an oversight role in parliament. Following recalls of its members from Parliament and a series of alleged abductions and vilification of its members the main opposition party, which has been a major anchor in providing political oversight to the government fell into disarray. The development continues to undermine democratic values while trapping the country to float in an unending election cycle. Such developments amplify calls for a national political dialogue that takes citizens' interests into account in order to achieve a people-oriented political solution and process.

2.2. Economic Environment

The economic situation in 2023 was generally suppressed, and it continues to decline. The government's measures to control the inflationary environment and improve jobs creation and investment opportunities failed to materialize. Unemployment remains high and the ever-increasing cost of living is not keeping pace with the poverty datum line threshold, which is further straining families, especially those with little or no sources of income. Our province, Matabeleland South, is rich in mineral resources, but access to these mineral resources for young women and men remains limited due to a variety of reasons including the high costs of business formalization. This is so, despite the fact that the country's hope for economic revival lies with the mining and agricultural industries. However, poor natural resources governance, including corruption and partisan distribution of resources has resulted in a few political elites benefitting from the country's natural resources.

On the other hand, lack of accountability and transparency remains a serious stumbling block to economic revival. Projections into 2024 are not pleasing either; drought will affect the country's agriculture production and there will be elevated food prices. The economic measures announced by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment Promotion in the 2024 proposed national budget address will increase taxes on already burdened families and industries, further reducing business viability and reduce employment opportunities to the youths. Inflation may persist and slow structural transformation, including the elimination of corruption will present key development challenges into 2024. If these challenges are not addressed, efforts towards youth empowerment will be futile.



2.3. Social Environment



Social service delivery remains subdued in several areas including public health, education, safe portable water supply and sanitation. At present, the country is battling to contain a cholera epidemic. It is unfortunate that the country is recording cholera cases at a time when such cases can be avoided by ensuring quality social service delivery.

Maladministration and corruption within all tiers of government are contributing to poor service delivery, exposing citizens to unhealthy situations. Women and youths continue to bear the brunt of the country's socio-economic and political challenges, partly, as a result of poor social service delivery.





3. Celebrating Our Milestones



It is essential to pause and reflect when reaching important milestones. This year, 2023, Community Youth Development Trust turns 8 years old. Since its birth, CYDT has taken a lead in coordinating community-based organisations in the southern region of the country, which has seen 3 CBOs being supported to get funding from international donors. The organization's ability to incubate CBOs and create space for the institutions to collaborate towards a common goal is commendable. This became a support system which limited CBOs vulnerabilities and their violation by other players in this field. The ability to continue to apply Positive Youth development and 3-lens approach to youth participation continue to deepen CYDT's acceptance as a critical stakeholder in the youth empowerment movement as the organisation continue to get invitations to spaces that shape policies and strategies that promote youth empowerment and development. As an organisation that petitioned parliament on a 30% Constitutionally Supported Youth Quota System, the organisation continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made thereof and engage further for certain considerations that may speed-up the process especially looking into the **National Youth Bill** considering that there is no direct policy that provide for youth affirmative action in Zimbabwe



This annual report outlines CYDT's milestones for the year 2023. The report provides an overview of interventions carried out throughout the year and it further details organizational successes, lessons learned and challenges as well as adaptability demands as we leap into 2024. Through this report, we are communicating with our stakeholders, partners, and members, thereby opening channels for accountability and transparency in our ways of doing business. The report allows CYDT an opportunity to appreciate the moral and financial support received throughout the year. The organization's annual reach will be provided at the end of the report based on the database created during the course of the year. The report will further outline plans for 2024 leveraging on lesson learned while unpacking insights and opportunities from working in a socially and economically marginalized province in terms of youth empowerment and development.



Our programming interventions, as noted earlier, were anchored on the organization's thematic intervention pillars, which are;

- a) **Local and National Level Advocacy**- CYDT assist young people to identify advocacy issues with possible impact at local and national level. The role of the organisation is to assist youths with information on targets, research and building evidence on issues of interest to support their advocacy. To this end, the organisation has managed to present itself as an institution with ability to successfully conduct local level advocacy that ends with national impact.
- b) **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)**- Realising the information deficiency on young women in rural communities on SRHR access and availability, the organisation builds awareness and also provide sanitary ware to support girls in schools and ensure they do not miss lessons during their days.
- c) **Youth Livelihood Support** – the organisation aims to support youth livelihood projects so that they are able to take care of their needs and that of their families. To this end, the organisation has managed to support young women ISALS, mining clubs and goat rearing projects. However limited resources have affected our impact in this thematic area.



4.2023 Flagship Achievements



Our year 2023 was a success, we achieved 85% of planned workshops, 74% of planned campaigns and our impact reached 84% success. Our major achievement highlights are below:

(i).Project Activities

- **CBOs Network Strengthening-** we strengthened the Southern Region community-based organisations (CBOs) network through the production of a regulatory framework and mapping a collective fundraising focus. A total of 12 CBOs are part of the Southern Region network.
- **Youth Movement Building-** a total of 300 local youths were capacitated to form a grassroots level movement as a way of sustaining collective advocacy initiatives;
- **Access to Primary Identity Documents-** CYDT assisted children, youths, women, and men from Gwanda and Beitbridge districts to access primary identity documents. In collaboration with the Registry Offices, in targeted districts, we both created demand for primary documents through awareness raising and actively supported access to the precious documents. Since October 2023, we have managed to assist a total of 723 citizens (112 children assisted to obtain Birth certificates, 118 young women were able to get birth certificates and national identity cards while 392 women were assisted to get national identity cards only within this short space of time. Three young men who were part of those whom we assisted to get national IDs are now employed as security guards proving that access to primary documents are essential to socio economic empowerment
- **Youth Participation in Electoral Processes-** since the year 2023 was an election year, we successfully coordinated a united youth front to improve their participation in electoral, governance and development issues. A total of 1244 youths (50.4% young women) were reached through public meetings, roadshows and 465 youths (48.2% Young women) and 134 duty bearers (10.8% women) reached out through training programmes.
- **Baseline Survey on Efficient & Accountable Local Governance-** the purpose of the study was to ascertain the ability of the three local authorities (Gwanda, Beitbridge and Mangwe) to ensure citizen centric service delivery. The major highlight of the survey was the recommendation on the need to have local authorities developing citizen centred participation framework to guide on citizen engagement and communication channels.

(i i). Collaborations

•**CYDT-Government Relations**– CYDT continue to work in collaboration and partnership with Ministry of Youth, Zimbabwe Youth Council, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the District Development Coordinators where necessary. The established relations with government stakeholders has further strengthen the efforts of sustaining organisational interventions beyond funding considering that some activities are absorbed by these stakeholders as part of their annual activities.

•**Collaborative Programme Evaluations**- we were successful in conducting a participatory project(s) evaluation process with our stakeholders, and members. We afforded our members and stakeholders opportunity to critically reflect on our operations, provide feedback and input ideas towards our future programmes through co-creation of evaluation tools and actively engaging in evaluation initiatives at various project implementation stages. This was done on Fostering Youth Political Participation project.

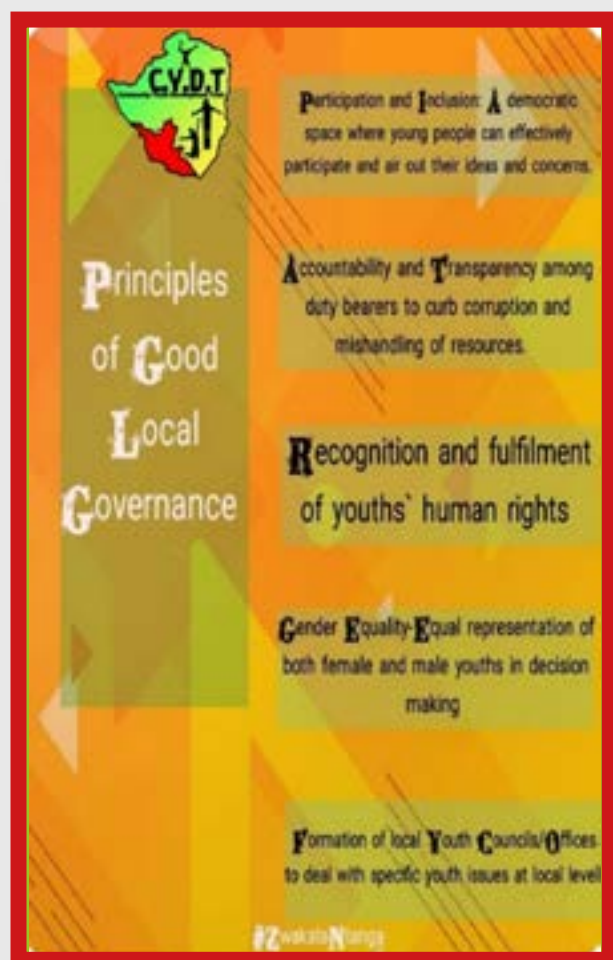


(i i i). Communication and Advocacy

•**Advocacy excellence recognition-** CYDT received invaluable recognition from local and national level partners for being consistent in pushing for legislative framework that institutionalizes youth participation in decision making and governance processes. Part of our flagship success is on access to documentation and improved youth representation in leadership (parliament and local government)

•**IEC material production-** to aid our advocacy campaigns, we produced user-friendly intellectual materials such as training manuals, simplified training tool kits, youth manifestos and Provincial Youth Key Asks. Some of the material we produced include flyers on voter education, awareness raising on requirements for one to get Identity documents, animations on youth participation and training toolkits on community mobilization and advocacy.

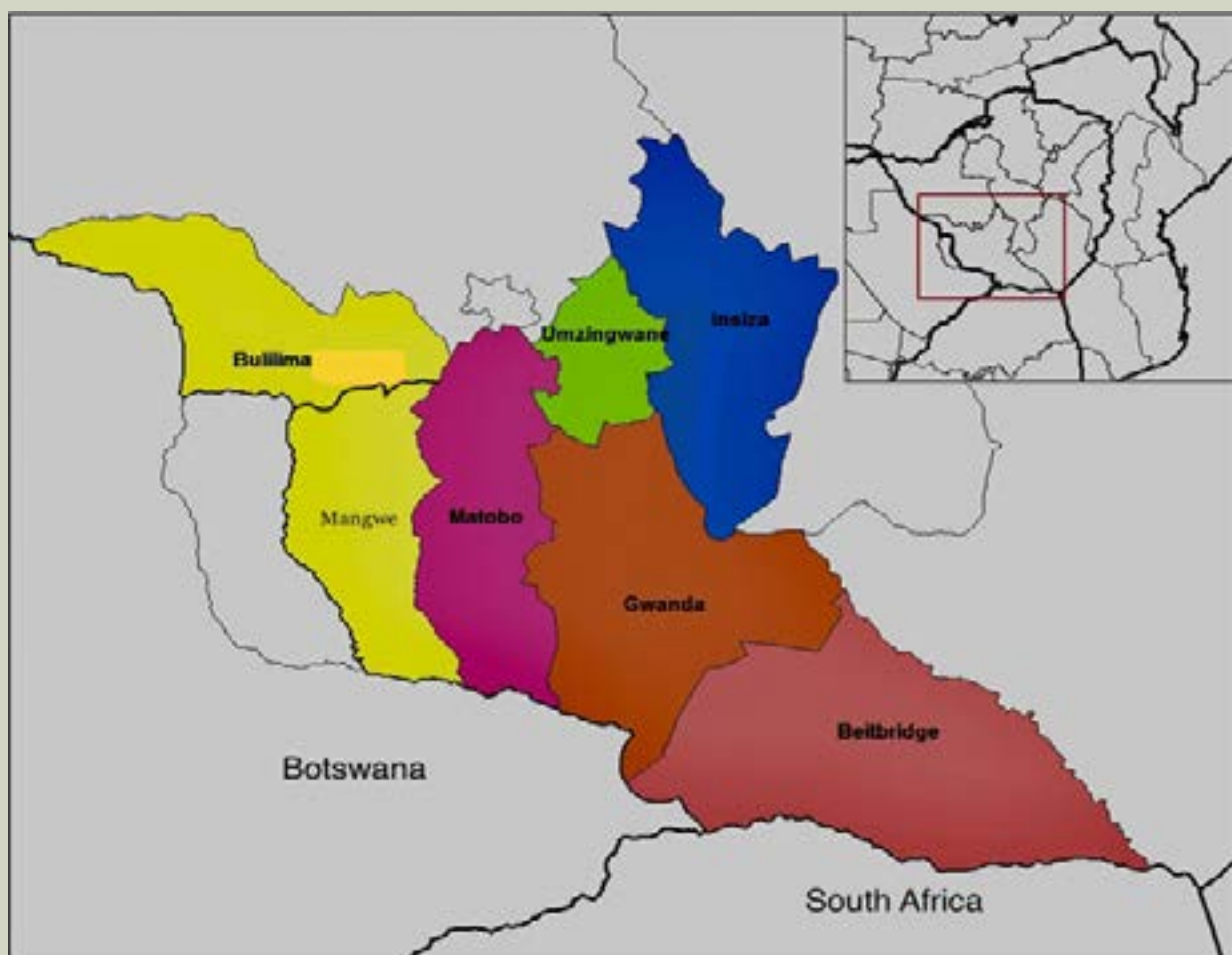
•**Communication and feedbacking-** riding on digital media to sensitize youths we Increased our footprint on YouTube and other social media platforms where we shared our work and disseminated various information to raise awareness and to educate our stakeholders and members. We openly shared our work through as news updates, newsletters, podcasts and reports. We produced animated videos on key topics on civil rights so that youths can relate to the actions



Flyers shared online on Local Governance

www.cydt.org.zw

5. Geographic Coverage



Above Map: Matabeleland South

6. Programming Approach

Our programming approach is anchored on the view that youth programing cannot be successful unless they are effectively involved as designers, beneficiaries and implementers. Youths must be initiators of their issues and model how they want them addressed. Hence, CYDT exists as a midwife connecting youths to their developmental needs. CYDT ensures youth involvement throughout the projects' cycle guided by the mantra Nothing for Us, Without Us is for Us. We involve youths in our planning, they take the lead in the implementation and play the role in sharing success stories and sustaining the results. By so doing youths inherit ownership of project processes, which lasts for generations as they pass the button to the next generation.

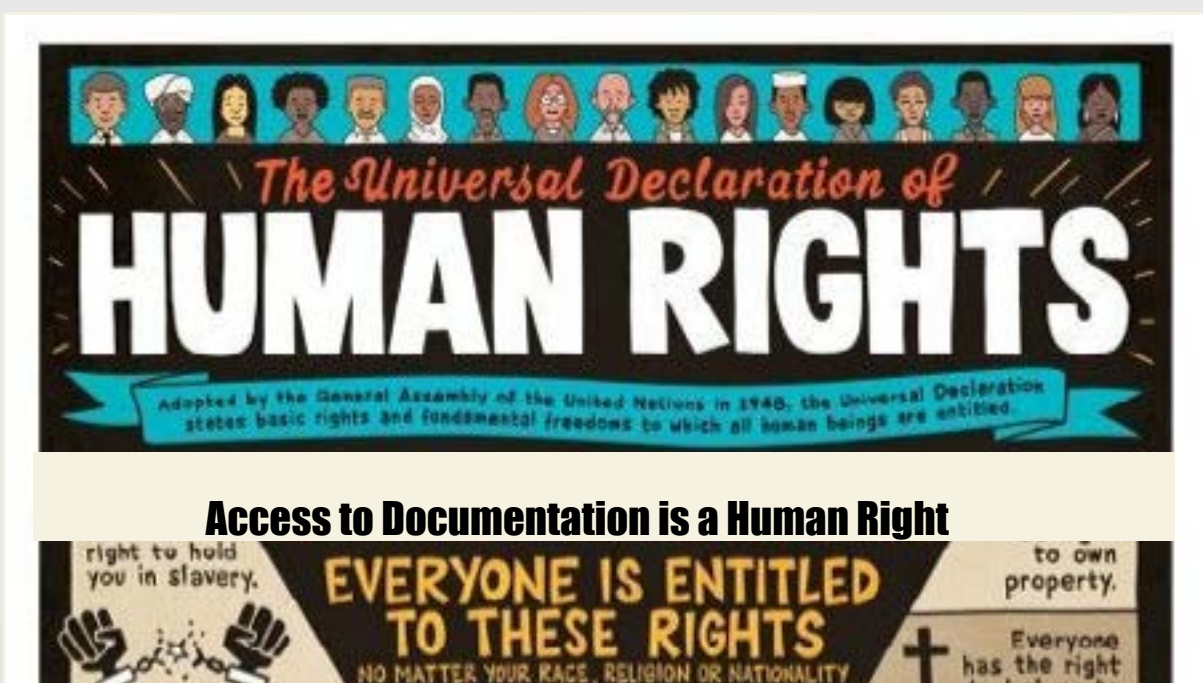
The organisation champions youth capacity development and leadership as a tool of encouraging a coordinated youth voice on issues that impacts their wellbeing. Youth leadership is a process undertaken to prepare young people to meet challenges of life through coordinated and progressive series of activities that assist them to become socially, morally, emotionally, and physically competent. The organisation also trusts that youth leadership cannot be read separately from youth development as these complement each other in raising informed youths, who can display the ability to guide and direct others on a course of action, influence processes and decisions with the ability to analyze one's strengths and weaknesses and set clear life goals. Realizing that drug abuse is a recurring issue affecting youths, the organisation also set out to spread awareness about the dangerous and life threatening effects of abusing drugs. The idea was to bring youths, local authorities and health departments together in removing drugs from our communities. **In this view, below projects were implemented for and by youths in 2023.**

Project Name	Funding Partner	Project Areas
Access to Documentation Reloaded	DAI	Gwanda & Beitbridge
Youth Governance and Election Project	NDI	Gwanda, Umzingwane & Beitbridge
Silent Voices: Championing Youth Voices in Local Governance	Diakonia	Gwanda, Mangwe & Beitbridge
Fostering Youth Political and Leadership Participation	NED	Gwanda, Beitbridge, Matobo & Bulilima

6.1. Access to Documentation Reloaded

The Access to Documentation-Reloaded project sought to improve documentation of young people in Gwanda and Beitbridge. The project created awareness on the importance of acquiring primary identity documents while riding on strategic assistance to identify undocumented youths. CYDT started this project after noting that at least 2 in 5 youths between 18 and 35 are not documented across the province as per reports shared by different stakeholders. The organisation also realized that undocumented children or families tend to be from minority ethnic groups, live in rural locations, come from poor households, and have uneducated mothers/fathers, hence the need for a program that will directly offer assistance and compliment government effort towards reducing stateless citizens. This project is more of a practical response mechanism to perennial problems facing young people due to lack of primary documents especially birth certificates and national identity cards.

As a youth focused organisation, we realised that limited access to primary identity documents stall social and economic progress for young people in Matabeleland South and is a recurring problem, which has seen majority of youths getting used to being stateless. The organisation notes the psychological and economical effect of lack of legal documents on youths and their families. Denied documentation limit youth access to education, formal/decent employment, health care and other basic rights, while allowing the state to strip them of any legal status in the country where they have raised families and which they regard as home, thereby destroying their sense of belonging. As such, the project builds awareness and maximize on targeted assistance to identified undocumented youths. The success of this project has been largely on the cooperation of the Registry Office.



Project related results.



- Stimulated a demand for service regarding access to primary documents – leading to assistance being given to women, youths, girls and boys from the rural communities to travel to their nearest district offices to get birth certificates and national IDs
- Succeeded to help a total of 723 citizens (112 children assisted to obtain Birth certificates, 118 young women were able to access birth certificates and national identity cards while 392 women

6.2. Youth Governance and Election Project

This project is anchored on youth mobilization and participation in electoral processes as a response to young women and men's low participation and representation in electoral and governance processes. The thrust of the project was informed by the statistics from others sources such as Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Report, (<https://www.ohchr.org>) which says that despite youths constituting 67.7%, they were represented by 0.5% at parliament and less than 3% at local government level. To increase youth sensitization, the project used a peer to peer youth sensitization and mobilization. The implementation approach became evidently effective when youths shared podcasts, videos and success stories on their social media platforms. To ensure that no parallel structures are created, the organisation leveraged on the existing organic structures so as to ensure localized youth mentorship and support system.

To the end of the project, we realised that young people were effective vessels in mobilizing each other and educating their fellows on civil rights. Local structures continue to engage with their leaders beyond election, a system that has given birth to strengthened relationship between young people and their recently elected leaders. The idea is to strengthen and buttress youth and adult partnership for strengthened youth participation at local level.

The project became a testament that when youth are assisted to self-organize and mobilize, a successful movement of youths who are mandated to mobilize for a collective youth influence and active participation in electoral processes can be created. Post-election, the young women and men continued to engage and participate in governance processes in a bid to influence governance and decision making across the province. Based on CYDT's project experience, it was realized that once empowered with necessary and accurate information, youths are receptive to participate in electoral and governance processes.



Project related results.



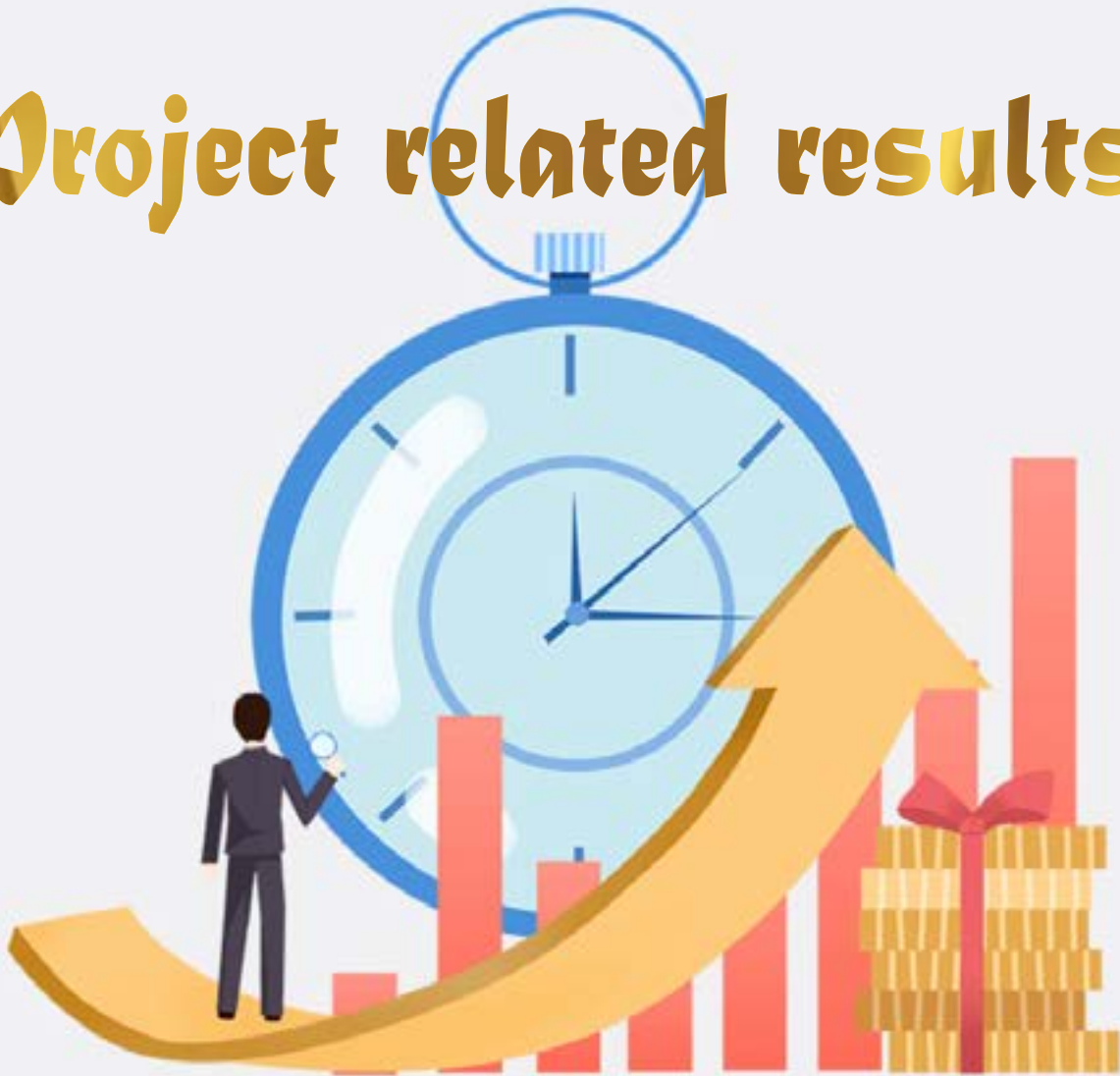
- A total of 2151 youths were mobilised to participate in electoral processes. The number included 861 youths (44,6% young women) assisted to register to vote;
- Trained community-based youth champions who are still active in mobilizing youths to participate in community civic activities; and
- significant number of youths continued engaging local authorities and newly elected officials on service delivery and accountability issues.

6.3. Silent Voices: Championing Youth Voices in Local Governance

This project contributed towards strengthening local policy makers, duty bearers, local government structures (Ward Development Committees and Village Development Committees) and encourage youths' effective participation and involvement in the creation of inclusive, democratic, and accountable local authorities in Beitbridge, Gwanda and Mangwe districts. Working in 23 wards within the selected districts, the projects ought to increase youth agency and motivate their effective participation in local governance policy engagement and accountability processes. Since the rolling up of the projects, young people demonstrated a better understanding of their role in local governance and development of their areas. As a result, they are encouraged to self-organize and self-mobilize and form local youth governance movements that will push for youth friendly service provision, policies and programs. Through this project, CYDT has managed to strengthen platforms for engagement and accountability monitoring between local authorities, stakeholders and young people. In addition to fostering possibilities for youths to take on leadership roles in local governing processes, this project has been ideal in strengthening relations, foster trust, and increase contact between young people and their leaders.



Project related results.



- Reached out to 1244 young people (54,1% young women) and 134 policy makers with only 8% being women;
- Trained and established community champions who are able to conduct community based local governance advocacy and assess services provision based on internal service delivery score cards;
- Formed and nurtured local level youth movements so as to promote community based local governance advocacy;
- Developed user friendly training toolkits that are being used by community structures in cascading the project trainings; and
- Currently in the process of assisting local authorities to develop internal tools and strategies that allow institutionalisation of citizen participation and engagement.

6.4. Fostering youth political and Leadership Participation

This project aimed at supporting capacity building initiatives for youth leaders from across political spectrum. The main activities for this project included the Youth Leadership Bootcamp, Public Speaking Trainings and Youth Policy Engagements Forums. The success of this project can be accredited to strategic partnerships and collaborations as we got to work closely with different government ministries and parliament for us to continue to influence decision makers to finalise on national and local level policies that promote institutionalisation of youth participation. Under this project we were able to strengthen capacity of fellow CBO members such that they are able to manage grants, develop and adopt policies that strengthens their internal systems. We were able to develop policies that guide the Southern Region CBO network in terms of fundraising and operations. All members have clusters that they are in charge of, which is a good strategy for sharing responsibilities while entrenching ownership. The organisation also trained one CBO on safeguarding issues and assisted them to develop internal safeguarding policy. To improve information dissemination, the project produced newsletters and circulated them widely.

**https://cydt.org.zw/index.php/sdm_downloads/mat-south-bulletin/
https://cydt.org.zw/index.php/sdm_downloads/mat-south-bulletin-special-edition/**



Project related results.



- Led the process of regularising operations of the ACBOs Southern Region through development of the operational strategy and the Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Youth demonstrate increased knowledge on human rights as compared to the previous years
- Open and effective interactions as young people engaged the Ministry of youth to consider adopting programming that promote youth civic participation
- Establishment of strategic collaboration between implementing organisations and community radio stations remains key in keeping youths informed on current affairs and mapping way forwards towards addressing challenges faced by young people as they seek to increase their political participation

7. Flagship Activities



CYDT had seven flagship activities that had a significant impact this year, 2023. These activities, flowing across the three strategic intervention pillars, include:

- Assistance to acquire primary documentation,
- A service delivery annual conference,
- Peer-to-peer youth mobilisation,
- Youth socio-political indaba,
- X-Factor campaign roadshows,
- Research on Efficient & Accountable Local Governance (explained above) and
- Election town hall meetings.

7.1 Assistance to Acquire Primary Identity Documents.



Realising that access to identity documents remains a point of concern for both civic groups and the government, CYDT collaborated with key government departments to promote access to primary identity documents. Identity documents are very important to humans because they connect individuals with their history and country. Without identity documents individuals are rendered stateless and likely to be deprived of key social and economic services. Hence, this activity aimed at assisting women, men, boys and girls with no primary documents to get registered. Starting as a pilot project activity, this evolved into a flagship project action with the organisation collaborating with local organisations such as Nkomwa Foundation Trust and Resego Trust, among others, to identify those in need. The organisation appreciates the smooth relations with the office of the registrar, which dates back to 2019 where we received a report from parliament over a petition, submitted on Access to Primary Documents <https://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/zimbabwe-report-on-the-gwanda-community-youth-development-trust-petition-on-access-to-primary-documents/>. This report is a testament of our own contribution towards reducing the number of citizens without birth certificates and national identity cards. According to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, over 2,3 million citizens in Zimbabwe do not have birth certificates or any form of identification. Hence, CYDT is proud to have contributed towards reducing this national documentation gap in 2023. Through the support of Development Alternative Inc, CYDT was able to assist a total of 723 citizens in 2 months (October and November), with 55,4 percent being women to access the precious documents.

7.2. Service Delivery Annual Conference



CYDT contends that social services delivery to citizens should be at the heart of all local authorities because they are the first port of call to citizens on local governance issues. This informed the convening of an Annual Service Delivery Conference in partnership with Gweru Residents & Rate Payers Association. The conference was attended by 45 participants composed of Youth Social Accountability Champions, Residents' Associations, and other Local Government Stakeholders. Despite it being a platform to deliberate on service delivery, it also presented an opportunity for collaboration between CYDT, Gweru Residents & Ratepayers Association (GRRRA) and Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BPRA). The meeting discussed strategies to improve service delivery with issues such as increasing citizen participation in local authorities' affairs and growing partnerships with communities in designing service delivery plans topping the agenda. The invited local authorities were advised to take note of citizen complaints in order to respond effectively while riding on them to benchmark service provision improvement.

From the deliberations, it was noted that value for money becomes a greater concept of service delivery as citizens apply it to validate if what they are paying suffice to what they get in return. The conference's major outcome was best practices for revenue collection, where participants advised local authorities to be inclusive and transparent in their daily expenditures, present interim financial statements so as to entice citizens to pay more. Committees for sensitization on We-Pay-You-Deliver Campaign were also suggested as a localized and sustainable way of involving citizens on revenue collection and council financial management plans – this came as a solution towards improving revenue collection from residents who have since shown little interest in paying off their bills.

7.3. Peer to peer Youth Mobilisation #TellAFriendCampaigns

In support of young people's moral and civic participation, the organization launched the Tell-A-Friend campaign 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 and to vote in peace. This activity motivated youths to embark on a youth mobilization campaign, educating their peers about 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.



7.4. Youth Socio-Political Indaba

The Youth Socio-Political Indaba was convened after realising that when young people are disenfranchised or disengaged from governance and electoral processes, a significant portion of the population has little or no voice or influence in decisions that affect their welfare. The activity was attended by participants drawn from all the districts in Matabeleland South Province. This activity was divided into 4 segments, where youths shared their experience as they embarked on civic participation journey. This was an eye opener to get to understand what young people go through as they strive to exercise their civic rights. The meeting also pointed out that currently there is no an Act of Parliament that legislate on youth inclusion, representation and participation. The provisions on section 20 are welcome, but they need support system in the form of a legislation and a constitutional provision on youth quota. The meeting managed to come up with suggestions towards sustaining effective youth civic participation which were compiled and presented as Youth Key Asks: Civic Matters. It was noted that effective youth participation in public life enhances equitable distribution of resources and opportunities to influence youth friendly socio-economic and political processes. Youth inclusive participation was presented not only as a fundamental democratic right, but also a crucial factor towards building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations.



Socio-Political Indaba

7.5. X-Factor Campaigns-Roadshow

The drive to further harness youth voter mobilization, informed the implementation of Youth X Factor Get Out the Vote Campaign in three districts of Mat South, targeting mainly rural communities and growth points. A fully branded roadshow truck was deployed in areas where young people were found in their numbers such as business centres or bus terminuses with edutainment provided by the champions and local artists. On the sides of these campaigns were peer educators who engaged with their peers on voter sensitization and peace messages as a way of reducing youth involvement on electoral motivated violence. Branding was crafted such that it emphasizes peaceful elections as well as entice youths to vote peacefully and voting for their preferred choices. These roadshow campaigns formed part of the broader joint CYDT & Matobo Youth Development Initiative interventions' on improving youth participation in political processes. Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) officials were invited to share voter education messages with the youths and those following the roadshow. The space proved to be an alternative platform for massive information dissemination and reach by both ZEC and community-based organisations. The organisation trust that such collaborations are instrumental in igniting youth confidence in electoral processes as they interfaced and exchanged words with ZEC officials at the same time seeing ZEC investing on youth friendly voter education materials such as billboards across the country.



X-Factor Campaigns-Roadshows

7.6. Election Battles of Ideas Town Hall Meetings

CYDT organized these activities so as to give opportunity for all contesting candidates from all political parties to access potential voters outside their prescribed political rallies. Interface between contesting candidates and the youths was cultivated and nurtured to ensure that political manifestos speak to the needs of those they seek to represent. The idea was to encourage an open election debate while increasing youth candidates' access to the electorate considering that they had no resources to hold political rallies. Young people had opportunities to influence all candidates who attended these meetings to consider taking note of their social and economic priority issues so as to develop an agenda that is all inclusive. Town hall meetings also served as an accountability forum where those seeking re-election were asked to clarify what they have done so far in comparison with their previous manifesto so as to take stock of their work and future plans. CYDT realised that such meetings promote active youth engagement and influence in electoral and governance processes. It was also noted that having such meetings promotes tolerance of divergent political views among citizens considering that politicians from different parties would address the crowd.





8. Lessons Learned

- **Community structures** - 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.
- **Peer-to-peer mobilisation** - the concept of peer-to-peer mobilisation is the best strategy in encouraging youths not only to register to vote, but to also participate in all civic processes. It is a localised way of promoting youth mobilization beyond the support given
- **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.
- **Business formalisation** - fully capacitated individuals can play a significant role in the formalization of their self-help project, a situation that promotes young women empowerment and self-reliance.
- Traditional leaders in youth empowerment and development Working with traditional leaders in promoting women empowerment becomes a sustainability measure and give advocacy community roots.
- **Youth empowerment** - programs should bring in tangible equipment or machinery for these youths as this will help in sustaining the project even when it has long ended.

9. Challenges



● **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.

● **Declining economic environment**- prevailing economic environment make it hard for youths to engage on governance issues as they are more concerned about putting food on the table.

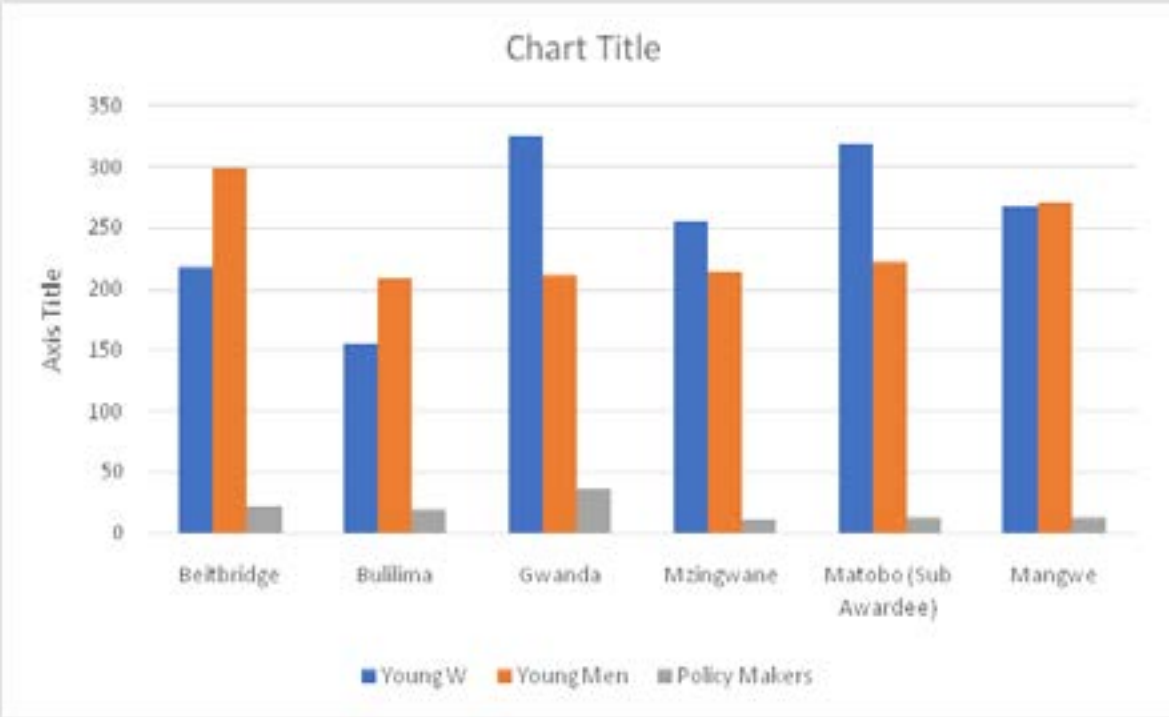
● **Political will**- lack of political will to implement localised as well as national policies for youth participation and representation of youths in key decision-making positions.

● **Economic meltdown**- forcing young people to migrate for greener pastures, a situation that result in social capital drain leading to repeated efforts by the organisation

Our Forecast

- Supporting youth empowerment activities to ensure self-sustenance and financial independency
- Work in collaboration and partnership with like-minded organisations to push for finalisation of the National Youth Bill so as to ensure an Act of parliament that mandate on youth participation and representation
- Fundraise for CYDT sustainability and growth

10. Impact Metrics: Our Reach for the year 2023



Government Efforts to Improve Service Delivery



The organisation appreciates the efforts from the government as they will help improve service provision and accountability



2023 Social Cooperate Responsibility:

Mayor's Fund raising c

By Mvelo Mthiyane Zondo

THE Gwanda Municipality fund raising committee dinner held on December 7, 2023 only raised US\$4000 towards assisting the needy.

The fundraising dinner raised more than US\$4000, pledges and other donations, while the Mayor Thulani Moyo pledged to pay fees for a Form One child right up to Form Four.

The fundraising committee chairperson, Akim Mpofu, gave a breakdown of the donations.

"Our fundraising dinner was a success as we managed to draw closer to intended target. OK-Zimbabwe donated a microwave for raffle tickets. So far our finances are plus US\$4000.

"MP Fisani Moyo donated US\$200, Kwandosi chipped in with US\$500 plus a solar panel worth US\$500 for raffle tickets.

"Kwandosi also extended his helping hand with US\$250 for artists and advertising as well as US\$500 for groceries while three families donated more than 10 sacks of bales.

The other donations came from Mr Ncube's Noxy Mine, US\$1000, Blue Arch Driving School offered to assist 20 beneficiaries in getting their licenses and Mrs Madodana



Gwanda Mayor Thulani Moyo addressing guests at the fund raising

their time towards making this event a success," explained Mpofu. Kadder and Zhezhangton

The other donations came from kept the participants on t

former MP Sipho Mokone who donated 10 x 10 kg maize meal, Fridge Masters a goat, Braai Masters R1000, Mars Supermarket US\$200, Billion Empire key holders, Apk mineral water, Peter Smith US\$50.00, Pick n Pay 50 x 10 kg maize meal, one box bath soap and one box washing soap. Community Youth Development Trust donated 1 x 10. 2kg rice and 1 x 10 2 kg surf.

However, the colourful fundraising dinner that was held at Palm River

namely Umfanomsuthu, Kadder and Zhezhangton kept the participants on t

Call for fac

By Mvelo Mthiyane Zondo

FOOD vendors at Plumtree Border Post want the council to provide them with ablution facilities as a matter of urgency, fearing a cholera outbreak.

The vendors say they have been operating at the border post for more than 20 years, yet council is turning a blind eye to this health hazard.

The food market, which is located a few meters away from Immigration Offices, is a hive of activity, selling a variety of meals, ranging from traditional

Realising the importance of ploughing back to community, the organisation sourced and donated grocery items towards the Gwanda Mayor's Xmas Cheer support meant to assist the less privileged.

www.cydt.org.zw
#ZwakalaNtanga

