

2020



COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

END OF YEAR REPORT

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Cydt MatSouth



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Acronyms

ASM	-	Artisanal and Small Scale Mining
CYDT	-	Community Youth Development Trust
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organisations
PVO	-	Private Voluntary Organisations
SRHR	-	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
YETT	-	Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust
ZACC	-	Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission
ZHRC	-	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZIMVAC	-	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZYC	-	Zimbabwe Youth Council

Contents	Page
Foreword	1
Chairperson's Message	3
Operational Environment	4
Political environment	4
Economic environment	5
Social Environment	6
Learning from the Past	7
Our Thematic Focus	8
Making it Happen: Our Implementation modalities (Our Programming)	10
Our Approaches	11
Strategic Partnership Approach	11
Twinning Approach	11
Our Projects	12
Defeat Corruption, Save the Community & Build the Future #ZeroTolerance	12
Strengthening Youth Engagement in Local Governance to further Grassroots Development	13
Take Charge: Mobilizing Concerned Voices on Community Development	14
Promoting Youth Awareness in Constitutional discourse in Matabeleland South Province	15
Entrenching Youth Voice in Community Development and Service Delivery	16
Enhancing Youth Voice in Governance-Upscale	17
She succeeds, we succeed -Empowering young women for development	18
Promoting COVID -19 awareness	19
Project: Promotion to Access to Justice, Transparency and Social Cohesion	20
Visibility and information sharing	21
Lessons learnt	22
Building On Lessons Learnt	22
Testimonies From The Youths	23

Foreword

To all our partners, this is our 2020 Annual Narrative Report, which bears testimony of our productive advocacy work across the province of Matabeleland South. The report, therefore showcases the many ways in which we promoted local level advocacy initiatives that ended up with national outlook in a bid to influence policy change with regards to youth participation, engagement and representation. However, it is imperative to note that, our work has not been that easy in 2020 due to challenges brought by COVID -19. CYDT acknowledges that local communities are faced with the most challenging times which have crippled local development and the plans to foster youth inclusion in key processes. The COVID -19 pandemic has not spared any segment of society in Matabeleland South; it has gravely impacted the lives of youths who mainly survived on buying and selling.

It has also affected their effective participation in community activism and advocacy work as they were now concerned with bread and butter issues. This then worked against the execution of our annual plan. However, the organization managed to carry the responsibility of responding to the challenges faced by young people during these trying times. This was in the form of creating alternative platforms where they could engage with their leaders on issues of topical interest. The organization also took the initiative to call for urgent devolution of political and administrative powers as one of the strategies to ensure a localized way of responding to COVID 19 <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2020/03/calls-to-implement-devolution-grow-louder/>

Adapting to the new context

Realizing that the COVID-19 pandemic was fast-changing situations and operating environment which made it difficult to access communities due to restrictive measures imposed as a way of flattening the curve, CYDT made adjustment to

its annual plan and adopted a worst scenario operation plan, which saw new ways of programing such as virtual spaces and where physical programing seemed to be possible, numbers for participants were reduced so as to meet COVID-19 restrictions. Safety and precaution measures for both secretariat and project participants were taken into consideration.

The 1st lockdown period was used as an opportunity to collectively review and map communication and information chains as a way of activating information dissemination channels to the rights holders during the lockdown period. We also reviewed the contact lists related to strategic government departments and stakeholders as a way of keeping clear communications lines in case youths might need help from these stakeholders and line ministries during lockdown. This was done upon realizing that the nation was on lockdown but the social and economic needs continue to escalate, hence we managed to remain visible and engaging with our constituency.

Work under COVID -19 conditions

The organization was not exceptional from adopting safety and precaution measures to ensure that members of the secretariat are safe. This was in light of the Do No Harm principle where limiting mobility was seen as the safest way of promoting office bearers and the members of staff. However, this came with so many challenges as we tried to force everyone to work from home with limited resources to aid their work. Notable there were so many variations recorded from workmates regarding remote work preferences. People vary a lot in how much they want to work from home, but one thing that was clear was that female employees find it very difficult to do their paid work at home while balancing it with unpaid care work. However, males find it easy and manageable to do paid work remotely.

Our Current Partners

Project Name	Partner	Project areas
Defeat Corruption, Save The Community, Build the future Project	GIZ	Gwanda, Mzingwane, Matobo
Enhancing Youth Leadership in Governance	NED	Gwanda, Bulilima, Mzingwane Beitbridge
Strengthening Youth Engagement in Local Governance	Diakonia	Mangwe, Bulilima & Gwanda
Take Charge: Mobilising Concerned Voices on Community Development	Freedom House	Matobo, Gwanda, Bulilima
Zwakala Ntanga" - Entrenching Youth Voice in Community Development & Service Delivery	HEAL ZIM Trust	Insiza South and Gwanda North
Promoting Youth Awareness in Constitutional Discourse in Matabeleland South Province	PACT	Beitbridge, Bulilima & Insiza

CYDT appreciates such partnerships. Through these partnerships the organizations managed to access certain opportunities that led to the growth of the organization. Internally, our institutional capacity was strengthened at the same time ensured quality programming and documentation of results, while externally, we have managed to stir public debate on youth representation and the need to have a constitutional supported system that promote youth participation

More so it is imperative to note that the above mentioned supported projects have created opportunity for CYDT to learn from its actions and operating context, capacity to adapt to the changing dynamics in the operating context, and eventually develop new programming approach that suits the obtaining environment. As such, CYDT contributed a lot in advocating for a just society where young people are viewed as equal citizens and are given opportunity that will help them shape their future in decision making, governance and economic spectrums.

CYDT has embarked on this journey; we invite you to join us — share your ideas & experiences, challenge us, learn with us, and celebrate the work and its outcomes.

Thank you! We hope you will find this report useful.



Sichasisile Ndlovu
Director

Chairperson's Message



On behalf of CYDT board and secretariat I would like to appreciate and acknowledge all efforts made this year. 2020 was not an easy year due to economic, political and the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed the way we worked, interact and engaged with our stakeholders. As CYDT we managed to adopt and embrace new innovative and creative ways of programming to reach our set objectives.

As part of the creative programming we managed to use digital media platforms as the COVID-19 restrictions prevented physical engagement forums. However, these virtual platforms had their own challenges such as poor network coverage which affected youth participation. The physical meetings which were later adopted were done under strict COVID-19 guidelines that included a limited number of participants, mask wearing and social distancing.

Despite the challenges presented by the shrinking civic space, Coronavirus pandemic and the economic context, CYDT managed to document flagship achievements, which we are glad to share. As an organization we managed to lead a process that saw parliament getting a petition from Matabeleland South youths. The petition prayed for a constitutionally supported youth quota, which provides for a 30% youth representation at parliament level. The petition was read to the August House by the Speaker of Parliament and since then debate has been stirred with some parliamentarians support the 30% while others proposing 25% and 50% respectively with reasons to support their suggestions.

On our advocacy on policies that support youth participation and inclusion, we managed to score positively with Municipality of Gwanda as they came to endorse and adopt Youth Inclusion Policy, a policy that will mandate policy makers and duty bearers to always create spaces for youth participation in internal decision-making processes. The policy was drafted with the input of the youth and hence there was robust data collection and consultation meetings conducted before it was adopted.

Being the most influential organization on youth development and empowerment, the organization gets so many invitations to strategic forums where we get to move youth concerns and issues to the public domain. As a result of such recognition, during this COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to establish strategic partnerships where we collaborated with the office of the District Development Coordinator in sensitizing communities on COVID-19 at the same time providing platform for youths to engage such offices on social service delivery.

Such partnerships feed into our strategic goals that points out the need to create a strong and effective working relationship with other stakeholders across the province. Having said the above, let me express my sincere gratitude to our stakeholders, partners and members for the unwavering support throughout 2020. All the successes that we are proud of today, were a result of the support given from all angles.

Complements of the new season!

Zanele Ngathi

Operational Environment

Political Environment



Year 2020 was characterised by high political tensions leading to documented gross human rights violation. The period from March to August 2020, saw a wide outcry as citizens blamed the government for weaponizing COVID -19. On the other hand, citizens started to vent online on maladministration, poor management of COVID -19 financial resources and corruption associated with tendering processes. As a reaction to the exposition of corruption and resource looting, citizens mobilised themselves to stand up against the government hence set 31 July as a day of Nation protests under the #31JulyNationalShutdown.

The build-up was also stirred online especially on Twitter where the #ZimbabweLivesMatter caught regional and International attention. In response to social media campaigns, South Africa was forced to send a high level delegation twice to Zimbabwe to understand the conflict and tension although these visits were widely condemned as biased and not truly attending to the situation. This was based on that the South African delegation was barred from meeting other political parties, civil society, human rights activists and the media so as to have a broader picture on the Zimbabwe situation.

On the other hand, citizens condemned recalling of various elected officials a move which has been widely criticized as it weakened the opposition in terms of representation and decision making. The recalls have also been described as a mockery to democracy in that they don't put into consideration rights of the electorate who put these people in office. In Matabeleland South recalls were made in Gwanda and Beitbridge towns.

In all this political turmoil, civil society operational space remains flagged with a black cloud. The space is surely shrinking especially for organisations working around human rights advocacy and activism. Local authorities are making it more difficult for CSOs to access Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Whilst MoUs are important when mobilising youth to engage those in authority and influence their decisions and actions, a new strategy was adopted by CYDT where localised position papers are used and these have proven effective.

Economic Environment



The country continues to face a liquidity crisis following the introduction of the local currency. More so the continuous drought and increased corruption in the mining sector has plunged the economy in recession. On the other hand, policy inconsistency and irregularity has influenced shady deals which cost the country huge revenue. According to IMF, Zimbabwe's economic woes are a result of lethal cocktail of macroeconomic instability, climate shocks and policy missteps.

This assumption can be further confirmed by the ongoing policy inconsistency since the beginning of the year and the newly introduced Zimbabwe Dollar has lost its value whereas climate change continue to cripple the agricultural sector, rendering more than 2,2 million people food insecure, with Gwanda and Bulilima districts showing a cereal response gap of USD784,012 according to February 2020 report page 24. This also saw the national poverty datum rising from ZW\$8,000.00 in July to ZW\$29, 000 in September, a situation that seen a sharp increase on both urban and rural poverty. All this has been taking pace under the COVID-19

induced environment characterised by restrictions in movement and gatherings.

As a result, the already suffering citizens were hard hit by lack of financial capacity considering that many survive on vending, cross border trading as well as menial jobs. In Matabeleland South rural communities largely rely on Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM). However, mining activities across the province are marred with so much corruption and manipulation which puts local youths to the negative receiving end.

The scramble for minerals resulted in gruesome conflicts especial in resource rich districts such as Gwanda, Matobo, Insiza, uMzingwane and Bulilima. Generally, majority of youth across the province express little prospect of a major improvement in Zimbabwe's economic and financial challenges in the short and long term. They are of the opinion that measures designed to improve prospects are likely to have negative social consequences with some further risk to political instability.

Social Environment



Connected to the political and economic situation, the social environment has not been spared by its own troubles which some are political and economically founded. The provision of social services in both urban and rural areas has been headlining the media as local authorities struggled to meet citizens' needs and rights.

Although water shortages have been a perennial problem due to droughts that hit Zimbabwe over the years, the recent one (2019/20) left 60% of the population food insecure. Rural population has seen increased loss of livestock as water resources such as dams dry up. The health sector has not been spared either as access to medication and services has been affected largely by the under performing economy and worsened by COVID-19.

More so attempts to improve on water supply and other social services by local authorities were highly affected by the COVID -19 pandemic seeing that local authorities recorded a sharp decline on revenue collection. The opening of schools has also been affected by both COVID-19 and the conflict

between teachers and the government in relation to salary and teaching conditions.

Generally, citizens lack confidence on the government to deliver in both services and material resources that will make the learning environment safe from COVID - 19. It is key to note that, in all this dilemma, rural young women who were already struggling to access health facilities/SRHR due to either their distant location or incapacity in terms of medication and staff as their problems are aggravated by lack of sources of income; have been rendered the most affected by the restrictions brought by COVID - 19.

However, Citizens are pinning their hopes on the predicted normal to above normal rainy season by the Zimbabwe Meteorological Office to salvage the situation. These communities rely on rain-fed agricultural activities including livestock production. A good rainy season is likely to temporarily relieve communities the burden of purchasing certain products such as maize or mealie-meal especially at exorbitant prices.

Learning from the past

CYDT 's longstanding commitment to youth has taken a new motivation with the recognition of youth as a priority group for the organization's actions as directed by the internal strategy for action with and for the youth. While CYDT recognizes youths as equal partners and actors for development and decision making, this has not been sufficiently reflected within all community programming as we continue to face resistance from some political oriented duty bearers who view youth emancipation as a political agenda.

As such, we have learnt that there is need for identifying synergies with like-minded organizations to national level so that we collectively lobby for effective methodologies and mechanisms for government departments to consider engaging youths in every policy and program design and delivery; particularly through youth organizations. There is need for the non-state actors and state actors to find each other and push for effective inclusion and representation of youths.

We have learnt that there is need for youth-led action to be strengthened from local to national level so as to entrench a

culture that view youths as critical stakeholders not a group of unorganized people. CYDT interventions on youth has been addressing a diversity of themes, disciplines and issues from human rights education and self-determination. All this was a way of developing a new generation of leaders that is self-motivated and empowered to fight for the change they want to see in their respective communities.

The organization learnt that adoption of a strategic scale initiative that is interconnected and address both the upstream which is policy influence and the downstream being societal issues at grassroots level proved more efficient than initiatives that separates the two.

Such strategic initiative corresponds to the CYDT's mission, functions and operations that have delivered both qualitative and quantitative results. Therefore, there is need to prioritize such approach through a holistic and more focused approach in CYDT future work on youth emancipation, which will then consolidate the multidisciplinary expertise within and across CYDT thematic streams.

Looking ahead: a renewed focus during COVID 19



Driven by the axiom that democratic institutions flourish when all groups of the society are represented and when they are given opportunity to participate in decision making, the organization embarked on a wide consultation to gather youth views on what needs to be done to strengthen youth representation, inclusion and participation. A tool to lobby and advocate for improved youth representation was produced

and used to lobby local and national leaders to consider adopting concrete measures that will ensure youth participation and representation is institutionalized. All this points to our commitments to remove the youths from the marginal end of decision making, governance and community development and present them as key stakeholders.

Going into 2021, CYDT will act towards ensuring that young women and men are engaged in policies and programs affecting them and lead actions to promote social cohesion, transparency, accountability and sustainable development in their communities and in Zimbabwe as a whole. CYDT shall seek to convince local level stakeholders to apply a comprehensive and future oriented vision that recognises youths as agents of change, social transformation, peace, sound and sustainable development. Such vision embodies the ways in which youth are concerned or affected by CYDT's work.

In 2021, our work will seek to capitalize on youth creativity, knowledge, innovation and potential to drive policy change as a way of addressing challenges affecting their development both at governance and societal level. The organization will seek to explore avenues that permit youths to reach their maximum potential and rediscover themselves considering that majority of the youths have lost sense of community and

hope in the future. The organization dreams of a young generation that contributes directly in a complementary manner to its leadership. Our end goal is to allow duty bearers and the rights holders to create and sustain an enabling environment for the youths to fulfil their rights and responsibilities, to prosper as human beings, to be head, engaged and valued as social actors and knowledge holders in specialized fields.

The organization believes that these conditions are key to unleashing youth potential to promote a culture that values their input and presence. In respect to the efforts around Sustainable Development Goals and the prevailing operating environment, such perspective on youth has a double faceted value. It does not only contribute to addressing development challenges and inequity that affect youth development prospects but it also provides the necessary environment and conditions to empower and engage youths, so that they can, in turn contribute to the change they want to see.

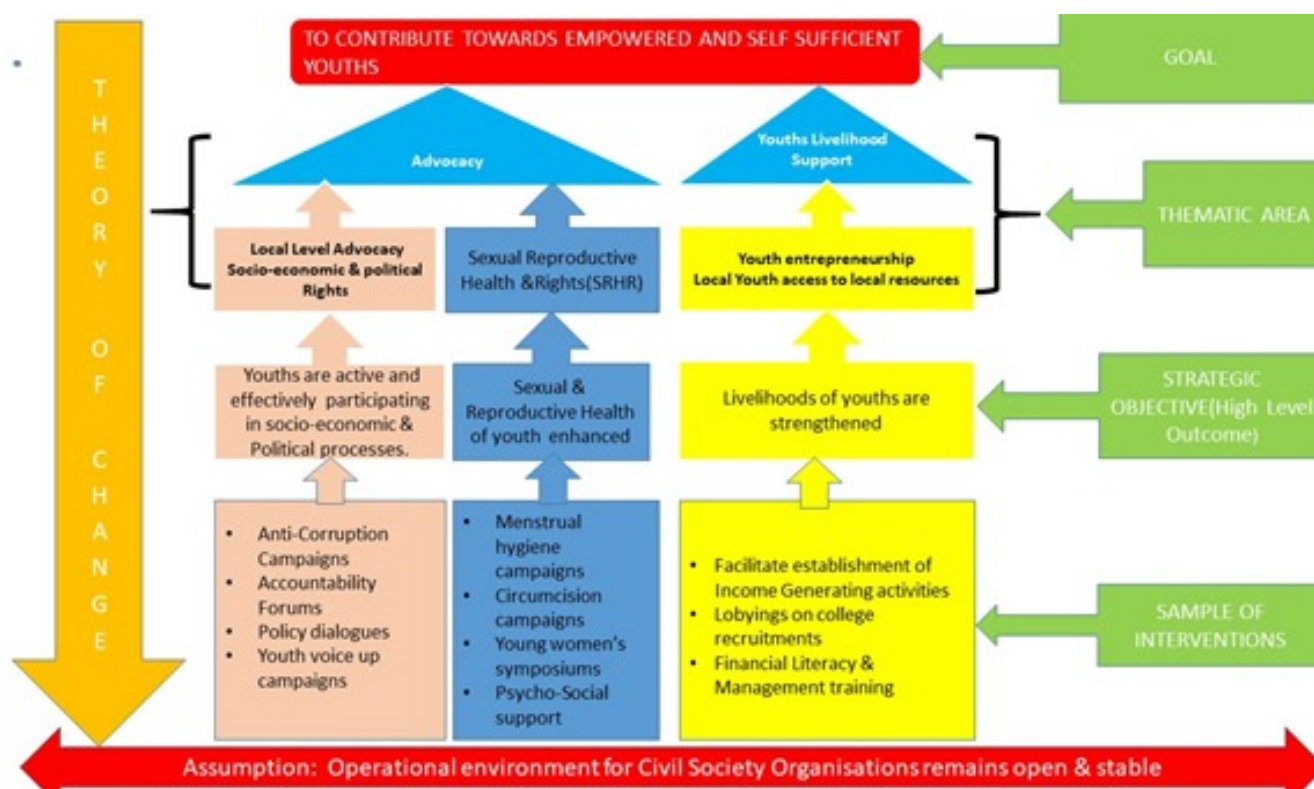
Our Thematic Focus

Our 2018 to 2023 strategic plan, which is reviewed annually outlines the strategic thinking process which is mainly premised on principles of participation, co-creation and ensuring ownership by the CYDT members. Our strategic focus is best summarised by the attached strategic map which specifies strategic goal and the three thematic areas that the organization continue to focus on.

The thematic areas are local level advocacy which informs the creation of safe spaces for improved youth participation. These have seen the organizations facilitating engagement of youths from local level on policy, service provision and governance

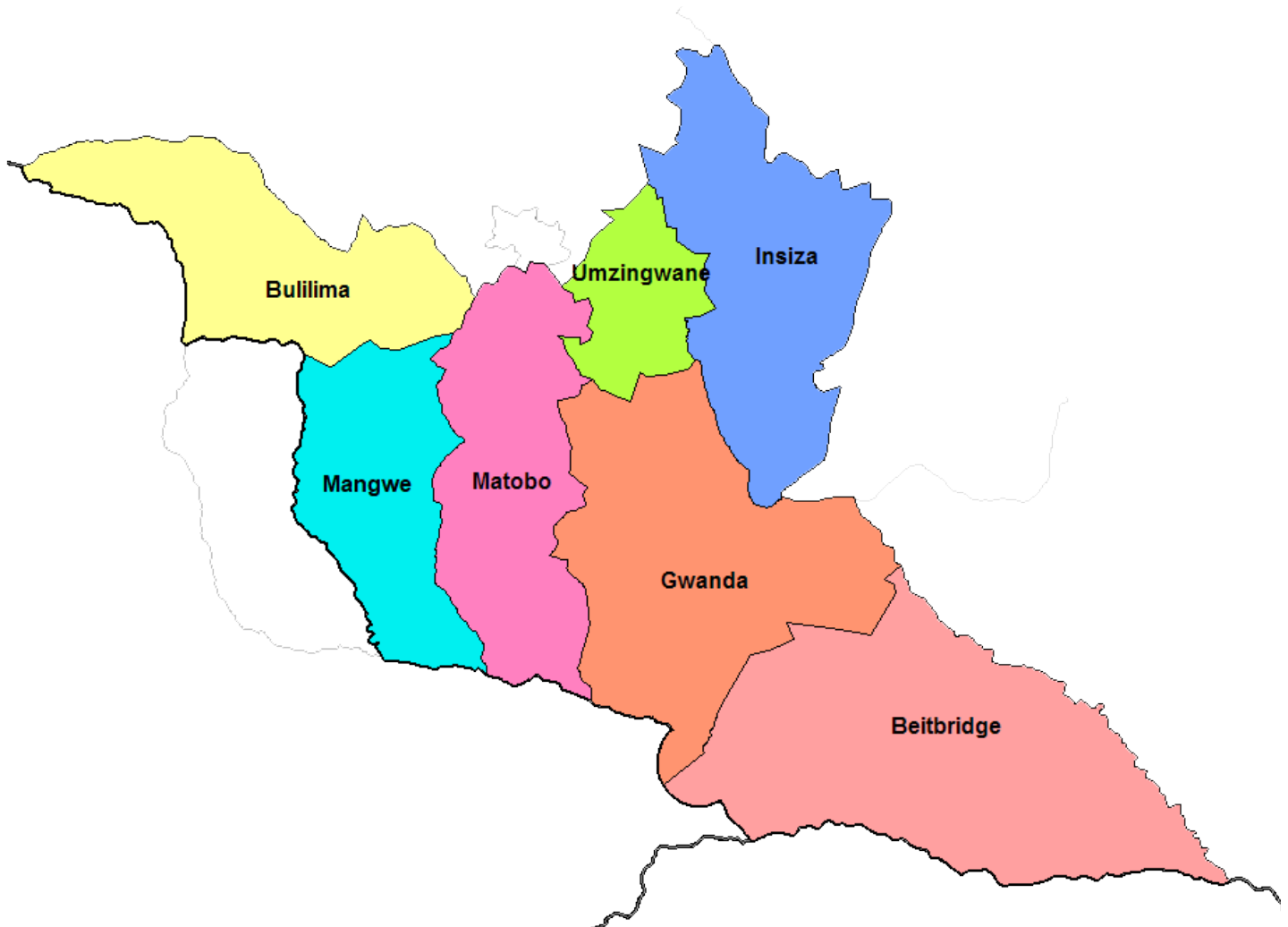
matters. There were some incidences where local level advocacy initiative took a national outlook and attracted so much media coverage which managed to bring local youth issues to the public domain.

Aspiring to add value in the SRHR discourse, CYDT in 2020 managed to further strengthen its SRHR thematic pillar by partnering with HIVOS. It is believed that the partnership will see an increase in influencing policy dynamics in favour of access to SRHR by young women and men in Matabeleland South.



Geographic coverage

CYDT operates in Matabeleland South and currently covers 7 districts namely, Gwanda Central, Gwanda North, Beit Bridge East, Mangwe, Bulilima, Insiza, Mzingwane and Matobo. Establishing work relations with youths in these districts was made easier by the unwavering support of our numerous development partners who believed in us and saw the hidden potential



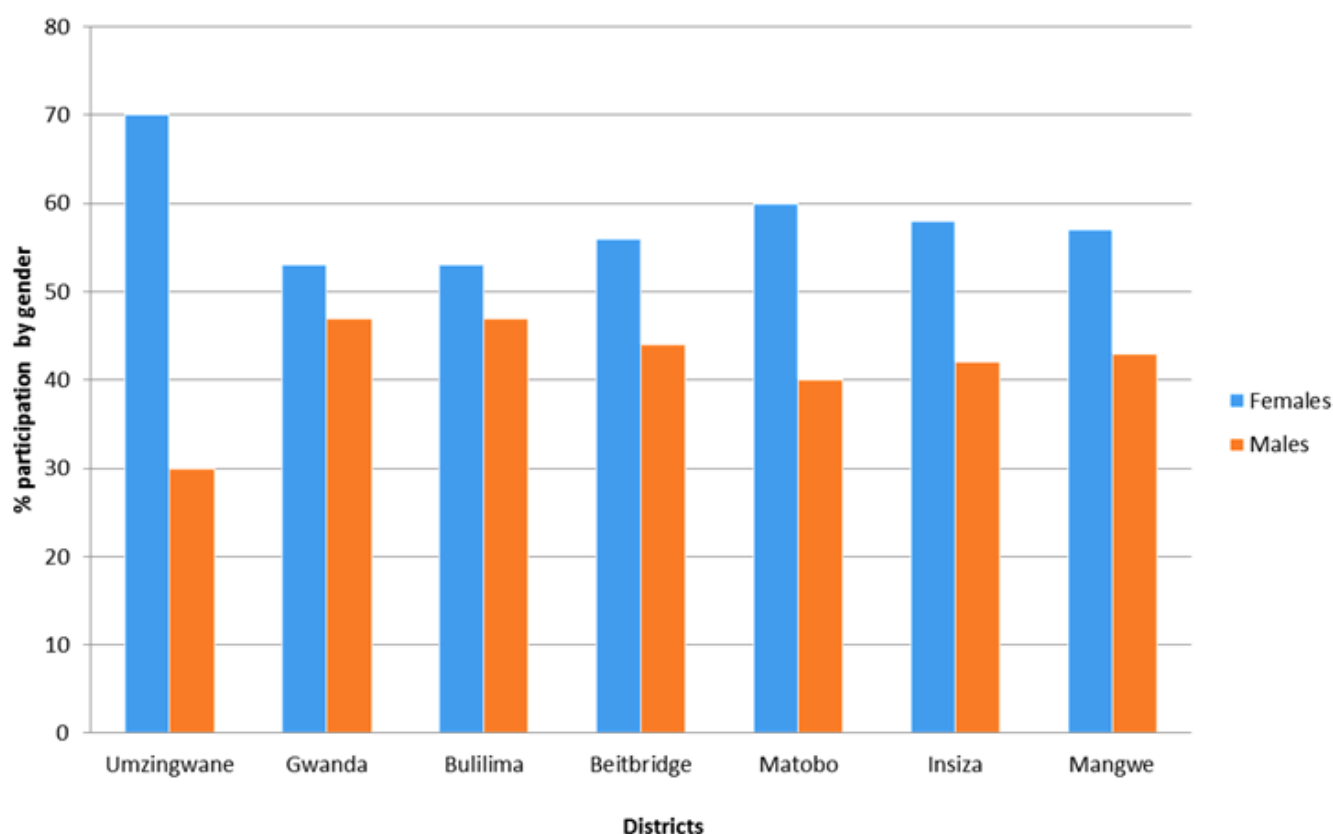
Making it happen: implementation modalities (Our Programming)

Throughout the year, CYDT used different ways of delivering project activities. This was a way of promoting innovation at the same time build a critical mass in support of CYDT work and youth empowerment advocacy. As a result, the organization adopted 2 implementation modalities in its execution of work. It is key to note that the organization needed to innovate and adjust so as to remain relevant despite the challenges brought by COVID - 19 and the sudden implementation of the lock-down restrictions which among others limited movement, activity implementation and access to communities. As part of adaptation, the organization had to adopt certain implementation modalities, which then made it easy for adjusting and adopting the new normal.

Youth participation

Young people were at the centre of our programming with gender balance also being a high priority. However, as noted from the gender aggregation in the graphs below per district, females dominated our activities. It was our observation that a number of factors characterising these communities shape and influence gender relations which also impacts on youth participation in general.

Participation percentage by district



The domination of females in our meetings was a result of socio-economic factors in that most males are usually busy in various economic activities such as mining as they try to fend their families. Whilst the gender gaps in other districts is moderate, Umzingwane district had a huge gender gap with females youth participation constituting 70%. It should be noted that this variance is due to that Umzingwane district had projects that specifically targeted young women. However, generally it was our observation that female youths were the available and easily accessible population as they are usually at home and in some cases act as representatives of their in laws in these activities.

Whilst these statistics indicate a high level of attendance by women to the activities, actual participation in terms of contributions during discussions and debates was dominated by males. This is attributed to a number of factors that centre around self-confidence, ability to articulate issues and knowledge levels between these two gender groups. Whilst CYDT tried to make the platforms as free and engaging as they could be and also encouraged young females to input, evaluations reflected that some female participant's confidence would be affected by lack of knowledge on issues in general. This behaviour was observed in the age groups 18-21. However, the other age group was more active and this was inline with their social status in that some were married and some even owned homes and therefore socially and culturally are classified as 'adults'.

Our Approaches

Strategic Partnership Approach

This modality became the core of CYDT implementation plan. The organization was able to create broad and diverse networks which were complimented by wider spaces for youth actors to interact, dialogue, share and exchange ideas or experiences. Through strategic partnership, CYDT gained acceptance from premeditated departments, which made it easier for the organization to penetrate and record significant impact in its endeavor to create spaces for youth inclusion.

We managed to establish working partnership with Ministry of youth in all districts. As a result of this partnership we were able to facilitate district level meeting in Beitbridge where youths and the representative from the parliamentary portfolio committee on youth, sports and culture engaged constructively. The meeting was fruitful as youth managed to get clarity on the budget allocation as communicated by the 2021 national budget, and expressed their position on youth representation.

They implored the portfolio committee to ensure that a youth quota that support 30% youth representation is adopted.

Strategic Partnership Approach created an opportunity for the organization to influence formation of youth focal persons targeting all government departments and non-governmental organizations operating in Matabeleland South. In Bulilima we partnered with the Ministry of youth and managed to set up a structure that is effective and meets regularly to review and strategise on youth integration. Members also use the same platform to feedback on their youth focused activities, which then becomes ideal setting that promote evidence based result tracking and lobbying.

Notable, the organization managed to gain new skills from these strategic partners which saw us building valuable intellectual capital for project sustainability. Riding on opportunities provided by the strategic partnership approach, CYDT was able to reduce risks of failure to establish sound networks and build on such for future projects sustainability. This approach has managed to position the organization as a key stakeholder on youth issues across the province unlike before where we were only known in areas of operation.

Twinning Approach

Realizing that twinning with strategic partners has been and continues to have potential to take youth issues to the public domain which then compel leaders to respond, the organization then decided to adopt *twinning* as another modality of project implementation. CYDT values this approach as the best way of averting competition and conflict among partners with similar mindset.

It ensures complementary efforts between organizations, duty bearers and policy makers, hence create an enabling operating environment between partners and stakeholders. Twinning approach has seen the organization managing to successfully lobby for the development of local level policies that support youth participation in Gwanda local authorities whereas in other districts processes have been initiated.

This is a way of promoting institutionalization of youth inclusion seeing that local authorities change every 5 years hence the need to have the policies that will compel incoming leaders to continue with the legacy. It can be said that the

approach is good in nurturing relationships and promoting collective planning and execution of agreed plans.

The approach spilled over to the community members who managed to partner with other community structures representing other organization and assisted victims of the hail storm in Gwanda North, a case that prove youths as responsible group of a society that is energetic and forthcoming to assist rebuild the affected areas in order to improve access to social services.

CYDT's work was designed in such a way that it influences the national development plans on youth empowerment and development despite it being a provincial level institution. The organization managed to apply and promote rights based approach, gender equality and non-discrimination (young women). All these were mainstreamed as a way of domesticating a culture of consultative leadership where youths are consulted, involved and engaged in all processes across the province.

Our Projects

I.0 Defeat Corruption, Save the Community & Build the Future #ZeroTolerance



same time contribute to further marginalization of the already disadvantaged groups such as youths and women. Riding on lessons learnt, CYDT managed to scale up by aiming at increasing communities' awareness on the role they can play in safeguarding community resources against corrupt elements.

As a result of the project, CYDT collaborated with Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and conducted a research on issues perpetuating corruption in the mining sector. We are glad that what ZACC representatives documented managed to influence contents of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which is a document detailing the commitment in the fight against corruption in Zimbabwe.

Realizing that small scale and artisanal mining have become the major source of livelihood which has attracted an increase in youth domestic migrant, CYDT devised a project that sought to promote transparency and accountability in the mining sector. The project was designed after a number of youth who attended platforms provided by CYDT's previous initiatives, raised concern on the increasing corruption that continue to limit them to earn a proper living through mining activities despite being the province that prides of being a den of rich minerals.

This project was built on lessons learnt from the previous initiatives where the organization noted that corruption unexposed is bound to manifest itself to a culture that breeds inequality and underdevelopment. It was learnt that corruption can become cancerous that erodes citizen's conscience at the

It is vital to note that the project registered success stories where rights holders took it upon themselves to compile evidence and reported corruption cases to the police while others travelled from Gwanda, Mzingwane and Matobo to Harare only to present their cases physically to the ZACC chairperson.

This alone constituted the success of the project considering that ZACC did not know of the level of corruption experienced by miners in these areas, now their issues have been made public with so much media coverage. However, as much as we recorded success stories, some of the follow up actions were crippled by the restrictions that were imposed as a way of flattening COVID -19 pandemic.

Top line achievements:

- Collaborating with ZACC to conduct a research on issues causing corruption in the mining sector, which later influence content of the NACS
- Documentation of corruption cases in project and promoting interface between miners and ZACC.
- Production of 3 issues of the Whistleblower Newsletter detailing corruption related cases in Mzingwane, Gwanda and Matobo
- Increased awareness and commitment on the fight against corruption by young people and local miners in selected project areas

2.0 Strengthening Youth Engagement in Local Governance to further Grassroots Development



After the realization that youth participation, engagement and inclusion remained a challenge in local governance, decision making and leadership in Gwanda, Mangwe and Bulilima, CYDT took the initiative to design a project that would see youth effective participation strengthened in local governance processes and young people contributing to good governance, improved accountability of their local authorities and also influencing service delivery that is of priority and responsive to their needs.

as way of promoting accountable and democratic local governance.

As a result, young people from the districts have been engaging in various Community led Service Delivery Advocacy initiatives, that have improved service delivery in their local communities, changed the behavior and attitudes of policy makers towards supporting youth involvement in decision making processes at local level.

This saw the organization, conducting capacity building initiatives, providing spaces of leadership and youth engagement, and also conducting social accountability forums

This project became a passage for ushering social inclusion as it created platforms for youth with disabilities to get their issues to local authorities.

Top line achievements:

- Enhanced understanding of young women and men on local governance operations, budget processes and social accountability. (we continue to have testimony from councillors, youths themselves and witnessed youth participation and improve articulation – how they package issues as advocacy and when seeking clarity (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sopGFPv03pfs-uXISKzaro7y04fMGfef/view?usp=drive_web))
- Leaders are more consultative now and very engaging as compared to times before this project
- We are proud to have successfully lobbied local authorities to develop and adopt local level policies that allow domestication of youth representation and participation (<http://cydt.org.zw/index.php/2020/08/28/municipality-of-gwanda-youth-policy-2020/>)
- Publications - 1 Issue – Youth Service Delivery Gazette (<http://cydt.org.zw/index.php/newsletters/>)
- Project area based service delivery reports produced in January 2020 after trained social accountability champions conducted ward based service delivery assessments using scorecards
- There is improvement in youth representation in local government structures such as WADCO. Our structure audit revealed that out of 100 WADCOs at least 68.7 have youths as part of the structure
- Leaders are more consultative now and very engaging as compared to before the project.

3.0 Take Charge: Mobilizing Concerned Voices on Community Development



The thrust that a vibrant, legitimate and well organized independent sector is essential for a health and democratic system of government informed the decision to implement a project whose focus was to safeguard a mobilized citizens voice in defence of the shrinking civic space. This was derived from the believe that citizens have the power to change and shape socio-political, social and economic structures that guide their life.

Consequently, it is in the interest of the civil society organizations and the community to encourage open civic space where they are able to freely assemble and express their views on issues of governance and local development. As such,

this project managed to create a space for collective advocacy on human rights, rule of law and governance.

The initiative came at a time when there was notable worsening relationship between government and the CSO with the former perceiving that the later was problematic and fronting the regime change agenda only because the latter called for transparency and accountability. It is key to note that, despite having this project running for 6 months, traceable results were noted which the organization continue to press on for the realization of a free and conducive operating environment for all players critical for democratization of Zimbabwe.

Top line Achievements:

- Desktop research on legal instruments that guide CSO and PVO operations – report shared with local authorities as a way of influencing process of MOU acquisition
- We managed to produce a documentary entitled *The People Have Spoken*. The documentary captured citizen's voices on how CSO's are transforming communities as testimonies on the impact of CSO's work in promoting community owned development, which is complementary to the government's everyday duty – this was a way of proving that CSO are bringing in a complementary role to the government at local level
- CSOs and CBOs now speak with one voice against the violation of the rule of law and the constitution. This was after awareness was raised.
- Empowered communities who tell their stories about the importance of CSOs, NGOs and CBOs in community development and promotion of human rights.

4.0 Promoting Youth Awareness in Constitutional discourse in Matabeleland South Province



The thirst to respond to the gaps identified during implementation of project activities gave birth to this project. It was noted that despite having the constitution for 7 years, communities especially the youths were not in the know of their constitutionally guaranteed human rights. As such this project went a long way in addressing the emerging narrative on the awareness of the constitution and governance processes by youths, which remain on the lowest mark.

The project provided CYDT with opportunity to empower young women and men from Gwanda, Insiza South and Beitbridge with information in terms of the constitution and the proposed constitutional amendment. The organization felt that the initiative was important as we seek to advance constitutionalism at the same time create platforms where youths can get education on their civic rights as provided for in the constitution.

Constitutional education is very crucial in any democracy seeing that it motivates citizens to develop positive energy and

attitude in participating in local and national process on an equal footing. This was one of the projects that managed to respond to the needs of the youths in a very effective and innovative way. Upon realizing that some youths from the deep end of Beitbridge could not read or write, CYDT designed ways of disseminating information in more receptive and accommodative way.

Animated video skits sensitizing youths on their civil and political rights were circulated and received so much viewership. They were widely shared proving the impact they carried. At one time someone posted the video to a group in Mzingwane where the project was not running, consequently a debate around the constitution, human rights and rule of law was stimulated. More so as a way of practising social distance while ensuring sound programming, instead of having the usually crowded roadshows, the organization introduced a branded caravan which became the talk of the province.

Top Line Achievements

- Designed and distributed translated fact sheets on human rights and the constitution.
- The project saw a total of 150 youths getting hard copies of the constitution from different stakeholders across all project areas in a period of six months. To note is the ability by the organisation to source some of this material in Venda for the youths in Beitbridge.
- 150 youths trained on human rights monitoring and documenting. These have been instrumental in documenting and reporting on human right related cases in Bulilima, Beitbridge East and Insiza South, with some cases now in the hands of the ZHRC. Zimbabwe Lawyers for human rights attended to some of the reports from Insiza and Beitbridge.
- CYDT managed to produce a Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting reference manual that was used by the facilitators throughout the project. The manual has so far been adopted by other local youth focused organizations in Gwanda, Beitbridge and Bulilima.
- The same project saw the development of a petition on youth quota, which was sent to parliament and stirred debate among members of parliament with some lobbying for 50% youth inclusion. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202009070274.html>

5.0 Entrenching Youth Voice in Community Development and Service Delivery



The project pursued youths as tremendous agents for change and an imperative constituency for sustainable community development in Gwanda North (ward 1 and 4) and Insiza South (1 and 2). The project started in November 2019 and shall end in February 2021. As such the project seeks to empower youths to be able to hold service providers accountable for good governance and people driven local development.

The project was influenced by the realization that rural youths continue to be left out in community development processes especially in rural communities where there is less civic activism, which then provides a room for unfairly representation of their issues. The project was informed by the baseline survey conducted by CYDT in April 2019, which aimed at ascertaining level of youth participation in local governance processes.

As a response to the findings, the project earmarked to facilitate youth leadership and participation at local level and aimed at motivating a group of responsible young people who are eager to work for the positive development of their communities. Through this projects 35 youths from Insiza were trained on social accountability for the first time in their lives, which motivated them to conduct community level trainings outside CYDT platforms.

This was viewed as the impact of the project considering that 28 of the 35 trained youths managed to regroup and cascade the knowledge gained to fellow youths not once but twice. The same youths are now in the process of lobbying the local authority through the social service department to form a youth association so as to have youth issues consolidated and presented to the full council on monthly intervals.

Top Line Achievements:

- Training of youths from the most remote areas of Gwanda North and Insiza South on Social Accountability tools as a way of motivating them to play an active role in monitoring and evaluating provision of service delivery.
- 183 youths are reportedly actively engaged sensitization on improved access to SRHR services.
- 3 boreholes in ward 1 have been serviced after youths lobbied local authorities hence improving access to clean water.
- We have managed to compile reports from the trained social accountability monitors from both project areas and produced 2 community service delivery newsletters

6.0 Enhancing Youth Voice in Governance-Upscale



CYDT rides on the renewed Endowment support to promote youth leadership and political participation in Matabeleland South Province. The project takes cognisance that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Zimbabwe was already enduring economic collapse and social challenges that have weighed particularly heavy on the country's youth and limited opportunities for youth engagement in leadership and political processes.

It is paramount to note that, this is not the first time CYDT has received support from the Endowment, hence this project builds on the previous Endowment support, where the organizations managed to strengthen networks of youth activists in the province, coordinated the drafting of a youth

charter to serve as a basis for youth-led reform efforts that can be used to influence policy change in favour of young people who constitute majority of the population.

As such, the current project aims at upscaling its activities to strengthen the capacity of its youth networks to conduct advocacy and directly participate in Zimbabwe's ongoing political and electoral reform process by mentoring local youth leaders at the same time design workshops and platforms for youth policy advocacy and dialogue.

CYDT sees an opportunity to play a coordination role with other youth focused organizations in the province so that there are unified voices on issues impinging on youth civic rights.

Top line Achievements:

- Strengthened recognition of CYDT as the voice of the youths in Matabeleland South Province.
- Established community level civic education forums, where youths meet in groups and encourage each other.
- Ability to present a continued opportunity for youths to build on the youth policy charter and lobby for policy change, which saw youths writing to parliament – seeking the parliament to consider looking into the proposed 10 sets for youths in 2023. The letter was signed by CYDT chairperson.
- Managed to establish working relationship with parliamentary portfolio committee on youth, sports, culture and the Zimbabwe Youth Council. The existing relationship allows CYDT to communicate issues and concerns emanating from the low level and continue to lobby for policies that seek to improve youth participation. As a result, we have had ZYC participating in some of our interactive virtual spaces and radio programs.

7.0 She succeeds, we succeed -Empowering young women for development



During the month of October and November 2020, Community Youth Development Trust partnered with YETT to implement a project that sought to promote improved young women's participation and engagement in development spaces. The project idea came into being after realizing that despite having provided equal opportunities for both young men and young women, young women's participation continued to suffer due to some structural barriers hence the need to provide separate platforms.

The highly affected areas in this case being Mzingwane and Maphisa. The three months' project received so much

acceptance from young women who took the opportunity to shape and document their service delivery key asks. They had the opportunity to engage their leaders and duty bearers, demand gender responsive service provision and social inclusion.

Despite having selected only three wards that is ward 3 and 5 (Mzingwane district) and ward 19 (Matobo District), the project has recorded a ripple effect and has seen young women who have benefited from the project gaining agency, resulting to them conducting community level advocacy around women emancipation and demanding spaces of inclusion.

Top line Achievements:

- Young women who were path of the project have taken the initiative to actively lobby their leaders and local structures for inclusion and creation of spaces where young women can safely represent their concerns.
- Young women in Mzingwane are actively lobbying for improved access to SRHR during the prevailing COVID 19 where majority of rural health institution are operating on a low capacity.
- Young women in the targeted wards have been actively encouraging their peers to come together and become a strong young women's movement who is able to stand for their social and economic rights.

8.0 Promoting COVID -19 awareness

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, which changed the way of life for people across the globe. A lot of cocktail measures and regulations, which included lockdowns, wearing of face masks and use of sanitizing or regular washing of hands, maintaining social distance and self-isolation, were introduced as new norms which citizens had to adopt as safety and precaution measures.

As such, CYDT, like all other stakeholders, took the initiative to embark on a massive awareness and sensitization program, which earmarked at raising awareness and knowledge of COVID -19, including how it is spread, risk factors, its effects on different social groups and prevention and mitigation

measures. This program was mainly targeting rural communities though it also covered urban areas.

This was necessitated by the fact that information had proven to be scarce in most rural communities – with majority of the population seemingly unaware of the basics about the disease or the steps needed to safeguard against contracting or spreading it. This was despite concerted efforts to keep the communities informed both by the ministry of health and the non-state actors. All this had proven to be advantageous to urban communities hence creating a huge information gap to the rural communities, which might pose more danger to everyone who is in contact with them despite location.

Top line achievements

- 500 Translated information fliers distributed in Plumtree and Gwanda
- Supported youths with PPE in the form of inform of sanitizers and face masks
- Conducting radio programs to sensitize communities.
- Information dissemination for raising awareness through bulk sms and social media platforms
- Trained youth community health workers/ champions
- Localized COVID -19 animations shared across social media platforms for wider coverage.
https://youtu.be/C_V9qvAH6xE , <https://youtu.be/kOwQq9QtEC4>

9.0 Project: Promotion to Access to Justice, Transparency and Social Cohesion

Recently, we started a project that seek to promote access to justice and transparency with reference to the plight of Small Scale and Artisanal miners. The project was informed by the opportunities unearthed by previous interventions that saw the organization taking a stand in the fight against corruption in the mining sector.

This project has become the defining shift for CYDT considering that majority of the youths are in the mining sector either employed as panners or owners of mining claims. Therefore, it becomes imperative for the organization whose mandate is to foster youth effective participation as change agents in all sectors to venture into that advocacy around transparency, accountability and social cohesion in mining communities.

From our previous interventions we realized that exposing corruptions leave communities in conflict and many people bleeding hence the need to come back with a project that will also offer spaces that promote social relations and peace building. Having begun in the last quarter of the year; the project has not recorded much of successes except that communities in the mining sector, miners and stakeholders appreciate such spaces as they create a sense of belonging and facilitate co-creation and transparency operations.

On the other hand, legal experts are also coming as stakeholders and use platform to clarify some of the policy issues that continue to create room for manipulation to ASMs. As a result, CYDT is working on a policy paper that will speak to Gold Handling, Production & Management Policy, as a response to what was identified as a policy gap.



10.0 Collaborations and Partnership

As an organization that believes in the power of collaborations and strategic partnerships, CYDT is increasingly recognising potential of greater cooperation to achieve positive change and improve the way we approach our work. As such, CYDT has made it a point to find other youth focused organizations operating in Matabeleland South as a way of identifying opportunities of collaborating. The

organization is also looking into strategic partnerships with private sector companies so as to build a more strategic approach to development. However, in all the collaborations we have entered, we have been considering key factors which include but not limited to:

1. Common objectives or vision
2. Different yet complementary skills and goals
3. Strengths and opportunities
4. Shared advocacy efforts
5. Special Focus

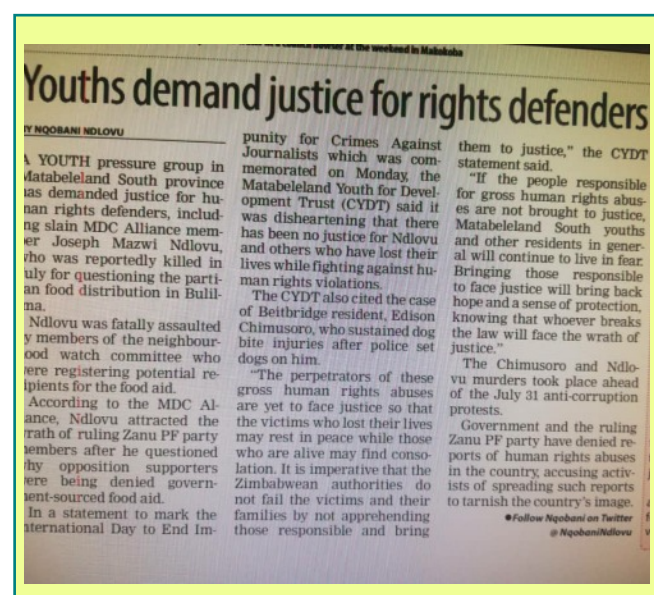
11.0 Visibility and information sharing

In a bid to expand spaces for sensitizing youths, partners, stakeholders and other interest groups on CYDT activities, a website (cydt.org.zw/) was developed in June. Since its development, CYDT activities such as Weekly Updates, Newsletters, Magazine and stories have been uploaded to the website. While the website is still considered new, media houses, stakeholders as well as partner organisations have given positive feedback on the website.

To manage the website effectively, the information officer received training on how to upload information on the

website, a move that gave the organisation ownership and in house management of the website. Going forward, the information officer managing the website will develop ways to increase website traffic to try and improve the number of website visitors.

Explore innovative ways of popularising or making the website trend for its content that mainly seeks to improve the lives of marginalised youths in Matabeleland South.



Lessons learnt

- Adequate Policy Framework is panacea to sustained youth participation - CYDT learnt that without right policies and legal framework mandating institutions to create spaces for youth inclusion, youth participation and representation will be a pipe dream yet to materialize for generations to come.
- When young people are excluded from participatory processes, or processes including them are kept separate from broader initiatives for community development, it can be detrimental to both young people and development goals.
- Human Rights Based Approach is key in diluting politicization of youth participation advocacy.
- Using different capacity building approaches when working with youths is paramount – both needs based and asset based approach does wonders in igniting youth potential.

Building On Lessons Learnt

- There is need to continue to champion change through advocacy that starts at local level and attract national attention.
- Organize and mobilize for youth friendly policies from local to national level.
- Continue providing safe spaces for youth engagement and participation.
- Use local structures to mobilize more youths for incremental purposes.
- Build critical movements that support youth empowerment and development.
- CYDT members to understand their role in fighting for youth social, economic and political justice.
- **Engaging with policy** - there is need for policy audits so that gaps are identified and brought to the public

Areas of Comparative Advantage /Good Practices For Learning Dealing With The Prevailing Context: Political & Human Rights Trends & Implications.

- Create safe space for youth engagement and give them autonomy – Involve them in all internal processes, from activity planning and implementation for this is a sound ingredient for ownership and future sustainability.
- Engage rights holders to get to know their priorities and be flexible enough to tweak a bit so that programming remains relevant and address critical community challenges at the same time addressing project objectives. In that way, community groups resonate with CSOs work better.
- Transparency and accountability – helps rights holders to domesticate organization's expectations.
- Establish and nurture relationship with strategic offices – have side to fall on when the other fails to materialize, identify allies in strategic offices, communities and operating spaces
- Ridding on cooperative partnerships i.e. with organizations that do livelihood component – helped organisation to gain acceptance from youths and community leaders.

Testimonies From The Youths

Strange as 2020 was, we spoke to some young people on their experiences about working with us and these are their stories.



Thandekile Ndlovu (22yrs) from Bulilima District:

The activities carried by CYDT gave us confidence to stand up for our rights as youths especially at communal level. The organisation raised awareness on how youths are the leaders of today and tomorrow; telling us that we are capable of being the “Bill Gates” of the future. The organisation gave me a chance to be aware of my rights as the

organisation made road-shows about human rights and the constitution.

CYDT has taught me how to communicate and be involved in local governance. CYDT program facilitators told us to approach local leaders without provoking them for a better relationship. CYDT also taught me and other youths the importance of socializing with the youths and community members to achieve certain goals. In other words, the organization helped us understand the imperativeness of teamwork. As a result, I was able to exchange ideas with people who came from Gwanda to enlighten each other on issues affecting our community and coming up with strategies to resist challenges faced.

Reason Dube (29yrs) from Gwanda:

The year, 2020 has been a tough year for me and even the community because of the COVID - 19 pandemic but with the intervention of CYDT as our community youth based organisation, we were able to adapt living with the pandemic. The organisation pushed service providers (local authority) on issues of service delivery, and spaces for making decisions on budget processes for our community as Gwanda.

Throughout the year, it wasn't easy to have facial meetings because of lock down regulations but CYDT made options of

having virtual meetings and also provided us with data bundles to take part in those meetings. CYDT has been an eye opener to us as youth, we are on the plans of having our own Youth Association next year and by doing that we shall need more support from CYDT. In short, Thank you, CYDT!



Thabiso Moyo (21yrs) from Bulilima District:

The Community Youth Development Trust has done good things to me as young person. I have been taught quite a lot on governance, advocacy and service delivery issues. Basically I now know that governance is the system in which how we operate or do things in public spheres. Governance and the government are different.

As the government is the people while governance is how they do things. In



addition, I also learnt that advocacy is important when done using the correct protocols and channels. It has a great impact on enforcing service delivery.

There is power in a word said by people as a group than as a one man. Finally, I learnt that service delivery can be demanded when it's due but not forthcoming, and that as residents we also have a mandate to pay what we have to pay in order for us to get service for example pay council rates to receive council services like refuse collection and public lighting.

