



## Annual Report for 2019



### Purpose of the Fund

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Since 1963 fepa has been financing and supporting local self-help initiatives and grassroots organizations in Zimbabwe and South Africa. It has helped in implementing innovative and sustainable improvements to living conditions.

The Fund for Development and Partnership in Africa (feпа) bears the word partnership not only in its name, but also in its heart. In 2019 we worked intensively, and in consultation with our partner organisations, on how we can make our work even more partnership-based. Our contribution to more just development builds on these reflections. fepa acts in accordance with the UN Sustainability Agenda 2030 and its motto "leave no one behind". Everyone has rights and it is precisely the disadvantaged who should benefit from our commitment to this partnership.

### Working in partnerships in Zimbabwe

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Context in Zimbabwe: The people of Zimbabwe look back at 2019 as a year of regression. In January it became already clear what would shape the year. A massive increase in fuel prices hit the population hard and heralded the next round of rapid impoverishment of almost everyone in the country. The

bloody suppression of the protests practically extinguished hopes of a democratic dispensation after the Mugabe era. Since then, Zimbabweans have been fighting daily with great resistance for survival. Politically and economically, Zimbabwe is in a serious crisis once again. Unfortunately, even the climate in 2019 did not help the situation. Hurricane "Ida" in March, and the drought contributed to the fact that Zimbabwe found itself in a humanitarian crisis by the end of the year.

The commitment of civil society has also been shaped by this reality. It is not easy to reach people who are in survival mode or activate them for a steady commitment. Nevertheless, civil society has developed positively by addressing everyday issues and structural problems in a factual and solution-oriented manner. It has emancipated itself from party-political power struggle and created new coalitions and opportunities for action.

feпа has experienced in its projects that, despite the difficult environment, all the partners have deepened their work in the communities and have reached new people. The feпа approach of getting involved at the grassroots level has proven its worth and continues to be the right way, to give the people of Zimbabwe the means to achieve sustainable development.

### Across Zimbabwe: Participation of young people

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In 2019, we continued the "A Voice for Youth" programme through our partner organisation YETT which empowers youth organisations to promote peace and the rights of young women. Once again, a series of activities was created and carried out by the young people themselves, addressing issues that affect them as young people. It was sometimes about teenage mothers and their inequalities, or about the collaboration of young activists against violence.

feпа's partner "Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust" (YETT) supported young people in planning and implementing their activities. Above all, YETT acted as a training centre for the committed young people, and as a national network repre-

senting their concerns at a higher level. In 2019 we were thus able to jointly contribute to giving young people, especially young women, in Zimbabwe the skills and a place where they can have a say and help shape development. A total of a thousand young people actively participated in the projects, two thirds of them being young women.

[The financial contribution made directly to YETT for the work with the five youth organisations in 2019, was CHF 18,892.](#)

## **Kuwadzana Township (Harare): Training opportunities for disadvantaged young people**

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Despite the rapidly progressing impoverishment in the cities, the Kuwadzana Skills Training Centre (KSTC) on the outskirts of the capital Harare can look back on a successful year. The investments made in the training center's equipment pool in the previous year has paid off. Moreover, the KSTC lives from the strength that is inherent in the center, thanks to its good anchoring in the community. Despite financial difficulties, the team successfully completed all the training courses in 2019. Exactly 50 young women and young men received their final certificates in the craft training courses supported by fepa (46 in the previous year). This success was due to fepa's increased contribution to the scholarship fund, from which the financially underprivileged were able to benefit from, for school fees and teaching materials.

[In 2019 fepa's direct contribution to KSTC for operating and teaching materials amounted to CHF 11,921. Contributions to pupils made from the 2019 scholarship fund amounted to CHF 8,052.](#)

## **Satellite city Chitungwiza: Kindergarten**

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Every child has a right to early intervention. This being the reason why fepa's partner Dangwa Arts has created a kindergarten for children which fepa has fully supported since 2019. The three leaders have cared for 15 children from disadvantaged

backgrounds from January to December 2019. The children play, do handicrafts and paint in pre-school, according to the Rudolf Steiner teaching methods which are adapted to their circumstances. In the preschool they also learn the basics of the English language. A targeted support programme from fepa ensures that preschoolers, especially those who come from the poorer families, receive high-quality early education and sufficient food. We also invested a great deal in the training of the caregivers in 2019.

[fepa's financial contribution to Dangwe pre-school in 2019 was CHF 13,190. A consolidation phase until 2021 has been financed. In addition, we have supported the Dangwe collective with extraordinary benefits in the areas of housing rights and social security by almost CHF 5500.](#)

## **Manicaland, Chipinge District: Rights and protection of girls and young women.**

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Our partner organisation, which works at grass-roots level in eastern Zimbabwe in promoting the rights of girls and women, significantly expanded its activities in 2019. With our support the Platform for Youth and Community Development (PYCD) operated a drop-in during three days a week and carried out around 50 activities involving well over 10,000 participants.



Meanwhile, 25 PYCD activists are active in 20 villages throughout the district. They have developed a toolkit of ten activities for the project and, in consultation with the village communities, have carried out the activities that address the most urgent or

most effective problems. In doing so, they have also initiated a fruitful debate on cultural factors and approaches to solutions. The results are beginning to show: for example, there are now three women who have been able to take on influential traditional leadership positions.

Closely linked to gender justice is as well the pilot project with Financial Literacy and Business Coaching for women's groups, which was started by PYCD with our support in late summer 2019. The fepa partner organisation has expanded from being purely a youth organisation to a community organization. It has renamed itself Platform for Youth and Community Development in early 2019.

[fepa supported its activities with a total amount of CHF 46,046.](#)

## **Manicaland, Chimanimani District: Sustainable agriculture provides a future.**

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For several days in April 2019, the small farmers around Chaseyama proudly demonstrated to the fepa study tour group what they have achieved within a few years since fepa and PORET (Participatory Organic Research Extension and Training) started their collaboration. An increasing number of families participate in the activities and adopt agro-ecological working methods in the fields and gardens. In 2019, a first step towards a more sustainable use of the Allmend could be made. After an exchange visit to a showcase project in Western Zimbabwe, livestock farmers have decided to start a holistic and careful management of land and water resources in Chaseyama and the surrounding area. We are at the very beginning of a long journey that can secure the basis of life and enhance the landscape. In the training centre itself and in the affiliated village committees (since 2018 their number has increased from 17 to 22) numerous training courses have been held, also thanks fepa's support. Each of these courses focuses on a specific topic, but as a whole they cover the whole range of agro-ecological techniques: From soil analysis, planning, seed cultivation and irrigation, to the preservation of the harvest. Many activities, primarily promoted dialogue and built up the community so that it could

adopt the methods that are tailor-made. For the training centre itself, five new round huts with sanitary facilities were built as accommodation for participants and visitors from outside. Most importantly, exhibition gardens were created, hundreds of trees planted and extensive measures taken for the preservation of water and irrigation. Thanks to Patrizia Imhof's voluntary service, the foundation for a project in and with the schools could also be laid in 2019. As "Climate Heroes", the next generation is already committed to an ecological turnaround.



Overall, work on development accelerated once again in 2019. A study for a village carried out in October showed that the members of the Permaculture Club are applying what they have learned and have more varied food available.

[In 2019, fepa made direct contributions of CHF 82 891 to the project work of PORET.](#)

## **Manicaland: Reconstruction aid after Hurricane Idai**

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In March 2019, Hurricane Ida ravaged eastern Zimbabwe. Both fepa partner organizations rooted in the affected communities committed to providing immediate aid. fepa then provided financial support to enable the implementation of reconstruction measures initiated by the communities. Construction work on schools was quickly completed. Activities to repair erosion damage and for the long-term stabilisation of mountain slopes were still underway at the end of the year.

[CHF 9,615 was released from the fund for reconstruction assistance in 2019.](#)



## Working in Partnerships in South Africa

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In South Africa, fepa focused on partnering with ten local farm worker family committees on the large farms in the barren and remote Karoo in 2018.

[Central Karoo, Western Cape: "Improving the position of farm worker communities"](#)

In the Karoo, agricultural workers and their families have formed committees. These in turn have formed an umbrella organisation to stand in unity for their rights. In 2019, fepa was only able to mobilize a small amount of money for financial support of their activities. On the basis of an internal analysis, we used this circumstance to give the Central Karoo Farmworker Communities Association (CKFCA) time to focus on the core issues without external pressure. The small contribution from fepa was used on the basis of an opinion-forming process among the members. This has paid off, as it mobilised a particularly large amount of the CKFCA's own resources: There were sports day activities with small flea markets. A group for young people within the CKFCA was formed, which carried out its own activities and addressed the needs of young people. This revealed that some of them could not continue to go to school because their parents didn't have enough funds to pay for the long journey to school. The CKFCA continued to carry out its traditional tasks: lobbying for the labour law controls, representing the farm workers in local development committees, and defending families who had lost their right to live on the farms or their jobs. At the end of the year, fepa then decided to at least triple its contribution in 2020.

[fepa's financial contribution to the partner organizations in South Africa amounted to CHF 4,638 in 2019.](#)



## Commitment in Switzerland and internationally

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In 2019, we stood in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe. Since the disbandment of the Swiss-Zimbabwe Friendship Association this year, fepa has burdened itself with a little more responsibility to inform about the situation in Zimbabwe. This is why we have not only closely monitored the situation in the country but have also actively communicated about it in Switzerland. The participants of the study trip to Zimbabwe in April 2019 also played a role in this. From autumn onwards, we were extremely busy with the preparation of the content for the German-speaking Swiss volunteers, who were involved in the World Women's Day of Prayer. The liturgy for the year 2020 was written by women in Zimbabwe. fepa has also expanded its activities in the context of the Zimbabwe European Network.

With a view to Southern Africa as a whole, fepa continued its involvement in the Campaign for Debt Relief and Compensation in Southern Africa, with which we not only share our office, but also address issues of justice on a long-term and international basis.

## Personnel

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The Management Board continued to consist of 9 persons: Susanne Feddern (since 2009), Marlies Gerber (since 2002), Ueli Haller (since 1990, Co-President since 2017), Rita Kesselring (since 2012), Roger Morgenthaler (since 2018), Barbara Müller (since 2015, Co-President since 2017), Silvia Schönenberger (since 2012), Susanne Zurbuchen (since 1990) and Helena Zweifel (since 2014). The Executive Committee met for four meetings and one retreat. In addition there were over a dozen meetings in departmental and project working groups. The Co-Presidency between Barbara Müller and Ueli Haller met almost monthly and also jointly prepared the study trip, which was then led by Barbara Müller, Helena Zweifel and Anna-Sophie Hobi from the fepa office. In 2019, the Business Audit Commission consisted of Blanca Steinmann and Herbert Schmid. The members of the fepa board and the Business Audit Commission do not receive any compensation.

Since January 2015 the office has been managed by Marcel Dreier (60% workload). Christian Furrer is in charge of the early education project of Dangwe Arts and was also in Zimbabwe for this purpose. The interns Anna-Sophie Hobi and Tibor Rechsteiner, as well as Mickness Aeschlimann Mshana, who started in November, worked at the office parallel to their Africa-centered studies and final theses. Here and in our public activities we were supported by half a dozen volunteers. In 2019, fepa recorded more than 1500 hours of work down by volunteers.

In 2019, fepa again received great support from specialists who made their professional work available at greatly reduced rates or even free of charge. To you all, you make a priceless contribution to fepa: Many thanks!



## Annual financial statement

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Accounting is carried out in accordance with the requirements of ZEW0.

As expected, the fundraising success of the previous year had a positive effect on the 2019 project work: thanks to the funds in the fund, we were able to implement significantly more activities and provide our partners with more funds.

In 2019, institutional grants as a whole returned to the significantly lower level of 2016 and 2017 as compared with 2018. In 2019 fepa spent around CHF 10,000 more than the inflow of fresh money, if we look at the operating result before the use of the fund's resources. On the other hand, the study trip and an increase in free donations had a positive

effect in 2019. fepa was able to strengthen its free funds by CHF 32,132. This improvement is in line with fepa's strategy and the recommendation of ZEW0 and allows fepa to start the new year with good room to manoeuvre.

In 2019, as in the previous years, fepa did not spend any money for mass advertisements. In 2019, for example, 82 percent of expenses went into partnership project work, while just under six and around 12 percent respectively were used for fundraising and general administrative tasks.

The annual report shows that fepa can only live up to its commitment, as in 2019 thanks to donations from donors and project sponsors (around CHF 280,000 in contributions). Many thanks to you all!

What you do not see in the fepa annual report: All the volunteer work in Switzerland and even more so with the project partners, who are committed to their communities out of conviction and dedication and do unpaid work or are grossly underpaid for the work they do.

## Conclusion and Outlook

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After the good inflow of funds in 2018, fepa was able to use the year 2019 to dedicate itself to its project tasks and to discuss the partnership approach as the basis of its strategy. The study trip and a concept of our partnership work for the coming years are an expression of the deepened relationships with the people in the grassroots organizations whose work fepa supports. In the next few years, fepa will use this as a basis for long-term and equal development and cooperation for the benefit of the people in Zimbabwe and South Africa. For this we continue to need the support of our members and donors as well as of the various institutions that trust our project work and share in our conviction that strengthening self-help in a spirit of solidarity makes development moving away from poverty and inequality possible.