



Fonds für Entwicklung  
und Partnerschaft in Afrika  
Fund for Development  
and Partnership in Africa



# End of Year Report

## A Voice for the Youth 2023: Young Women Development and Peace Building Project

**YETT has been the prime networking and capacity building resource for aspiring youth organisations in Zimbabwe who engage for youth interests, peace building and young women's leadership.**

**In 2023, with fepa grants, YETT capacitated more than 2000 youths.**

# Report 2023

- Introduction of the program
- Achievements
- Context Analysis
- Activities descriptions/reports



# Program

- The active involvement of young people in civic and development processes is crucial to achieving sustainable development across all areas of life.
- In the course of more than a decade the yearly "A voice for the youth" project has become a program with more than 50 smaller projects having been implemented with a goal to achieve "Young Women Development and Peace-building".
- Youth organisations can apply for activity based funding for a project that they submit. In the process of implementing this project YETT will help grow the capacity of these Youth organisations to impact positively on the lives and role of youth in their community.
- With this approach the program has played a significant role in empowering young people to participate in decision-making processes and it has contributed to the growth of young activists and organisations representing youth interests.

# 2023 Achievements: General Impact

Overall the activities were implemented much as planned and with the expected level of impact.

- The programme **directly reached 2166 youth** (1013 males, and 1153 females).
- It **promoted peace and community development in Zimbabwe** through well-planned interventions, such as conducting capacity-building training sessions and the establishment of youth peace-building committees.
- It **improved stakeholder response that resulted in a significant reduction in young women's discrimination and stigmatization**: Thanks to youth (and stakeholders) adequately capacitated with knowledge on community development and young women leadership, resulting in a notable improvement in stakeholder response and a more inclusive environment.
- It **increased participation of young women in community development programs**
- It **enhanced knowledge and understanding of how to address conflict and gender-based violence in the communities**.

# Concrete Achievements

Project Objectives	2023 major achievements
<p>Young women have an enhanced capacity to voice their interests, take a leading role in community, and national processes and prevent different forms of violence against them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities strengthened the capacity of 1153 adolescent girls and young women in Zimbabwe who are now actively engaged in community and national processes.</li> <li>• 3 out of 5 supported youth organisations are led by young women.</li> </ul>
<p>Young people and youth organizations contributing meaningfully to socio-economic and political youth empowerment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 youth organisations are at the forefront of community action for development issues (conflict resolution, safety issues, freedom of expression, gender justice).</li> <li>• At least one interface with stakeholders was organised in each project; some interfaces were institutionalized (e.g. village circles).</li> <li>• All projects applied an approach to activate and empower youth rather than mobilization only. 2000 young people reached means 2000 young people enabled to raise their voice.</li> </ul>
<p>Youth interests are reflected in national and local development planning and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YETT integrated all participating youth organisations in public consultation meetings on relevant policies making processes, e.g. the National budget.</li> </ul>
<p>Reduction of youth engaged in politically motivated violence and other forms of violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cases of political violence in the areas where project activities happened.</li> <li>• Increased youth participation in the electoral processes as election observers, election officials, voters, commissioners, candidates, and civic educators.</li> <li>• Reduced cases of gender-based violence in the project areas.</li> </ul>
<p>Young people and youth organizations contributing meaningfully to tolerance and peaceful co-existence in the communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 5 projects have significantly strengthened the ability of young individuals to serve as peace ambassadors within their communities.</li> <li>• The 5 organizations have established a system to prevent and support survivors of gender-based violence, such as community village cycles and WhatsApp groups.</li> </ul>
<p>Improved programming of youth organizations in their various areas of expertise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 5 organisations implemented their projects successfully and were able to present success stories during an outcome-harvesting exercise.</li> <li>• 5 organisations were trained in exclusive spaces and climate action as well as integrated into planning/coordination spaces, e.g. on SDG5, and SDG13).</li> </ul>

# 2023 Context: General

- Economic Environment: from bad to worse
- Political Environment: fragility and authoritarianism, elections
- Health and social: young people under stress
- For details see next slides



# 2023 Context: Economy

In a very difficult economic environment with rising cost of living and a post-Covid slump in family incomes, most young people were unable to have decent livelihoods or profitable and sustainable economic activities in 2023.

- Zimbabwe is one of the most informalized economies globally.
  - Zimbabwe has been rated a hyperinflation economy by the IMF for years now.
  - Consumer prices for housing and energy, of food and of communication rose roughly 40% and more between January to December 2023.
  - Cost of health (+17%), education (+12%), and transport (+10%) continue to raise
  - Daily electricity outages, exchange rate chaos and absence of loans for young people create a negative business environment, leading to the closure of several businesses.
  - Youth unemployment has remained on an all-time high. 40% of youth are currently looking for a job.
  - Access to education remains a significant challenge in rural areas, as only six out of ten children aged 3 to 5 are enrolled in pre-primary education. Half of Zimbabwean adolescents aged 13 to 19 are not attending school.
- Recent Afrobarometer research showed that 60% of the young people describe their personal living conditions as “fairly bad” or very bad.

# 2023 Context: Political

Zimbabwe is an extensively authoritarian context where space for civil society has shrunk continuously in the past years. The 2023 elections and their aftermath aligned with these bigger processes and we since witnessed the disappearance of functional political opposition parties in the country.

The context had the potential to impact the program implementation negatively. **In response**, we adopted proactive measures:

- We identified and supported projects with relevant topics responding to the context of this election year. The supported projects included initiatives activities promoting peace and anti-violence efforts.
- The implementation strategy scheduled most public events and activities for the year's first quarter, just before the election period. It avoided the heated and complex environment of the election period.
- YETT had to reduce the number of support visits to grassroots partners.
- A constant remote monitoring system was adopted during project implementation to ensure compliance and effective data collection and reporting.



# 2023 Context: Social, Health

Access to health services for young people in Zimbabwe is a critical issue.

- Young women
  - Cost and social stigma restrict access to period sanitation and quality maternal and child health services.
  - Limited availability of these services poses significant risks, especially in the case of childbirth.
- Mental health
  - Many young people lack positive perspectives for their life.
  - Many young people have been engaging in risky behaviour.
  - Substance abuse is considered a crisis by young people, parents, and duty-bearers alike.

# 2023: Activities

- Partner Projects: Activity bases support and learning
- Network capacity building
- Young Women Rise and Excel



# 2023 Activities: Partner Projects

5 Organisations received support for their projects and capacity strengthening for the organisational development and activity implementation.

- All have completed their projects.
- Reports are available on fepa Website (German only):
  - KumbeKumbe: «#Art4Peace» & «Urban Rural Artivism Exchange»: [Link](#).
  - Rise N’ Shine: «Tables of Peace»: [Link](#).
  - RUCET «Youth Community Peace Builders»: [Link](#).
  - SIYA: «Rural Girls Engage»: [Link](#).
  - Vision Africa: «Youth Community Peace Builders»: [Link](#).



# 2023 Activities: Network Capacity Building: Youth responses to climate crisis



**Why:** The participation of young people is vital in devising effective strategies for climate mitigation, adaptation, and risk prevention. They need to have an understanding of climate crises effects, local policy provisions and regional and international climate change conventions.

**Where:** Gweru **When:** 5 December 2023 **Who:** 30 young people ( females, and males)

**Results:** Discussions showed that:

- Young people have determined that it is crucial to prioritise advocating for action on climate change and its connection to peace and security. This approach motivates the push for policies that decrease the effects of climate change and alleviate its impact on communities.
- Climate change is a significant contributor to gender-based violence and other forms of conflict.
- Young women are particularly affected by direct and indirect impact of water shortages, ecological and economic losses.
- Addressing this issue involves creating an inclusive environment that encourages active participation in development processes.
- Young people also identified opportunities to venture into climate-smart agriculture, or in the waste recycling business.

# 2023 Activities: Network Capacity Building: Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange

**Why:** Share and reflect on project implementation practices.

**Where:** Shamva.

**When:** 6 December 2023

**Who:** 15 participants (9 females, and 6 males) from all 5 ABS partners

**Shared challenges encountered:** The partners encountered significant resistance from community stakeholders and the police.

Due to the sensitive political context, the police failed to issue clearance for the activities, making it difficult for the partners to implement the activities. Participants expressed fear about appearing in activity photos.



## Insights:

- Apply risk mitigation strategies. Organizations must adapt to their environments for effective program implementation
- Youth as a group needs creative, attractive, and less formal ways of engaging and including them.
- Focusing on a unique approach makes the organisation exceptional, including when pitching for support.
- The importance of sharing project impact/stories, which needs action-oriented high-resolution pictures.

# Young Women Rise and Excel

Leadership Trainingscamp vom 3.-8.6.2023 für insgesamt 30 junge Frauen.

- See separate report by fepa: [Link](#).

