

Annual Report 2022

About fepa

Since 1963, Fepa has financed and accompanied local self-help initiatives and grassroots organizations in Zimbabwe and South Africa. They have supported them in the implementation of innovative and sustainable improvements in living conditions.

In 2021 Fepa remained committed to a vibrant and contemporary practice of self-help and solidarity. The world can become more just and peaceful if disadvantaged people are given more opportunities to know and enjoy their rights. The Fepa board has sharpened the fields of action, especially in the areas of women's rights, gender justice and youth empowerment. This has benefited the work we are in partnership with, at the heart of which are the activists. What this means is that Fepa will continue to give its full support to people who show particular dedication, commitment and creativity in working for rights and improvements in their communities. Where we could, we reached out to these groups, so that they could rise above the difficult circumstances in initiating change and achieving improvements.

Context

In 2021, the COVID 19 pandemic continued to cause delays and changes to projects. Nevertheless, all partner organizations were motivated to achieve their long-term goals. Where adjustments in approach

were necessary, we were guided by the intended impact and how it could be achieved meaningfully and without undue health risks. Often this meant that training and dialogue took place on site with fewer people, or that they moved into a virtual space.

In comparison, the population on the African continent remained gratifyingly unaffected by the direct health consequences of the pandemic in 2021. In Zimbabwe, Fepa partner organizations carried out preventive interventions against the spread and consequences of the pandemic. We promoted informational work in rural communities and enabled partners to obtain hygienic equipment for their grassroots work. In South Africa, where the burden of infection remains high, Fepa's partner CKFCA has made a significant contribution in the form of information and emergency aid.

For the people of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique, the political and economic situation deteriorated in 2021. The pandemic has not only reduced incomes greatly, democracy and economic structures have also deteriorated. In northern Mozambique, a complex conflict situation has escalated into violence and the displacement of people.



Fepa's support in Zimbabwe and South Africa has made it possible, among other things, for:

- more than 11,000 participants were involved in activities to overcome patriarchal structures
- 500 young people had a say in local and national development processes
- 500 smallholder families in 28 villages were supported in improving their ecological and livestock management practices.
- 100 activists, mostly young women, trained and engaged all year-round in their communities.
- 100 young people, many of them women, were supported in their vocational training.
- 22 children from disadvantaged families received early intervention services
- a dozen grassroots organizations and one national civil society organization were supported in partnership and organizationally strengthened
- Around 200 families in South Africa and Mozambique received emergency and reconstruction aid.

Partnership work in Zimbabwe **Zimbabwe: Participation of young people**

The Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust YETT provides a platform for young people. The network of 40 youth organizations puts the concerns of young Zimbabweans on the agenda, both in small towns and in the national

parliament. We supported YETT in providing young organizations with advice and coaching as well as training opportunities. 2021 has thus seen the growth of further fresh youth structures. For many years, the network has made an outstanding contribution against encrustation and a genuine participation of young people in political and economic processes in Zimbabwe.

Five youth organizations implemented special activities (separate reports on Fepa's website). Most of them focused on peacebuilding and conflict transformation at the interface between community, family and gender.

Zimbabwe: working group for women's rights and gender justice

You can see it in the inclusive wording, but most importantly in the impact: we support local engagements for more gender justice as part of an informal, learning-oriented working community. Fepa also established new partnerships for this purpose in 2021. More than a dozen organizations, mostly steered by young women engaged at the grassroots level, exchanged ideas in the working group. As a result, many new issues, problem areas and forms of action were brought to our attention in 2021. The cooperation created synergies for the partners and for our project support. Partner organizations benefited, for example, in the area of entrepreneurial training for young women. The cooperation revived the discussion about impact mechanisms and partnership processes. In the summer of 2021, we also consciously addressed the engagement of men.

The new partner organizations include the Girls and Women Empowerment Network (GWEN). This organization in Chitungwiza/Seke Rural advocates for the rights of girls and young women. In 2021, with fepa's support, GWEN held a dozen public cinema events followed by discussions.

In an informal settlement of Harare, the Women Advocacy Project has established a new girls' group with our support. Thanks to the production and sale of liquid soap, economic security has been created. It protects them from the pressure of having to leave school and marry prematurely.



Miss Deaf Pride Zimbabwe, a self-help and advocacy organization for young people with hearing disabilities, joined Fepa as an independent partner organization in 2021.

Full report: <https://fepafrika.ch/mdpz>

The week-long camp "Young Women Rise and Excel" in 2021 once again combined the fields of action of youth and gender justice. The camp offered 30 young women from almost all parts of the country a springboard to initiate transformation processes for themselves and their communities.

Full report: https://fepafrika.ch/wp-content/uploads/YWRE-2021-fepa-report-3_0.pdf

What has been achieved for women's rights and gender justice? We see the individual activities on the ground, the improvements of grassroots activities that benefit from the transfer of knowledge. How do we see the issues discussed confidently and publicly? Discrimination of girls and young women, violence, patriarchal structures, also has consequences for young men. In addition, we hear about individual cases where the activists were able to help others. A collaborative impact analysis will be produced in June 2022.

Kuwadzana Township (Harare): Training opportunity for disadvantaged youth



100 young people participated in a vocational training course at the Kuwadzana Skills Training Centre (KSTC). COVID-19 lockdowns brought further

delays in graduations. Nevertheless, 47 young people received their certificates in 2021. Almost all were able to earn a small income. The KSTC team has provided dedicated leadership to the center and consistently decentralized instruction. The scholarships awarded by Fepa have been used absolutely purposefully.

Satellite town of Chitungwiza: Kindergarten and preschool

Dangwe kindergarten and preschool helped 22 children from disadvantaged families gain their right to early education in 2021. The permaculture garden provides a healthy diet for the children. With Fepa's support, Dangwe repaired the water supply system for the house and garden in 2021.

Manicaland, Chipinge District: Rights and protection for girls and young women; COVID-19 sensitization; promotion of civil society

Our partner organization Platform for Youth and Community Development PYCD has solidified its Gender office and contributed significantly to the working community in this area. In 2021, the PYCD Gender office involved more than 7500 people in its activities. See the drop-in report in this newsletter, among others.

Through the #Ngatirwise Utungu project, PYCD advanced an educational discourse about the impact of COVID-19 on local buses, community radio, social media, and face-to-face contact at the time of peak contagion.

With a special contribution to the organization, Fepa has enabled PYCD to

invest in team building and professional work practices, as well as relocation to an office building with growth potential. A detailed report can be found here: <https://fepafrika.ch/pycd-genderoffice>.

Manicaland: Business activities of rural women

In 2020, a pilot for a microfinance project including financial literacy for women had not met its objectives. The importance of the issue and our commitment to the women who had participated in the project led us to relaunch the project under new management. Together with all those involved, we eliminated all "old burdens" in a healing process. Under the leadership of Juliana Manjengwa, the women invested in an economically successful poultry project. A final evaluation is scheduled for June 2022.

Manicaland, Chimanimani District: Future through sustainable agriculture

PORET and the permaculture clubs around Chaseyama continued to grow in 2021. For once, the rainy season at the beginning of the year was good and there were encouraging harvests. PORET's training center was almost completed by the end of the year. It has received another set of shelters and many training locations (shaded areas and gardens). The area can now accommodate groups of up to 40 people and events with over a hundred people.

The complexity of learning processes and the demand for services continue to grow faster than PORET itself. This is a challenge for the entire PORET team around Julious

Piti. In 2021, Fepa continued to support innovation and development, but also increased the structures in the professional team and volunteers.

Report: <https://fepafrika.ch/wp-content/uploads/PORET-report-2021-overview-of-achievements-V3.pdf>

The Holistic Land and Livestock Management project was advanced in 6 communities in 2021 and has already produced visible benefits in 3 villages.

Partnership work in South

Africa

Central Karoo, Western Cape: Betterment of farm worker communities, emergency aid

With the "Community Activists", the partner organization CKFCA 2021 has advanced the development of a new Activists layer in the organization. However, the strict lockdowns impacted the trainings for the activists. Unfortunately, Mzukisi Mooi, who had coordinated the training program and was a mentor, passed away in August, from COVID-19. The shock was great and the gap is not easy to fill.

Over the year, emergency assistance in the context of COVID-19 was of great importance. CKFCA helped more than 100 families in desperate situations with food parcels and had to work hard to do so - and also received additional discounts from local stores in return. The partner organization participated in the 16-day campaign against violence against women and distributed 1000 brochures against violence as well as hygiene items for 120 women. Overall, CKFCA activists succeeded

in deepening relations with authorities, improving their working tools and case management, thus advocating for hundreds of people whose rights were at risk at their place of residence or work.

Partnership work in

Mozambique

The war in northern Mozambique affected people whom Fepa had already supported many years ago (especially with mosquito nets). Thanks to good relationships and uncomplicated donors, we were able to help quickly and unbureaucratically, so that almost 100 displaced people and their families were better received and could build a new perspective.

Commitment in Switzerland and internationally

The planned exchange trip to Zimbabwe, whose insights we always use for information work in Switzerland, could not take place because of COVID-19. Instead, we intensified the direct online exchange with partner organizations and activists in South Africa and Zimbabwe and held about a dozen fully or semi-public Zoom meetings with between 15 and 45 participants. In the summer, we involved young people from Switzerland in an intercultural exchange on men's roles.

In 2021, we continued to be involved in international support for civil society in Zimbabwe, whose room for maneuver is under threat, through various committees. The focus here is on the Zimbabwe European Network. The Campaign for Debt Relief and Compensation in Southern Africa, which is supported by Fepa, was

reorganized in 2021. Fepa is also active in the NGO Platform Switzerland-Zimbabwe.

Association life and personnel

The general meeting could take place on September 4th in Zurich. Almost 50 people participated in the meeting and the Zimbabwe barbecue afterwards. The assembly bid farewell to Marlies Gerber, who was active on the Fepa board for twenty years, and elected three new members, (Mickness Aeschlimann-Mshana, Katharina Morello and Christian Nötzli). The Board met for five meetings and two retreats in 2021.

Since January 2015, the office has been managed by Marcel Dreier (60% part-time). Christian Furrer supervised the early intervention project of Dangwe Arts and Katja Majirija accompanied the partnership and fundraising for PORET. Tibor Rechsteiner, Iria Mudimu, Niklas Lindenthal and Aileen Diewald were fully committed as Fepa interns.

Fepa again received countless hours from volunteers in 2021, without which the accompaniment of partner organizations, our fundraising, parts of the administration and the events would only have been half as effective. In total, well over 1000 hours were contributed to Fepa in 2021 through volunteer efforts by the Board and other volunteers.

Supporters, experts and specialists made their professional work and experience available at reduced rates or even for free in 2021. To all of you who make an invaluable contribution to Fepa: thank you very much!

Financial Statements

The accounts are prepared in accordance with ZEWO requirements.

In 2021, fepa received two free bequests totaling 43,000 Swiss Francs, in addition to gratifying earmarked contributions for project work. Thus, a total of more than 400,000 Swiss Francs flowed to us. With expenditures within the budgeted range (around 334,000 Swiss Francs), the accounts close with an increase in earmarked and free funds. This allows us to carry out the partnerships with sufficient security for the next year.

Fepa is aware of its responsibility as a fundraiser for solidarity-based cooperation. We therefore prioritize transparent and informed communication with our donors. Fepa donors were again generous in 2021. Fundraising costs Fepa slightly less than 8% of its expenses. 78.8% is spent on projects, just over 13% on administration and background tasks that are not directly reflected in project activities. What is not visible in the Fepa annual accounts: The volunteer work in Switzerland and with the project partners, who work for their communities out of conviction and commitment.

Conclusion and outlook

2021 was a year of new beginnings for Fepa, with new engagements in the area of women's rights and gender justice, as well as the addition of holistic rangeland management to our agroecological work. In 2022, we expect a lot of momentum thanks to the collaboration with the many grassroots organizations that are our partners. From this end, we will continue to advocate for very collaborative forms of

cooperation and voice of partner organizations in fepa's processes. We are learning how improvements can be designed from the ground up and how partnership at eye level between grassroots organizations and their supporters can best contribute to this.