

**GIRLS AND WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT NETWORK**



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

**MAKING THE COMMITMENT: PROMOTING  
GENDER EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT FOR FAMILY-CENTERED  
GENDER EQUALITY ACTIVISM (FCGEA)**

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## **1 Introduction**

GWEN implemented the Family Centred Gender Equality Activism (FCGEA) project, which is aimed at advancing girls' and women's rights in support of Sustainable Development Goal 5: *Gender Equality and empowering all girls and women*. In the year 2024, GWEN implemented various activities including father-daughter dialogues, mother-daughter dialogues and couples dialogues to foster healthy relationships and challenge patriarchal norms; community cinemas to raise awareness on gender equality and social justice issues; “bring your hustle” initiatives to promote economic empowerment and entrepreneurship among girls and women; and school visits to promote girls' education and empowerment. The project also enabled GWEN to commemorate important international days as well as the provision of emergency Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) support to survivors of gender-based violence. Moreover, initiatives carried out in 2024 included enhancing the work environment for staff and strengthening stakeholder engagement.

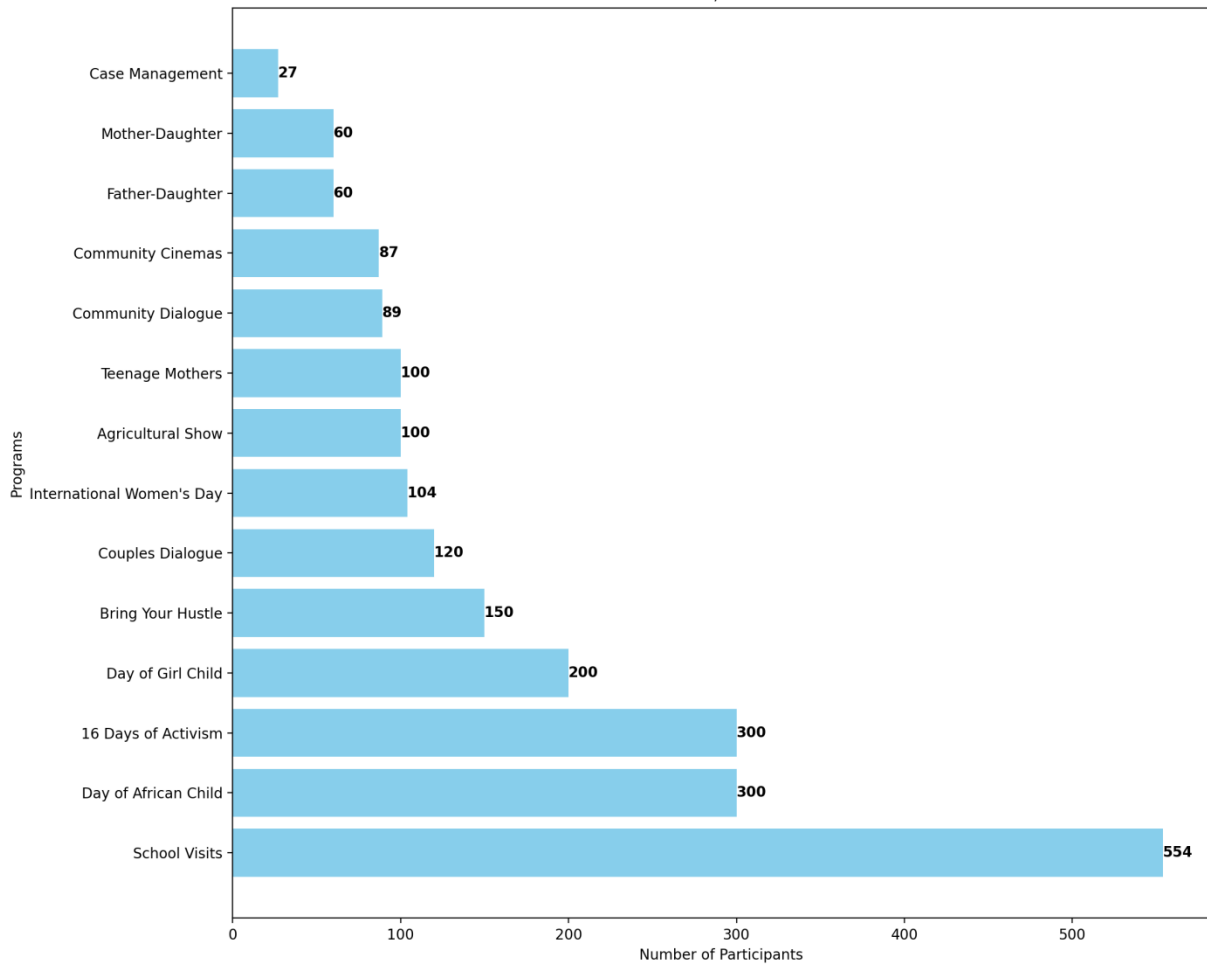
### **1.1 Goals of the FCGEA Project**

- Promoting girls' and young women's rights for a gender-equal and just society where girls and women thrive.
- Engaging communities and families to act against gender-based violence in Zimbabwe
- Employing family and community centre approaches to end sexual and gender-based violence in public spaces through awareness raising and sports for development.

### **1.2 Results in Numbers**

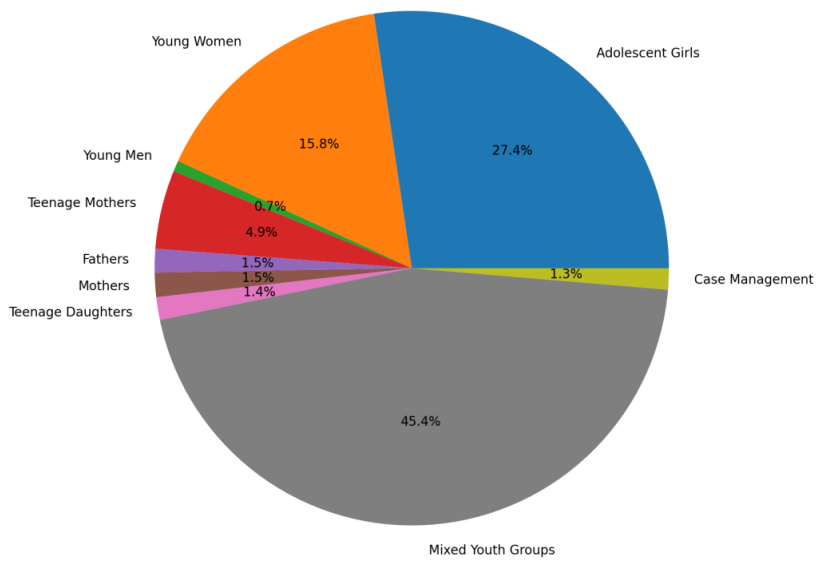
GWEN reached a total number of **2,145** individuals in the year 2024 broken down as:

GWEN Program Participation 2024  
Total Reach: 2,145 individuals



Demographics:

GWEN Program Demographics Distribution 2024  
Total Reach: 2,145 individuals



### **1.3 Project Success and Impact**

The impact of the project is seen through the following:

1. **Reducing Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** The community dialogues, couples' dialogues, and father-daughter dialogues have helped to raise awareness about the debilitating effects of GBV and have provided a platform for community members to discuss and explore strategies for conflict resolution and prevention.
2. **Promoting Menstrual Hygiene and Health:** The distribution of pads and the celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day have helped to promote menstrual hygiene and health among adolescent girls, reducing the stigma and shame associated with menstruation.
3. **Supporting Teenage Mothers:** The program has provided support and guidance to teenage mothers, helping them to navigate the challenges of parenthood and to access essential services and resources.
4. **Fostering Positive Relationships:** The mother-daughter and father-daughter dialogues have helped to foster positive relationships between parents and children, promoting healthy communication, mutual respect, and understanding.
5. **Raising Awareness about GBV and Human Rights:** The 16 Days of Activism against GBV celebrations and the Day of the African Child and Day of the Girl Child commemorations have helped to raise awareness about GBV and human rights, promoting a culture of respect, tolerance, and non-violence.
6. **Building Community Capacity:** The project has helped to build community capacity, empowering community members to take ownership of their development and to work together to address the social, economic, and cultural challenges they face.

**The success of these programs can be measured in terms of:**

1. **Increased awareness and knowledge:** The dialogues have increased awareness and knowledge about GBV, menstrual hygiene, and human rights among community members.
2. **Improved attitudes and behaviours:** The dialogues have helped to improve attitudes and behaviours towards GBV, menstrual hygiene, and human rights, promoting a culture of respect, tolerance, and non-violence.

3. **Increased access to services:** The programs have increased access to essential services, such as healthcare, education, and social support, for vulnerable populations, including young women and girls, teenage mothers, and survivors of GBV.
4. **Empowered communities:** The programs have empowered communities to take ownership of their development, promoting community-led initiatives and solutions to address the social, economic, and cultural challenges they face.
5. **Improved partnerships and collaborations:** The programs have fostered partnerships and collaborations between GWEN, community organizations, and government agencies, including the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education thereby promoting a coordinated and effective response to Gender Based Violence and human rights issues for instance the Department of Social Welfare under Child Protection is now referring to cases of gender-based violence and child exploitation to GWEN. This highlights that the organization is reaching far and is instrumental in assisting survivors of gender-based violence.

Overall, the programs and activities implemented by GWEN have the potential to have a lasting impact on the community, promoting positive change, empowerment, and social transformation.

### **1.5 Finance and Administration**

To improve the working environment for staff and volunteers in the year 2024 GWEN purchased two HP laptops one for the Gender and Social Inclusion Officer and another for the Programs manager for a total of \$579. This investment enabled staff to work more effectively and efficiently, facilitating the successful implementation of programs and activities. GWEN also purchased three desks and four office chairs for the programs team. The organisation had been using old chairs donated by Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT) in 2019 and 2021, as well as other second-hand furniture bought from second-hand vendors in Chitungwiza.

In terms of funding, GWEN received a total of **\$17'969.26** from FEPA, which assisted in implementing all of these activities. GWEN hopes to continue to create an environment that enables staff to work and deliver the best results.

Further details on administrative costs and resources can be found in the finance report, which provides a comprehensive overview of GWEN's financial activities and expenditures for the year 2024.

## **2 Challenges, Evaluation and Recommendations**

### **2.1. Challenges Faced**

Despite the progress made in promoting girls' empowerment and amplifying young women's voices, GWEN faced several challenges during the project implementation phase. Some of the key challenges included:

- 1. Dominant patriarchal ideologies:** Some men in the Seke and Nyatsime communities still hold onto harmful patriarchal ideologies that restrain women from enjoying their rights. These ideologies often manifest in the form of sexism, misogyny, and discrimination, making it difficult for women and girls to assert themselves and claim their rights. However, GWEN remains committed to engaging young men and challenging these ideologies, to promote a more equitable and just society. Father-daughter dialogues and couples dialogues have been instrumental in addressing the issue.
- 2. Post-election tensions:** The post-election period was marked by heightened tensions and instability, which limited GWEN's ability to fully implement its activities in January to March 2024. The community was hard to reach due to the polarized political environment, which was worsened by the recalling of parliamentarians. This made it challenging for GWEN to conduct its engagement activities, and to reach its target audience.
- 3. Funding constraints:** GWEN also faced funding constraints, which limited the organization's ability to implement other proposed activities which are not funded by FEPA. The organization had to rely on the FEPA grant on most of its programmatic and administrative activities, which made it challenging to reach its target audience and to achieve its objectives.
- 4. Unstable monetary policies and pricing:** The organization faced challenges with the changing of currency from Bond note to ZiG from April 2024, which increased the rate of inflation, created cash shortages and led to unjustified price increased on basic commodities, increase in taxes, bank charges and other interest rates. GWEN has maintained its accounts in USD and is yet to find ways of managing other monetary challenges.

Despite these challenges, GWEN remains committed to its mission and objectives. The organization is now implementing its activities in full swing, and is working hard to overcome the challenges it faced during the project implementation phase. With the support of its partners and stakeholders, GWEN is confident that it can achieve its objectives and make a positive impact in the lives of girls and women in Zimbabwe.

## **2.2. Project Evaluation**

The project has undergone an internal evaluation to assess its progress, achievements, and impact. The evaluation has revealed significant successes in promoting gender equality, empowering girls and women, and reducing gender-based violence (GBV). Key Achievements:

**1. Promoting Gender Equality:** The project has made significant progress in promoting gender equality, as evident by the increased support and participation of men in activities aimed at empowering girls and women, compared to before 2024. Men are now more likely to attend organization events and participate in projects that promote the development of women and girls, indicating a shift in their attitudes and behaviours.

**2. Strengthening Family Relations:** The father-daughter and couples dialogues have had a positive impact on strengthening family relations and reducing GBV. These dialogues have created a platform for open discussion, increased understanding, and improved communication between family members, leading to more harmonious and respectful relationships.

**3. Supporting GBV Survivors:** The psycho-social services provided by GWEN have been essential in supporting young women survivors of GBV. These services have helped survivors to cope with their experiences, rebuild their lives, and regain their confidence and dignity.

## **2.3 Recommendations**

**Expand and Strengthen Dialogues:** GWEN needs to continue and expand the father-daughter and couples dialogues to reach more families, and scale up the mother-daughter dialogues to involve men and boys in discussions on unpaid care work and sexual reproductive health rights. This will help to promote a culture of respect, tolerance, non-violence, and encourage community members to take ownership of their development.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the long-term impact of the project, and identify areas for improvement. This will help



to ensure that the project is achieving its goals, and that the rights of girls and women are being promoted and protected.

### 3 Highlights

#### 3.1 School visits

Menstrual poverty is a significant issue in Zimbabwe’s rural areas, with many adolescent girls unable to afford sanitary wear. This has led to the use of alternative materials such as cloth, paper, and even leaves during menstruation. The consequences of this include increased risk of infection, discomfort, and missed school days. GWEN through the pad distribution initiative has targeted schools located in a rural area of Seke, Beatrice and Chitungwiza, with limited access to basic amenities and healthcare services where Menstrual hygiene management is often overlooked due to cultural taboos and financial constraints.



Figure 1 Chitsvedemo primary school menstrual hygiene conversation

Lack of proper sanitary wear negatively affects girls' education, self-esteem, and overall well-being. In efforts to advance girls' rights, GWEN distributed sanitary wear to **554** adolescent girls between the ages of

9 to 12 years in different schools including Chitsvedemo Secondary School in Seke, Seke Mhurimwe Secondary School in Chitungwiza, Murape Secondary School, and Glovina Gombo Primary School in Beatrice, Ward 14, Seke District.

Through these activities, GWEN also managed to disseminate information on sexual reproductive health rights and legal instruments that protect them against all forms of abuse. With the increase of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts in Seke District from 2022-2023, the dialogue created a safe space for young girls to converse on issues they don't usually talk

about yet that have detrimental effects on their well-being and development. The dialogues aimed to promote girls' access to SRHR services and the ability to make decisions about one's health. During the activities, the following key issues were discussed in the dialogue on sexual reproductive health rights:

- Menstrual hygiene management and its importance.
- Puberty education and understanding physical changes.
- Gender equality and empowerment.
- Access to healthcare services and information on sexual reproductive health.

### 3.2. Father-Daughter Dialogue

On September 2, 2024, GWEN successfully conducted a **father-daughter dialogue** with 30 fathers and their biological daughters, aiming to strengthen family relations and promote gender equality. This initiative is crucial in addressing pressing issues such as girls' rights, gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights, and sexual and gender-based violence. Fathers and daughters discussed the importance of equal rights and opportunities for girls and women. Participants explored ways to break down gender stereotypes and promote mutual respect. The discussions also focused on sexual and reproductive rights, with open conversations addressing the significance of consent, bodily autonomy, and access to reproductive healthcare. Fathers and daughters acknowledged the need to recognize and prevent violence, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.



Figure 2 Father-daughter dialogue

Representatives from our partner organization, Fathers Against Abuse (FAA), joined the dialogue, sharing their expertise in training men to become agents of gender equality. The activity was filled with bonding exercises, fostering a deeper understanding and

connection between fathers and daughters. This strengthened relationships between fathers and

daughters and reduced the likelihood of sexual and gender-based violence. Fathers who were present during the dialogue complimented efforts made by GWEN and its partners applauding the rare opportunity presented by the organization in bringing families together and especially strengthening the relationship between fathers and their daughters. Young girls were given an opportunity to share with their fathers what they could do to strengthen the father-daughter relationship. Issues raised included having father-daughter dates, fathers making time for their children, protecting the girl's child from emotional abuse and sexual exploitation while ensuring peace in the family especially between the husband and wife. Young girls stressed the importance of fathers in maintaining peaceful homes resulting in children excelling even in school. GWEN has taken a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society, where every individual can thrive. And will continue to extend the conversations between fathers and their daughters.

### 3.3 Couples Dialogue

On 17 September and on the 5 of December, GWEN conducted a couple's dialogue with sixty (60) couples to strengthen family relations and reduce conflicts and gender-based violence. Using a holistic approach and building on the previous father-daughter dialogue, GWEN engaged thirty (30) of the fathers from the father-daughter dialogue with their wives in a session to address issues related to conflict resolution and the division of unpaid care and domestic work. The dialogue provided a platform for couples to engage in constructive conversations about their roles and responsibilities, fostering a collaborative approach to resolving conflicts and promoting a more equitable distribution of domestic tasks within the family. Thereby reducing cases of GBV in families.



Figure 3 Couple playing with their child at couples' dialogue in Chitungwiza

The activities were significant interventions as they enhanced family relations and did not address immediate interpersonal issues only but promoted long-term change within family dynamics. Enhanced communication among couples was noticed as they were provided with a safe platform to express their thoughts and feelings. A better understanding of each other was noticed

between the partners which is crucial for resolving conflicts. The collaborative nature of the dialogues fosters a sense of trust and partnership as the bond between the couples is strengthened. This impact will further spread to the community as couples are left with a sense of responsibility and need to promote peaceful relationships within the community to reduce GBV. Therefore, promoting healthy family dynamics, a safer environment and equitable division of labour is a crucial step towards reducing GBV in the community. The activities were co-facilitated by the Ministry of Women's Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (Peace Department) who explained the law and reporting procedures for GBV cases. The Ministry explained its role in protecting the rights of women and programme that have been put in place by the Government to support victims of GBV.

### **3.4 Mother-Daughter Dialogue**

GWEN implemented a mother-to-daughter dialogue with 31 mothers and their 29 daughters in Nyatsime to discuss sexual reproductive health rights and unpaid care work. This initiative aimed to empower girls and women with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health, well-being, and economic empowerment. The dialogue is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal Five (SDG 5), which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The dialogue aimed to create a platform for mothers and daughters to discuss sexual reproductive health rights and unpaid care work, it also aimed to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of sexual and reproductive health rights and identify strategies for sharing unpaid care work responsibilities.



Figure 4 Mother-daughter dialogue

The first session was around Sexual Reproductive Health Rights. It focused on issues such as menstrual health, contraception, and consent. The mothers and daughters discussed the

challenges they face in accessing sexual reproductive health services, including stigma, lack of knowledge, and limited access to healthcare facilities. They identified the need for comprehensive sexuality education and access to youth-friendly health services. The second session focused on unpaid care work, including household chores, childcare, and eldercare. The mothers and daughters discussed the burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, including the impact on their education, economic empowerment, and well-being. They identified strategies for sharing unpaid care work responsibilities, including involving men and boys in household chores and childcare.

The mother-daughter dialogue, was a success, achieving its objectives and empowering girls and women with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health, well-being, and economic empowerment. The dialogue highlighted the importance of addressing sexual reproductive health rights and unpaid care work to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, aligning with SDG 5.

### 3.5 Community Cinemas

GWEN conducted a community cinema in Seke Ward 7 on 17 January 2024 and on 21 May 2024 in Chitungwiza, aimed at raising awareness and sparking discussions among young people about critical issues such as sexual violence, abuse, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health rights, and gender equality. The events, which screened the local Zimbabwean movie "Emma", provided a safe platform for 87 young women and men to reflect

on and understand the importance of addressing these issues, particularly in rural areas where access to information and services is limited. The movie facilitated discussions and empowered young people to come up with solutions to mitigate the effects of sexual violence and achieve gender equality, while also providing steps for young women to take after experiencing abuse, thereby building their agency in reporting cases of gender-based violence.



*Figure 5 Couples community cinema*

The community cinemas were a success, achieving its objectives and highlighting the importance of addressing these issues comprehensively and inclusively. In support of SDG 5, which promotes the active participation of women in leadership positions, GWEN's initiative demonstrated the value of creating safe spaces for young

women to engage in discussions and share their experiences, ultimately contributing to a positive impact by raising awareness of gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights, stigmatization, and sexual abuse, and fostering a sense of community and collective action to address these challenges

### **3.6: Teen Mothers Dialogue**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 40% of women worldwide have been subjected to physical abuse and gender-based violence. Half of gender-based violence assaults are committed against girls from the age of 13 to 19 years old and are prone to early pregnancies.



*Figure 6 Teenage mothers support group*

To address these challenges GWEN in partnership with the Department of Social Development Chitungwiza conducted three teen mothers dialogues. In these sessions, teen mothers were trained in positive parenting and educated on sexual reproductive health rights. The aim was to offer psychosocial support to teen mothers who are going through

rejection and depressions. The project aimed at knowledge sharing, providing emotional support, social interaction, and a destressing platform. The teen mothers were able to come up with sustainable solutions to the challenges they are facing such as post-natal depression, gender-based violence, social distress, and societal discrimination projected to the young mothers. A total number of 100 teenage mothers were reached as follows: 21 in Chitungwiza, 49 in Nyatsime and 30 in Seke. The teenage mothers ages ranged from 14 to 19 years old.

### **3.7. Bring your Hustle**

GWEN in partnership with the Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust (AWET) and the Self-Help Development Foundation and conducted a ‘Bring Your Hustle’ entrepreneurship community dialogue aimed at empowering women economically to reduce gender-based violence cases on 10 December 2024. The dialogue engaged 144 young women, and 6 young men, and discussed issues around the linkages between poverty and GBV. Presentations from AWET highlighted the alarming rate of statistics of GBV cases related to poverty inclusive of child marriages. Women’s lack of economic independence and reliance on their partners for financial support has led to abuse and exploitation which stressed the need for women to be economically empowered.



*Figure 7 16 Days of Activism commemoration GWEN and AWET*

Women were capacitated with entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills. This was later followed by women's testimonials of success business stories especially from GWEN members who were trained on detergent making by GWEN and given starter kits which was aimed at motivating other women to work hard. The day

ended with women show casing their products and selling. The activity gave women a sense of hope and gave them renewed sense of purpose which helps to create a more equitable society and reduce poverty related GBV cases.

### **3.8. Community Dialogue on GBV**

In collaboration with Veritas and Chenura Trust, GWEN successfully facilitated a community dialogue on debilitating effects of GBV on community development, progress and exploring strategies for conflict resolution on 4 December 2024. A total of 89 young women and 2 men participated in the enlightening dialogue. Stakeholders who attended include the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, President's office and Department of Social Development.





*Figure 8 Chenura trust dramatizing the effects of SGBV on women and girls during community dialogue*

Chenura Trust played a pivotal role in staging a role-play that mirrored the experiences of women who suffer at the hands of GBV. The drama highlighted how men often limit women's participation in economic activities, by hindering their wives to seek employment or

educational qualifications which underscores and disadvantage the community's progress. The disturbing reality of unreported marital rape cases which later leads to high rate of women's deaths.

The role-play was followed by an in-depth dialogue, where women began to share their experiences and proposed feasible strategies to mitigate their challenges. This community dialogue was a crucial step in GWEN's efforts to combat GBV. It provided a platform for women to share their experiences and propose solutions and the dialogue empowered them to take advocacy action against GBV. Significantly the activity promoted community engagement, fostered a culture of uniting to end GBV and committed to creating a safer community for girls and women.

### **3.9 Day of the Girl Child**

GWEN marked the International Day of the Girl at Muda Primary School on 20 October 2024 in Beatrice, Zimbabwe. The event, which was held in collaboration with She Catalyst Foundation, was a resounding success, empowering young voices and promoting a culture of equality and inclusivity. The day's festivities began with inspiring poetry recitals by talented

girls from Muda Primary School. The young poets expressed their hopes and dreams, sharing their visions for a brighter future where girls and women are valued and empowered.

The poetry recitals were a testament to the creativity and talent of the girls, and served as a powerful reminder of the importance of amplifying young voices. The celebration continued with a color festival featuring music and dance. The festival was a joyous expression of the girls' creativity and energy, and provided a platform for them to showcase their talents and skills. The event was a celebration of girlhood, and promoted a sense of community and solidarity among the participants.

The event was attended by parents and community members, who showed their support for the girls and the importance of empowering young voices. The presence of parents and community



members added to the excitement and energy of the event, and served as a reminder of the importance of community involvement in promoting girls' empowerment.

*Figure 9 International Day of the Girl Child in Seke Ward 14*

### **3.10. 16 Days of Activism**

The Girls and Women Empowerment Network (GWEN) in partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, and Marikopo Primary School in Seke District, joined forces to celebrate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The event, which took place on the 3 December 2024, was a powerful demonstration of the community's commitment to ending GBV and promoting a culture of respect, tolerance, and non-violence.



Figure 10 March on Ending GBV during 16 Days of Activism commemoration

The day began with a march, where students, teachers, and community members came together to advocate and proclaim a resounding "NO" to GBV. The message was clear: we will not stand for violence against women and girls! The march was a powerful statement of intent, signalling the community's determination to

create a world where women and girls can live free from fear and violence.

The event featured a series of powerful performances from the learners, including poems and thought-provoking drama skits that spoke loudly against GBV. The students' performances were a testament to the impact of GBV on individuals, families, and communities, and served as a call to action to end this scourge. The poems and skits were thought-provoking, emotive, and inspiring, and left a lasting impression on all who attended.

### 3.11. Commemorations of the Day of the African Child



Figure 11 International Day of the Africa Child, Participant Poem presentation

On 18 June 2024, GWEN commemorated the Day of the African Child at Beatrice Primary School, engaging 300 pupils in a meaningful event. The aim was to raise awareness about the significance of this day, educate adolescents about its history, and

promote the rights and well-being of African children. The event featured a range of activities, including speeches, poems, drama performances, and an awards ceremony to recognize

outstanding students. Representatives from the primary school, GWEN, and SHE delivered speeches highlighting the importance of advocating for children's rights, promoting education, and addressing challenges faced by African children. A brief history lesson was also conducted to enhance the student's understanding of the Day of the African Child, covering the Soweto Uprising in 1976 and its impact on children's rights in Africa. Students from various grades recited poems focused on education, child protection, equality, and empowerment, showcasing their creativity and talent. A drama performance depicted the struggles faced by African children and the importance of education in overcoming these challenges, emphasizing child protection, access to quality education, and equal opportunities for all. The event successfully raised awareness among students about children's rights, education, and equality, empowering them to express their thoughts and ideas on issues affecting African children. This fostered a sense of confidence and encouraged them to become active participants in promoting positive change within their communities

### **3.12. Career Guidance School Visit**

On the 13 September 2024, GWEN participated in a career guidance exhibition held at Seke 5 Secondary School in Chitungwiza. The event aimed to provide students with valuable insights into various career paths, enhance their understanding of the job market, and inspire them to pursue their aspirations. Various organizations set up booths showcasing different careers. GWEN's booth highlighted programs aimed at empowering young women through education and skill development.



*Figure 12 GWEN distributing information materials during career guidance day in Chitungwiza*

GWEN also distributed brochures containing information on training programs specifically designed for young women. The career guidance exhibition at Seke 5 Secondary School was a significant success for both GWEN and the participating

students as it managed to reach out to 300 students with educational information that is crucial

for shaping the future workforce, especially for young women who aspire to break barriers in various professions. Many students expressed newfound interest in careers they had not previously considered.

### **3.13. Case Management: Psycho-Social Support and Referral Services**

GWEN responded to 27 cases involving physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and juvenile delinquency issues. The organization provided psycho-social support and referral services to the clients. GWEN also provided back-to-school materials to an adolescent girl in Chitungwiza including school uniforms and books. GWEN has been working closely with the Department of Social Development. Moreover, GWEN's partnerships are growing with relations being made in case referrals to Musasa, Child Line, Family Support Trust, Department of Social Development (DSD), and Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

### **3.14. International Women's Day Commemorations**

On 21 March 2024, GWEN celebrated International Women's Day with 96 young women between the ages of 18-35 years and 8 young men in Nyatsime. The celebrations were under the theme *“Invest in women: Accelerate progress”*. The event was supported by different stakeholders including, the National Aids Council, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Hospice Island Hospital and Zimbabwe Youth Council.



*Figure 13 International Women's Day commemoration participants playing Netball at PaNyatsime*

The stakeholders were given a chance to educate young women on the services they provide that can empower them. Through the activity, young women were made aware of the Women Bank and Empower banks, where they can access loans. The Ministry of Women's Affairs shared that they are also looking forward to register young women business,

which is very crucial to the young women who were trained by GWEN on detergent making.

The activity created a safe space as young women were engaged in Zumba to promote healthy living. The activity ended with a netball tournament, where young women competed.

## **NETWORKING ACTIVITIES**

### **3.15 Women's Day Commemorations**

GWEN exhibited at the Mashonaland East International Women's Day commemorations which were held at Dema Council Ground. The celebration of women's day was spearheaded by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development and other main line ministries. The celebrations were in form of a cookout challenge, where young women were required to cook Zimbabwe traditional food and compete. This activity cemented GWEN partnership with main line ministries.



*Figure 14 International Women's Day Commemoration traditional meals cooking competition participants*

### **3.16. Zimbabwe Agricultural Show Exhibition**

On 30 August 2024 GWEN together with the Gender Commission, managed to participate in the Harare agricultural show, showcasing its initiatives and programs at the Zimbabwe Gender Commission booth. The event aimed to inform 100 attendees about the challenges and opportunities for girls and women and to showcase GWEN's initiatives to empower women through training, resources, and community support. GWEN also connected with other organizations, stakeholders, and potential partners who share a commitment to gender equality including the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. The exhibition significantly raised awareness

about GWEN's mission and programs. Many attendees expressed interest in our initiatives and this will lead to new partnerships and support networks.



*Figure 15 Question and answer for visitors to the GWEN stand during Harare Agricultural show*

### **3.17. Africa Day Exhibition**

GWEN joined the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Sport, Art, and Culture in celebrating Africa Day at a sports tournament among 13 local schools in Chitungwiza on 30 August 2024. The sports played during the tournament included handball, netball, basketball, and football. GWEN exhibited its work to the adolescent girls and boys who were part of the sports tournament and educated them on their rights, shared child-friendly constitutional literacy tool kits, and enlightened them on available reporting structures if their rights are violated and how they can be safe from harm. The day was a success as the students recreated and learned at the same time what Africa Day is about and its importance to them as Africans.



Figure 16 2024 Africa Day commemoration participants playing football

## 4 Synthesis

### 4.1 Partnerships

GWEN worked with different organizations and main line ministries in implementing the project including:

1. Ministry of Women's Affairs, Small and Community Medium Enterprise Development
2. Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
3. Ministry of Sports
4. Ministry of Youth, Development and Vocational Training
5. Zimbabwe Gender Commission
6. She Catalyst
7. Fathers Against Abuse
8. AWET
9. Veritas Women

### 4.2 List of Donors

FEPA	\$17969.26 for the implementation of activities
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### **4.3 Conclusion and Outlook**

The year 2024 was a transformative period for GWEN, marked by significant policy shifts in the Civil Society Organization (CSO) space that necessitated strategic adjustments to ensure the organization's continued impact and relevance. Despite these challenges, GWEN demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, successfully navigating the evolving landscape to achieve its objectives and make meaningful contributions to the advancement of women's and girls' rights. Throughout the year, GWEN effectively engaged with local leaders, young people, and other stakeholders to promote the empowerment of women and girls in various spheres including economic, education and civic spaces. The organization's targeted interventions reached the intended participants, resulting in strengthened voices and enhanced participation of women and girls in family and community decision-making processes. One of the notable highlights of the year was the organization's contribution to the creation of safe and inclusive spaces for women and girls. GWEN's efforts to promote gender equality and social justice helped to challenge and change harmful social norms, stereotypes, and power dynamics that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination. As GWEN looks to the future, the organization is excited to announce the upcoming launch of the Smart Girls Nest, an innovative initiative supported by FEPA. The Smart Girls Nest will provide a safe and temporary shelter for survivors of gender-based violence, offering a comprehensive range of services, including counselling, medical care, and economic empowerment programs. The Nest will also feature an information and library centre, providing young women and girls with access to educational resources, mentorship, and skills development opportunities. The Smart Girls Nest is a testament to GWEN's commitment to creating a society where women and girls can thrive, free from violence, discrimination, and marginalization. As the organization continues to evolve and grow, it remains dedicated to its mission of empowering women and girls, promoting gender equality, and fostering a culture of social justice and human rights. In the coming year, GWEN will build on the successes of 2024, expanding its programs and services to reach more communities, and deepening its partnerships with local leaders, organizations, and stakeholders.