



EU SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE ACTION ACTION PERIOD 2021 -2024

LEAD PARTNER



**Zimbabwe Election
Support Network**
Promoting Democratic
Elections in Zimbabwe

PARTNERS



Deaf
Zimbabwe
Trust



W/O 3/93
Campaigners for
Human Rights

INTRODUCTION

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) Close out Pictorial Magazine showcases activities that were carried out as part of the Communication and Visibility Plan under the Electoral Support Cycle Action that was funded by the European Union (EU). The main objective of the plan was to give prominence and bring to the fore activities implemented under the Action through systematic information dissemination and collaborations amongst partners.

The design of the Action partners' Communication and Visibility Plan was premised on the principles of purposive or communication for development and development communication whereby targeted information was disseminated using multimedia, thus text, image, audio, video and animation. Under the Action, branded promotional campaign materials such as floppy hats, tea/coffee mugs, T-shirts, caps, facemasks, stickers, gazebo, banners, sanitisers. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as posters, still images, fliers, calendars, books and stickers were produced with the EU logo appended on the materials to enhance visibility of the Funding Partner.

To ensure visibility of the funding partner's contribution, all equipment such as desktop computers and laptops bought under the Action, had the partner's logo applied to them. This served to create awareness about the role of the funding partner and to acknowledge their support in the project's success. However, partners who engaged more with political players such as the Election Resource Centre (ERC), Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE) and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) could not append the EU logo on the materials they produced under the Action due to the contextual and political sensitivities that unfolded during the course of the project.



Pic: One of the Desktop Computers purchased under the Action



Pic: One of the laptops bought under the Action with EU logo

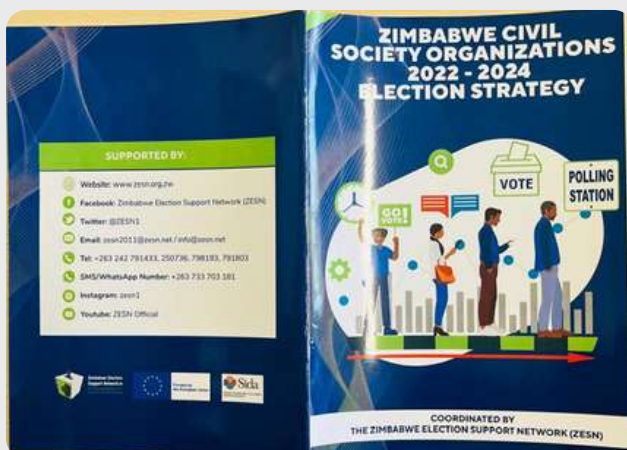
BELOW ARE PICTURES OF VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS, PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AND IEC PRODUCTS THAT WERE PRODUCED UNDER THE ACTION.



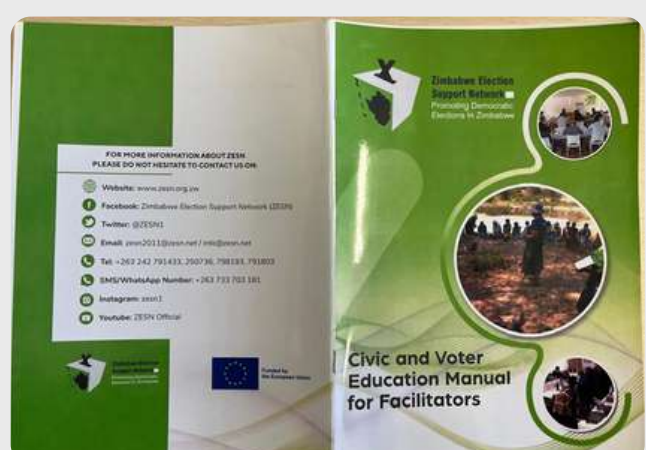
Pic: Branded gazebo, banner and tablecloth



ZESN-EU branded calendar



Pic: CSOs Election Strategy

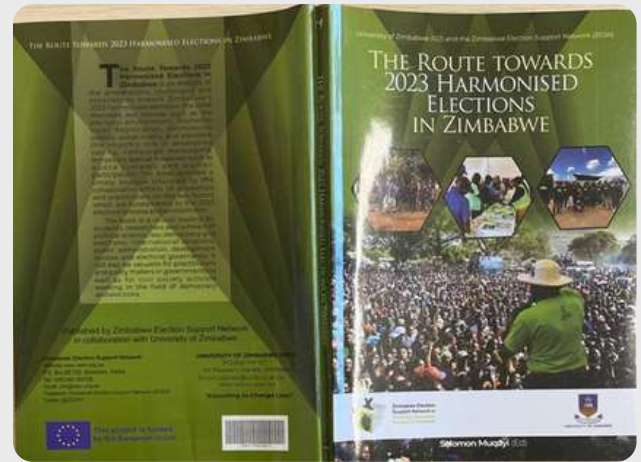


Pic: CVE Facilitators' Manual

CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS 2018 - 2022

PROVINCIAL ANALYSIS

	2018 Voters Roll as at 30 August	2022 Voters Roll as at 31 May	Difference	% Change
Bulawayo	258,567	270,938	+ 12,371	4.78%
Harare	900,728	952,102	+ 51,374	5.70%
Manicaland	733,370	738,624	+ 5,254	0.72%
Mashonaland Central	531,984	536,463	+ 4,479	0.84%
Mashonaland East	633,410	641,668	+ 8,278	1.31%
Mashonaland West	655,133	661,289	+ 6,156	0.94%
Masvingo	617,212	632,320	+ 15,108	2.45%
Matabeleland North	339,135	340,427	+ 1,292	0.38%
Matabeleland South	264,185	267,617	+ 3,432	1.30%
Midlands	761,982	763,928	+ 1,946	0.26%
TOTAL	5,695,706	5,804,376	108,690	1.92%



Pic: UZ-ZESN Book on Elections

Pic: ERC Factsheet on registered voters



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ARE YOU AN ASPIRING FEMALE INTERESTED IN
CONTENDING IN THE 2023 ELECTION AS AN
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE?

We want to hear from you!

We are seeking to identify and build capacity of aspiring independent women
candidates to contest in the 2023 Elections

Eligibility criteria

- *Women at least 21 years and over who are aspiring to contest in the 2023 elections
as independent candidates
- * Candidate must not have undergone any related training in the past 2 years
-Must be a registered voter

Interested candidates are to submit;
Brief profile/ CV
attach a passport photograph of themselves
Deadline 24 March 2022

Harare applications can be sent to coalitionzw@gmail.com or dropped off
physically at 31 Harvey Brown Avenue, Milton Park, Harare



@theWcoZ @WCOZIMBABWE www.wcoz.org +263775708657



Pic: WcoZ & ZESN
call for
applications flyer

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PIC: T-shirt by
WALPE and a
branded
sanitiser



#SheElectSheLeads
#RegisterToVote
#LetsGo5050

ZVIKONZERO ZVISHANU SEI UCHIFANIRA KUNYORESA KUVHOTA

1. Kuvhota ikodzera yako ngatitore mukana uno kunyoresa kuvhota. Ngatikurudzirei vese vasati vanyoresa.
2. Kusanyoresa kuvhota kunoreva kuti vamwe ndivo vachange vachikuita sarudzo pazvinhu zvine chekuita newe.
3. Kunyoresa kuvhota inzira yakakosha yekubatirana pamwe nenharaunda dzenyu semadzimai nokuti vhoti yenyu inzwi renyu.
4. Ikodzera yako kuvhota. Unobvei ukaishandisa?
5. Kuregedza kunyoresa kuvhota zvinoreva kuti wadzikisira nharaunda yako.

Call for more information 0782 122 831

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Pic: WALPE
Factsheet on voter
registration



Pic: branded WALPE Jute bag



Pic: Branded ZESN face mask



Pic: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign still images



Pic: Branded wrapper urging citizens to register to Vote and participate in the population census



Pic: ZESN branded Register to Vote campaign T-shirt



Pic: branded Register to Vote caps

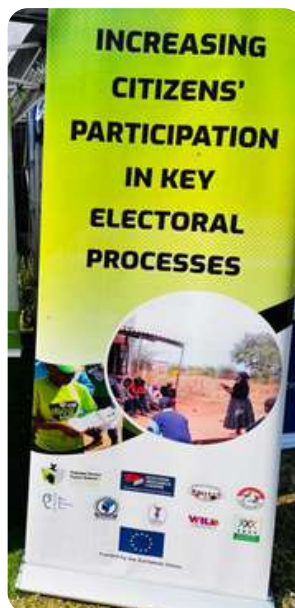


Pic: Front and back view of ZimRights Peace Campaign T-shirt



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Pic: ZimRights Factsheet on elections and democracy



Pic: Banners that were used during Partners' and stakeholders' meetings

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Pic: Let's Talk Delimitation T-shirt, banner and cap

As part of repositioning ZESN using subscribers' conversion kind of approach by contextualizing #yestoelectoralreforms to complement the hashtag, jingles and banners, stickers and umbrellas were produced under the Action. These were distributed to Members of Parliament, volunteers, taskforce members, participants who were attending workshops and those who gave correct answers during exhibitions quiz time.



Pic: Stickers used to amplify the advocacy campaign



Pic: side panel of the advocacy campaign umbrella



Pic: Side panel of the branded umbrella amplifying the Yes to Electoral Reform Campaign



Pic: Side panels of the branded Register to Vote coffee mug

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EU SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE ACTION

The Action endeavoured to engender democratic, transparent and credible electoral processes which are in line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe, regional and international standards.

In pursuit of this overarching goal the Action aimed to strengthen civil society including women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) rights organizations and key electoral stakeholders' ability to effectively engage in the boundary delimitation exercise and other electoral processes; increase the transparency, accountability and confidence in key electoral processes through evidence based advocacy; and to increase the participation of women, men, youth and Persons with Disabilities in key electoral processes.

Objective 1 – To strengthen civil society and key electoral stakeholders' ability to effectively engage in delimitation and other electoral processes.

Under this objective the project pursued capacity strengthening activities to provide appropriate knowledge and skills to the partners of this Action and to a broad range of CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, Political Parties, Chapter 12 Institutions, Parliament, Media and Traditional Leaders to enable them to provide effective engagement and oversight on key electoral processes such as electoral reform, by-elections, boundary delimitation and voter registration.

Objective 2 – To increase transparency, accountability and confidence in key electoral processes through evidence-based advocacy.

This objective ensured sustained oversight by CSOs including women, youth and PWDs, Parliament, Judiciary, Media and Political Parties on the delimitation, by-elections, voter registration and inspections, voter education, polling, Electoral Court case monitoring and other key electoral processes. It is envisaged that through the undertaking of evidence-based advocacy, there will be an improvement in the conduct and administration of electoral processes and ultimately increase transparency and accountability in electoral processes.

Objective 3 – To increase the participation of women, men, youth and Persons with Disabilities in key electoral processes.

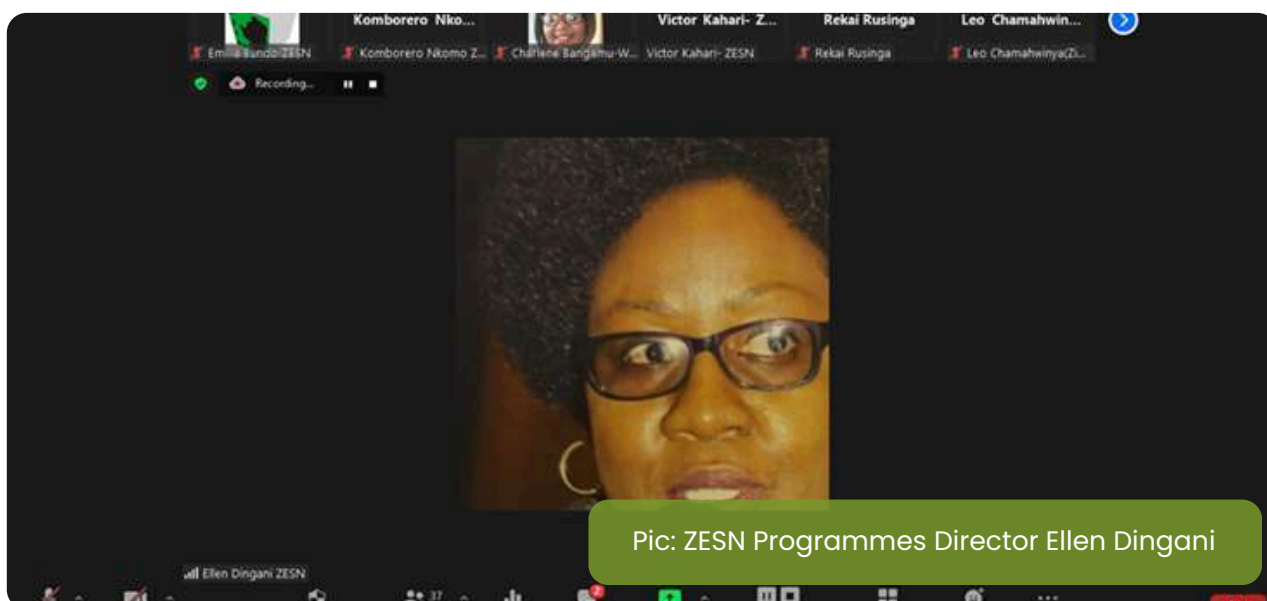
Finally, the project increased access to information on the delimitation, voter registration processes, and the 2023 Harmonised Elections to citizens in particular Women, the Youth and PWDs leading to meaningful engagement and improved citizens' participation in electoral processes.

VIRTUAL PARTNERS' INCEPTION MEETING: ZOOM: 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

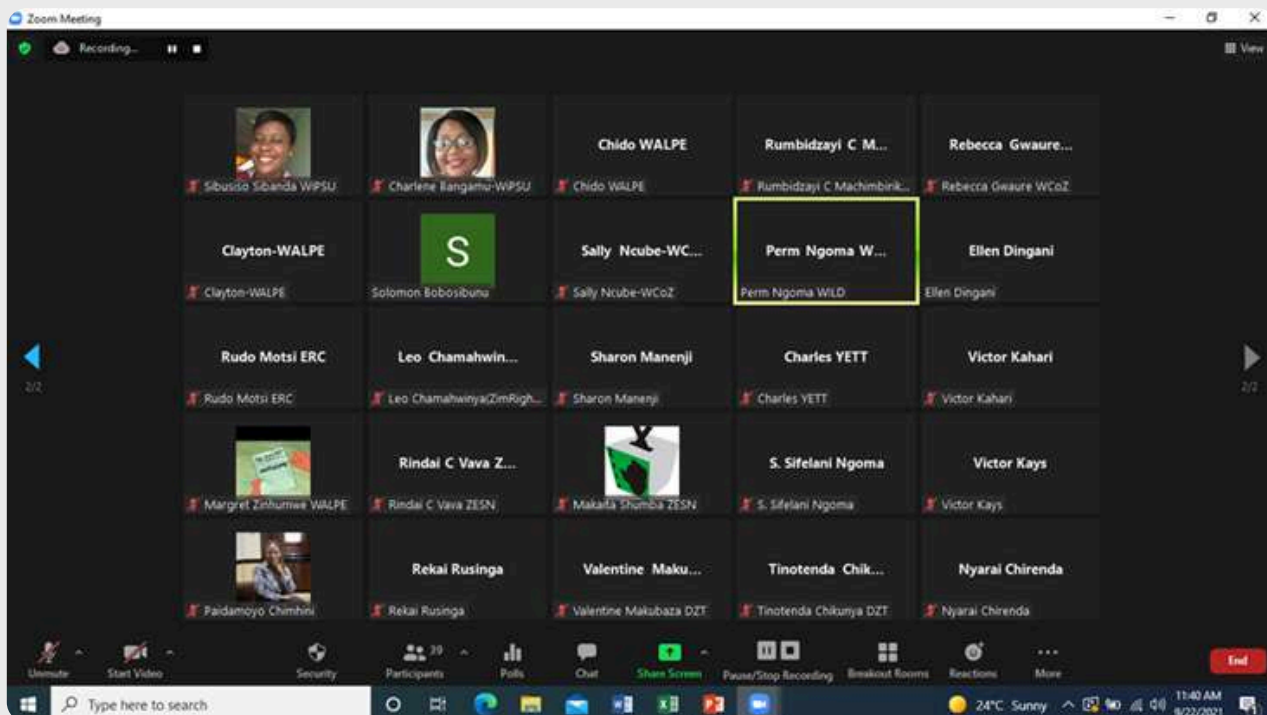
ZESN hosted a Partners Inception meeting on 21 September 2021 for all partners. The main objective was to raise awareness on EU requirements when implementing the Action, particularly on Grant disbursement, Communication and Visibility and Monitoring and Evaluation. A total of 39 participants, drawn from the Lead Applicant (ZESN), Co-applicant (ERC) and subgrantees – Deaf Zimbabwe Trust (DZT), WALPE, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD), Women in Politics Support Unit (WiPSU), Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT) and ZimRights attended the meeting.



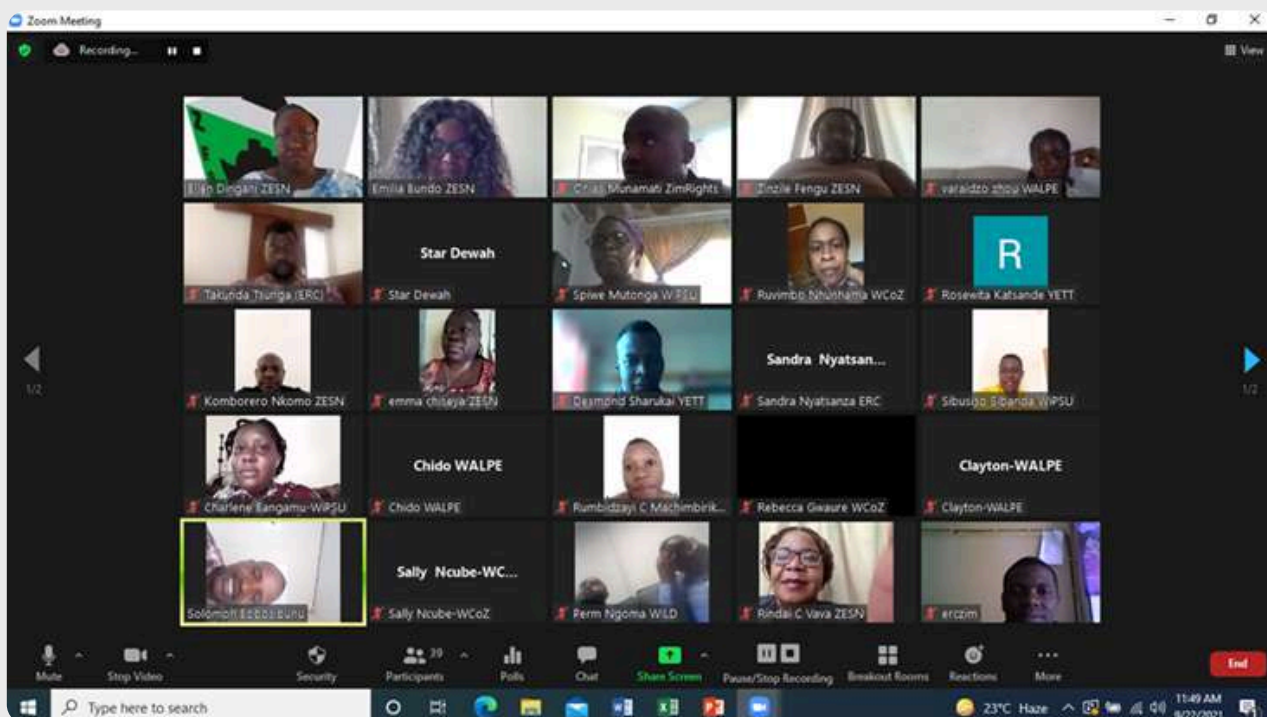
Pic: ZESN Executive Director Rindai Chipfunde Vava



Pic: ZESN Programmes Director Ellen Dingani



Pic: Some of the virtual participants of the Partners' Inception meeting



Pic: Video Group photo attending the virtual meeting

ZESN/POZ CHAMPIONS WORKSHOP IN KADOMA 5-6 OCTOBER 2021

The ZESN convened a one-and-a-half-day workshop in Kadoma from the 5th to 6th October 2021 with members of the Parliamentary Champions and some representatives from civil society organisations to review provisions contained in the ZESN Draft Comprehensive Electoral Amendment Bill. The objective of this meeting was to unpack all the Amendments clause by clause to provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Bill as well as proffer recommendations for any revisions.

In attendance were six (6) Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, including the Chairperson of the Committee Honourable Misheck Mataranyika, Parliament Secretariat, six (6) representatives from CSOs representing women, youth, People with Disabilities and the legal fraternity, as well as representatives of the ZESN Board and Secretariat. Mr. Phillip Muziri from the Southern Africa Parliamentary Trust (SAPST) facilitated the discussions.



Pic: ZESN Board Chairperson Andrew Makoni & Hon. Mataranyika giving their opening remarks at the workshop

CSOs ENGAGEMENT MEETING WITH ZEC: 22 OCTOBER 2021: ZEC OFFICES: HARARE

ZEC convened a meeting to update CSOs on the current electoral environment in light of COVID-19 and suspension of by-elections. In attendance were representatives from ERC, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), WALPE, WCoZ, YETT, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), Ambassador 263 and ZESN. Action partners attended the ZEC meeting as part of the CSOs engagement meetings with policy makers and Chapter 12 Commissions.



ERC, WALPE reps, 4th from left ZEC Commissioner Leticia Kazembe, ZEC Chairperson Justice Priscilla Chigumba, ZESN rep, WLSA, WCoZ, YETT & CCJP reps pose for a picture at ZEC Offices



Pic: Justice Priscilla Chigumba explaining the COVID-19 by-elections moratorium to CSOs

VOTER EDUCATION AHEAD OF MARCH 2022 BY-ELECTIONS



Picture of participants wearing branded facemasks at an outreach meeting in Matabeleland North Province Tsholotsho



ZESN and ERC Officers participated in a BVR mobilisation radio programme



Pic: Flyer of one of the ZESN BVR sensitization community radio programmes



Bulawayo resident reading a copy of the Ballot Newsletter produced under the Action awaiting a Covid-19 test

Bulawayo resident reading a copy of the Ballot Newsletter produced under the Action awaiting a Covid-19 test

WCoZ TRAINS WOMEN ON LEGAL & ELECTORAL FRAMEWORKS

The Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) trained 172 women on legal and electoral frameworks governing elections in Zimbabwe. As part of the collaborations among Action partners, ZESN presented a topic on 'Legal framework governing women's involvement in elections in Zimbabwe' during this intervention. The capacity building workshop aimed to build a pool of aspiring independent candidates for 2023 elections as well as identifying women interested in being deployed as observers for the established WEOM.



Hon Nyelele and Hon Nyandoro making a group presentations during the meeting

WCoZ capacitated women to be registration mobilisers, election observers and to stand for political positions. The organisation also capacitated women with disabilities to be observers. WCoZ had 51 voter registration mobilisers who mobilised 39 000 women to register to vote. WCoZ had 56 women as observers under the organisation and some women were seconded to be ZESN election observers. WCoZ established an Election Day situational room which was well coordinated to respond to electoral issues rapidly.

WiPSU success story



Gladys Chivige one of beneficiaries
of Action's Empowerment
programme

“ I have learnt that,
in this journey of
women's participation
in leadership, you must
believe in yourself
and continue to improve
your confidence and
knowledge.
I thank WiPSU for
encouraging and
supporting me to be
the leader that I am
today. ”





WROs addressing a Post-Election Press Conference in Harare

The Action through WiPSU in 2023 was able to contribute to the processes by convening awareness campaigns dubbed the “Let’s Go 50/50” The awareness campaigns were effected through information packs in the form of posters that were distributed to the women stakeholders at the community meetings that WiPSU convened. The Action advocated for women to go physically inspect their details on the voters roll at their polling station. The Action encouraged women candidates to mobilise their communities as this had a direct bearing on their votes. WiPSU's "Let's Go 50/50" campaigns encouraged voter inspection and nomination court preparedness. Discrepancies in boundary maps and unequal document submission were key issues addressed.



Pic: Women's leaders hub cohort after an engagement

WIPSU TRAINS WOMEN ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS: JUNE 2022



Pic: ZANU-PF Women's League Chair for Makoni District

WiPSU embarked on the Study Circles of 30 women training platform, focusing on various aspects of the electoral process, such as political CVs, nomination court requirements and campaigns teams training and personal empowerment. WiPSU sought to encourage and support women to participate in the electoral process.

In the second year of the Action WiPSU convened eight (8) meetings to discuss electoral laws in Chirumanzu, Harare and Vungu. The meetings were attended by 267 women. Some issues discussed included the local government 30% quota for women. For the Vungu RDC this would mean an additional 3 women. During the meetings, it was noted that women showed that they were more interested in the quota than the ward-based seats, as they feared victimisation and harassment. Another issue that came up during the meetings was on how political parties will select the women for the quota seats. The women's appetite for participating in electoral processes especially as aspiring candidates was increased through the Vungu study circle WhatsApp group. During the meetings, the women discussed ways in which to build confidence and support other women.

WALPE trained 30 young women and women with disabilities on delimitation, voter mobilization, voter registration and electoral disputes advocacy mechanism. The participants were expected to go and train 50 more women thus increasing the number of women with knowledge on electoral processes and participation. Moreso, during the 2.2 million votes for women from women campaign WALPE managed to influence 33 first time women voters from Hopley and Gutu to register to vote which brought the total number of women and women with disabilities who registered to vote to 281 in Gutu and Hopley surpassing the target set at 200.



Pic: Participants
at the Hopley
meeting



Pictures of the
Hopley Voter
registration
Meeting in Harare



CLUSTER MEETING ON THE DRAFT ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL, ZESN OFFICES: MARCH – AUGUST 2022

As part of the Action partners' collaborative initiative, seven (7) stakeholder engagement meetings with Chapter 12 Commissions; the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) and cluster meetings were held to discuss the proposed amendments contained therein Draft Electoral Bill.



Pic: Participants of cluster meeting discussion on outstanding electoral reforms chaired by WIPSU Director Sakhile Sifelani Ngoma



Pic: participants of the Cluster meeting on the Draft Electoral Amendment Bill

On 3 August 2022, ZESN engaged the ZMC on media proposals on regulation, electoral coverage by both the public and private media, code of conduct for media, media polarization, legal gaps on accreditation, access to information, content monitoring and compliance as well as social media use and media capacitation ahead of elections. The meeting was held as part of the Action's CSOs engagement with Chapter 12 Commissions,



Pic: ZESN Media and Information Officer Emilia Bundo presenting salient media issues contained in the Draft Electoral Amendment Bill to the Zimbabwe Media Commission Chairperson



Pic: ZMC Chairperson Professor Magosvongwe (left) and ZMC Acting Secretary Mr Academy Bvumayi Chinamhora clarifying their points on the media proposals

On 9 August 2022, a meeting was held with the Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe (VMCZ) Executive Director Loughty Dube at the VMCZ offices to discuss proposals on media practitioners' coverage of elections, regulation and the possibility of coming up with a Unified National Code of Conduct for Journalists during the election period.



Pic: VMCZ Executive Director Loughy Dube

YETT EMBARKS ON CAMPAIGNS TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO REGISTER TO VOTE

ETT implemented four (4) activities which engaged 13 organisations, 37 youth (21 males and 16 females) directly, and more than 57 000 indirectly through social media. These activities include; Youth Virtual Engagement on Electoral Amendment Bill, Production of a Youth Position Paper on Electoral Amendment Bill, My First Vote Campaign and two (2) podcasts. The 'My First Vote Campaign' was implemented 'under its Ballot Buddies Program which targeted young people between 17 and 24 years to register to vote.





YETT also participated in a TV Show on Mobile BVR by HSTV to educate the youth on what BVR is and motivate them to register to vote

Pic: Flyer advertising the HSTV talk show

ZESN TRAINS LONG TERM OBSERVERS (LTOS): 2021

During the first year of the action ZESN trained and deployed 210 Long Term Observers (LTOs) to monitor political, socio-economic and electoral environments in Zimbabwe in the country's 210 Constituencies. As result, the LTOs produced 2,520 evidence-based reports informing ZESN programming including advocacy initiatives.



Pic: ZESN Taskforce member Kay Ncube highlighting the roles of an LTO during the observer training

In pursuit of this result, the Action implemented interventions that included training and deployment of 243 election observers. Of these 210 were Long Term Observers (LTOs) who maintained oversight over the political and electoral environment in the country's 210 constituencies. The remainder of observers were deployed to oversee the conduct of four (4) by-elections that were conducted to fill in vacant Local Authority and National Assembly seats between August and December 2022.

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Pic: Observers looking at the Voters Roll displayed outside the polling station



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Pic: Some of the observers trained & deployed to Harare North under the Action



ZESN, ERC AND YETT TRAIN YOUTH ON ELECTION OBSERVATION AND DELIMITATION AHEAD OF BY-ELECTIONS: YETT OFFICES HARARE: 18 MARCH 2022



ERC Programmes Manager Solomon Bobosibunu explaining the history of delimitation

In its quest to ensure inclusivity as far as participation in electoral processes is concerned, ZESN and ERC were invited by one of the Action partners YETT to train various youth organizations on delimitation and election observation at their offices ahead of the much-awaited 26 March by-elections. The collaborative training was part of efforts of working together to share knowledge, resources and expertise by Action partners.



YETT Democracy, Rights and Governance Program Officer Takaedza Tafirei explaining the importance of youth election observation



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ZESN Media and Information Officer Emilia Bundo presenting on Election Monitoring Security Concerns

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Pic: Participants of the Youth Observation and Delimitation Training Workshop



ERC and ZESN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON 26 MARCH BY- ELECTIONS HOLIDAY INN HOTEL HARARE: 27 MARCH 2022

ZESN trained and deployed 206 observers to six (6) priority Constituencies; Binga North, Chivi South, Epworth, Kwekwe Central, Murewa South, and Mutasa South. These six (6) Constituencies were selected to provide geographic spread and reflect the country's political diversity in terms of voting, counting and posting results for those six (6) Constituencies. ERC and ZESN collaborated on convening a joint press conference that was held at a Harare local hotel to communicate the findings of the by-elections.

The EU funded press conference on election observation efforts was livestreamed by Sly Media TV and cross posted to the ZESN and ERC Facebook Pages, offering transparency to the public and raising awareness of the crucial role of ZESN and ERC democratic oversight in the electoral process.



Pic: Ellen Dingani ZESN Programmes Director, ZESN Board Chairperson Andrew Makoni, ERC Board Chairperson Trust Maanda and Dr. Barbra Bhebhe ERC Director



Pic: ZESN Chairperson & Programmes Director addressing questions from the media



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Pic: ZESN Monitoring and Observation Manager Ian Goredema explaining to the Press findings on the Mutasa South 26 March by-election



Pic: ZESN Chairperson & Programmes Director addressing questions from the media

Distribution of IEC materials: 2022

ESN conducted calendar distribution throughout the country's ten (10) Provinces. A total of 50,000 calendars were distributed and reaching approximately 150 000 due to multipliers and interactive effects. The MEAL team conducted a follow-up visit in Bulawayo in the last quarter of 2022 and interacted with some of the people who received the calendars and they self-reported that the calendars were indeed helpful to them especially in making informed decisions to register to vote.



Pic: Calendar distribution at New Lobengula Shops, Bulawayo



Pic: Some of the ZESN volunteers distributing Calendars and flyers in Bulawayo



Pic: Some of the volunteers distributing calendars in Bulawayo

CSOs, CBO, FBOs and DPOs capacity Building on Boundary Delimitation and CVE Manual

ZESN conducted a series of capacity building training workshops on various facets of the electoral cycle, especially the boundary delimitation. The topics covered included the meaning and implications of boundary delimitation, the domestic laws that govern boundary delimitation, the fundamentals of principles of boundary delimitation, the electoral cycle, stakeholder consultation, possible areas of conflict in boundary delimitation among others. In addition to this the capacity building training initiatives also sought to unpack the CSOs' Civic Voter Education Manual and capacitate the organisations on the various strategies in the manual and how they could be adapted to suit their constituents and environments.



Pictures of the participants during the CBOs and Youth capacity building workshops in Bulawayo

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These trainings were held in Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare, Hwange and Gwanda.



Pic: Masvingo CVE Manual Training Workshop Participants

Community Hall meetings on delimitation and BVR Blitz phase 2

ZESN conducted ten (10) community hall meetings for the purposes of raising awareness on voters roll inspection for delimitation purposes as well as sensitizing and mobilizing citizens to participate in voter registration processes. The meetings were held in Binga, Hurungwe, Mutare, Marondera, Mt Darwin, Hwange and Mangwe. The meeting sensitized and mobilized eligible citizens to go and register as voters ahead of the delimitation of electoral boundaries and 2023 harmonized elections. Speakers were drawn from ZEC, CSOs and Residents Associations. ZESN's efforts contributed to an increase in the number of people who inspected the voter's roll, and ZEC indicated that more than three (3) million people inspected the voters roll in the same period.



Senior Electoral Education and Capacity Building Officer, Emmaculate Chiseya addressing a community meeting at Magunje Growth Point



Pic: Some of the Hwange villagers during a voter education meeting in Dinde Ward 20.



Some of the participants for the Binga Community Hall meeting in Mulibizi fishing Camp

ZESN CONDUCTED COMMUNITY VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS: MARONDERA, CHINHOYI AND MT DARWIN: 6, 26 MAY & 16 JULY 2022

ZESN Provincial Task forces in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central in partnership with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) held Community meetings to educate citizens about the delimitation of electoral boundaries and other key electoral processes. These community meetings were held in Marondera, Chinhoyi and Mt Darwin on 6, 27 May and 16 July 2022 respectively.



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ZESN Senior Electoral Education and Capacity Building Officer Emmaculate Chiseya explaining what delimitation is to resident participants of Marondera.



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Marondera residents explaining their understanding of delimitation during a question-and-answer session.



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Marondera residents explaining their understanding of delimitation during a question-and-answer session.





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Pic: Emma Chiseya
conducting civic and
voter education to
villagers in MT darwin

DZT & ZESN OBSERVE BY-ELECTIONS FOR SENATOR REPRESENTING PWDs: 14 MAY 2022

ZESN and DZT collaborated to observe by-elections for the Senator representing Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are part of democratic, transparent and credible electoral processes in Zimbabwe. The by-elections were held on 14 May 2022 after much inquiry by the Action to the ZEC as the elections were omitted during the by-elections' proclamation by the President. The Action also provided Sign Language Interpretation during the by-election conveying information to people with hearing impairments who attended the elections.



Some of the voters at the Senatorial by-election

ZESN & WIPSU HOST WRITESHOP ON ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL: 14 MAY 2022

ZESN and WiPSU in partnership with the Parliament of Zimbabwe (POZ), hosted a one and a half day write-shop on the CSOs Draft Electoral Amendment Bill at the Golden Peacock Hotel in Mutare, on 14 and 15 May 2022. The meeting brought together a team of drafting experts from Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Justice and Legal Affairs and Members of the Gender Committee of Zimbabwe (POZ) for an in-depth discussion on the provisions of the Bill to support revisions of the text in preparation for an All-Stakeholders Conference on the same. The Parliamentarians identified provisions in the ZESN Draft Bill that needed recasting to strengthen the principles encapsulated in the Bill. A drafting team worked on the revisions to the Bill at the same workshop, after the Parliamentarians had made their input.



Pic: Standing, Workshop Facilitator Dr James Tsabora explaining the workshop objectives to participants

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Some of the participants during a one and half day write-shop on the CSOs Electoral Amendment Bill at the Golden Peacock Hotel



ZESN, SAPST AND POZ HOST AN ALL-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE IN KARIBA: 29-30 MAY 2022

ZESN in collaboration with the Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST) and the Parliament of Zimbabwe (POZ) hosted an All-Stakeholders Conference in Kariba from 29 to 30 May 2022 to discuss the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Comprehensive Draft Electoral Amendment Bill. The objective of the conference was to go through the Draft Amendment Bill, clause by clause to ensure the finalization of discussions and input from relevant stakeholders.



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Pic: Honorable
Advocate.
Jacob.F.N.
Mudenda, Speaker
of Parliament
giving the keynote
address

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On the
podium, ZESN
Chairperson
Mr Andrew
Makoni





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Chairperson of the
Portfolio
Committee on
Justice, Legal and
Parliamentary
Affairs Hon.
Misheck
Mataranyika giving
his submission on
election systems



Some of the Participants at the All-Stakeholders Conference

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Law Society of
Zimbabwe Executive
Secretary, Mr. Edward
Mapara giving his
submission; looking on
Zimbabwe Lawyers for
Human Rights
Executive Director Ms.
Roselyn Hanzi





Group Photo of Participants at the All-Stakeholders Conference

**ZESN COLLABORATES WITH ZEC TO CONVENE A DELIMITATION
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE YOUTH, IN BULAWAYO 8-
9 JUNE 2022**



Pic: Participants at the capacity building workshop

Electoral Accountability Debate June to July 2022

Under the Action, ERC conducted a series of electoral accountability debates Series targeting the holding political parties and representatives to account. The first debate addressed political party (CCC and ZANU-PF) stances on the controversial Pomona Waste Management Deal.



From left: Jacob Mafume (CCC), Larry Kwirai (Journalist), Precious Shumba (Harare Residents Trust), Tafadzwa Mugwadi (ZANU-PF) pose for a photo at the ERC facilitated accountability debate.

POLITICAL PARTY POLICY DIALOGUES ON ELECTORAL CYCLE PROCESSES: HARARE & BULAWAYO: 23 AND 30 JUNE 2022

ERC and ZESN conducted two (2) policy dialogues in Harare on 23 June 2022 and in Bulawayo on 30 June 2022 to disseminate information on the voters roll analysis. The overall objective of the policy dialogue was to bring together key stakeholders to discuss the 2022 Voters' Roll to increase their understanding of the analysis and its impact aimed at strengthening their ability to engage on the voters' roll discussions. The policy dialogues were represented by 10 Civil Society Organisations which include WILD; Heal Zimbabwe; Project Vote 263; ZICOSU; Students Action for Change; UNIZIM TRUST; ZCA, BVTA, BUPRA, Girls Table; and eight (8) political parties which are ZANU-PF; MDC A; CCC; ZAPU, Mthwakazi Republic Party; ZANC; Progress Mine and United Zimbabwe Alliance.

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Pic: Political
Party Policy
Dialogue on
Electoral Cycle
Processes
workshop in
Harare



EDUTAINMENT ROADSHOW: KOTWA, MUDZI: 27 AUGUST 2022

ZESN conducted 17 roadshows in total, to educate, encourage, conscientize and distribute voter education material to potential registrants thereby increasing the levels of active participation particularly with respect to voter registration as enshrined in Section 67 (3) (a), of the Zimbabwe Constitution. Voter education was complemented by voter education material distribution in the form of fliers and newsletters.



“

Syndicate
Dance Group
entertaining
audiences at a
Roadshow in
Kotwa

On this day, ZESN and the ZEC collaborated to provide voter education at a roadshow held at Kotwa Growth Point. ZEC provided registration services employing Biometric Voter Registration kits to streamline the registration process.



BALLOT NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

ZESN produced 30 000 copies of the newsletter and disseminated monthly throughout the last quarter of the year 2022. At least half of the articles were published in indigenous languages targeting the rural based citizens to enhance public participation in the electoral discourse and democracy.



“

Newsletter distribution in Zvishavane at an outreach meeting held at a homestead



21 000 copies of the newsletter were distributed mainly in Harare Metropolitan, Bulawayo Metropolitan, Mashonaland East and West Provinces using the bus termini mechanism. Vendors at prominent bus termini in Harare and Bulawayo were engaged to help with the distribution of the newsletter in buses that were going to mostly communities of interest and geographically marginalized areas where most of the end users of electoral information are situated.



“

Pic: MEAL Officer
Komborero Nkomo
doing outcome
harvesting &
newsletter
distribution
Kadoma bus
terminus

“

Pic:
Newsletter
distribution
at Mbare
bus
terminus in
Harare



Pic: ZESN's Benjamin Nkuga distributing the newsletter to Karereshi Villagers (Mashonaland West)

Also, in collaboration with various partners, including WCoZ, newsletters were distributed at outreach meetings and roadshows to audiences that attended and participated in the roadshows.



Newsletter distribution at a WCoZ gender meeting in Midlands Province



Newsletter distribution at a roadshow in Matobo in Matabeleland South

MEDIA ELECTIONS ACADEMY ON ELECTORAL PROCESSES: KADOMA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, 1-2 SEPTEMBER 2022

ZESN hosted a Media Elections Academy in Kadoma to inform and educate media practitioners on the delimitation of electoral boundaries in Zimbabwe. The objective of the academy was to interrogate the missing link between electoral processes and the actual conduct of elections as well as examine challenges and opportunities in election reporting and offer recommendations collectively no matter what ideology one subscribes to strengthen Zimbabwean elections.

“

ZESN Board member, Farisai Chaniwa giving opening remarks



Ian Goredema and Emilia Bundo making presentations at the academy

Group discussions presented media practitioners with a platform to air out their views on delimitation of electoral boundaries and challenges they interfaced with when carrying out their duties.



“

Zimbabwe Media
Commission
Chairperson Prof
Ruby Magosvongwe
following
proceedings during
the workshop



Media practitioners participating in group discussions



“

Group Photo of
Academy
Participants



ZESN HOSTS THE ELECTORAL REFORMS AUDIT SYMPOSIUM IN BULAWAYO: 19–20 OCTOBER 2022

ZESN hosted a two-day Electoral Reform Audit Symposium in Bulawayo from 19 to 20 October 2022. The objectives of this Conference were to take an audit of Electoral Reforms in Zimbabwe and share an understanding among stakeholders of the gaps in the electoral framework that needs to be addressed before the 2023 elections. The audit assessed the legal, administrative and political reforms adopted, their implementation and impact on future elections. The results of the ZESN tracking of recommendations of Election Observer Missions to the 2018 Harmonised Elections were also considered at this conference.

A total of 120 participants drawn from Chapter 12 Commissions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), political parties in Parliament, the Media, attended the Conference.



Pic: Participants posing for a group photo during Electoral Reform Audit Symposium



to the left: Albino Trust of Zimbabwe Executive Director Bruce Nyoni; to the right: ZPP Director Jestina Mukoko, ERC Programmes Manager Solomon Bobosibunu & ZMC Acting Secretary Academy Chinamhora Panelists during plenary session



“

Pic: National Peace and
Reconciliation
Commission Chair
Retired Justice Selo Nare
giving his submissions
during plenary
discussion

“

Pic: Participants
of the Electoral
Reforms
Symposium
following
proceedings



NATIONAL DELIMITATION CONFERENCE: BULAWAYO HOLIDAY INN: 21 OCTOBER 2022

ZESN held a National Delimitation Conference on 21 October 2022 in Bulawayo. A total of 114 diverse stakeholders including members of the Chapter 12 Constitutional Commissions, member organizations of the ZESN network, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), political parties in Parliament and media representatives attended the Conference. The conference's chief objective was to enhance stakeholder understanding of the Delimitation of electoral boundaries process ahead of the Harmonized Elections in 2023.



PIC: Participants following proceedings at the Delimitation Conference



Pic: Demarcation of Boundaries Regional Expert Fazel Hoosen explaining the Delimitation Process



The conference deliberated the historical background of the process, its significance to electoral processes, legal framework, international best practices of Delimitation and an assessment of the process so far in Zimbabwe and proffered a way forward.



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ZESN
Programmes
Director
presenting on
the Historical
Background of
Delimitation

ERC HOSTS NATIONAL DELIMITATION CONFERENCE: BULAWAYO: 3 NOVEMBER 2022

The Action through ERC conducted a delimitation conference to discuss the ZEC Delimitation Report. The objectives of the meeting were; to strengthen political parties, civil society including women, youth and PWDs rights organisations and key electoral stakeholders' ability to effectively engage on the delimitation exercise and to increase transparency, accountability and confidence in key electoral processes. The meeting contributed to strengthened CSO's political parties and PWDs', women and youth organisations ability to effectively engage in the delimitation process.

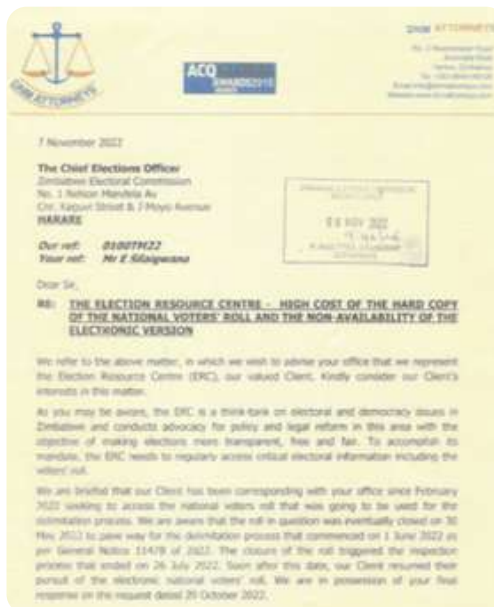
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Pic: ZESN
Advocacy for
Electoral
Reform Officer
Heather Koga
making a
presentation
at the
conference



ERC UNDERTAKES STRATEGIC PUBLIC INTEREST ELECTORAL LITIGATION ON ACCESS TO VOTERS ROLL

ERC sought to undertake strategic public interest electoral litigation around access to the voters' roll to level the playing field and enforce electoral accountability and transparency. The ZEC had on numerous occasions refused to avail the voters roll to stakeholders upon request which is in violation of section 21 (3) of the Electoral Act.



Pic: Letter to ZEC penned by ERC



Pic: ZEC response to ERC

ANNUAL CRITICAL REFLECTION WORKSHOP AT ZESN OFFICES: 17 NOVEMBER 2022

An annual critical reflection workshop was hosted by ZESN at its offices aimed at reassessing if the objectives being pursued for the EU grant were still relevant and achievable on 17 November 2022. The workshop also sought to take stock of what was working and what was not and recommend possible solutions on how to improve efficiency.

“

ZESN MEAL Officer
Komborero
Nkomo outlining
workshop
objectives



LAUNCH OF THE CSOs ELECTION STRATEGY: HARARE: 17 NOVEMBER 2022

As the country geared up for the 2023 Harmonised Elections, ZESN launched the Zimbabwe CSOs Election Strategy for 2022-2024 on Thursday 17 November 2022 at their offices. The chief objective of the Election Strategy was to bring about a coordinated approach in terms of election related activities to enhance transparency and accountability in the electoral process in Zimbabwe around the Electoral Cycle.

Among the 49 people who attended the launch which was also live-streamed by Sly Media TV and cross posted to the ZESN Facebook Page, were representatives from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Carter Center, Zimbabwe Media Commission, ZESN Board Members, Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust, members of the five (5) clusters that contributed to the crafting of the Strategy and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



Cluster members present at the launch

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The ERC
Programmes
Manager Solomon
Bobosibunu
presided over the
launch proceedings
as the Facilitator.



ERC Programmes Manager Solomon
Bobosibunu



“

Representatives of cluster
groups explaining their sections
contained in the Strategy

In his closing remarks, ZESN Board Member Paul Muchena said the presence of representatives from the Zimbabwe Media Commission at the launch is a sure sign of the engagements in enriching the electoral reforms discourse in Zimbabwe and hope the CSOs Election Strategy will help the media in understanding the electoral processes. He implored people to foster peace ahead of the 2023 elections to enhance electoral credibility and integrity.

“

ZESN Board
Member, Paul
Muchena giving
closing remarks



EDUTAINING WITH DANCE AT A ROADSHOW: WEDZA: 10 DECEMBER 2022



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Pic: Harare Task
Force Chair
Charles Thole on
the dance floor
with roadshow
attendees in
Wedza



Pic: Wasu and the Syndicate group on stage during the roadshow in Wedza



“

ZEC Official
checking Identity
Document whilst
registering voters
at the Wedza
roadshow

“

Murehwa
Center
roadshow





Whitehouse roadshow

ERC HOSTS BREAKFAST MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY DELIMITATION REPORT: HARARE

ERC held a breakfast meeting at Jameson Hotel in Harare to discuss the ZEC Preliminary Delimitation Report that was presented to His Excellency President E.D Mnangagwa on the 26 December 2022 and the Parliament of Zimbabwe. The objectives of the meeting were; to strengthen political parties, civil society including women, youth and PWDs rights organisations and key electoral stakeholders' ability to effectively engage on the delimitation exercise and to increase transparency, accountability and confidence in key electoral processes.



Pic: Some of the participants at the ERC breakfast meeting



Pic: Some of the participants at the breakfast meeting

WIPSU CREATES SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

In 2022, WIPSU conducted and established a women's study group in Chegutu, Rusape and Makoni Districts in Manicaland Province. The areas were chosen because they did not have women councillors as all women candidates lost in the 2018 elections. 35 women who held leadership positions in ZANU-PF Women's League were engaged. The meeting set up a WhatsApp group that was used for sharing general and electoral related information. In 2023, the Action through WIPSU conducted two (2) women in politics study circles in Harare for CCC party to nurture participation of women in politics. These meetings were attended by CCC National Assembly candidates for Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Harare Provinces respectively.

ROADSHOWS FOR BVR BLITZ 2023

ZESN conducted civic and voter education roadshows in various locations in Zimbabwe from March to May 2023 with the objective of sensitizing people to participate in electoral processes and register to vote. These roadshows took place as part of the national Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) blitz which commenced on 12 March and ended on 26 March 2023.

ZESN conducted civic and voter education roadshows in Zengeza 2, Chitungwiza, and Epworth from 8 and 19 March 2023, reaching 1300 people. On 22 March 2023, ZESN conducted a BVR roadshow at Pumula North Shopping Centre. Roadshows were also held in Bulilima Constituency, Dzivarasekwa 3 Shopping Centre, Inyathi Mahamba Shopping Centre (28 April), Insuza Shopping Centre (29 April), Matshangane Shopping Centre (5 May) and Galuti Shopping Centre (6 May). In Marondera, ZESN conducted a voter registration mobilization roadshow at Dombotombo Shopping Centre on 13 May, where 55 people were registered and numerous transfers facilitated. ZESN distributed IEC materials, such as flyers, hats, caps, and branded ladies' wrappers, at these roadshows,



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To the left the Pumula North roadshow to the right the Zengeza 2 roadshow



Residents at White City enjoying entertainment during the ZESN BVR roadshow



Pic: Audiences at Dzivarasekwa roadshow

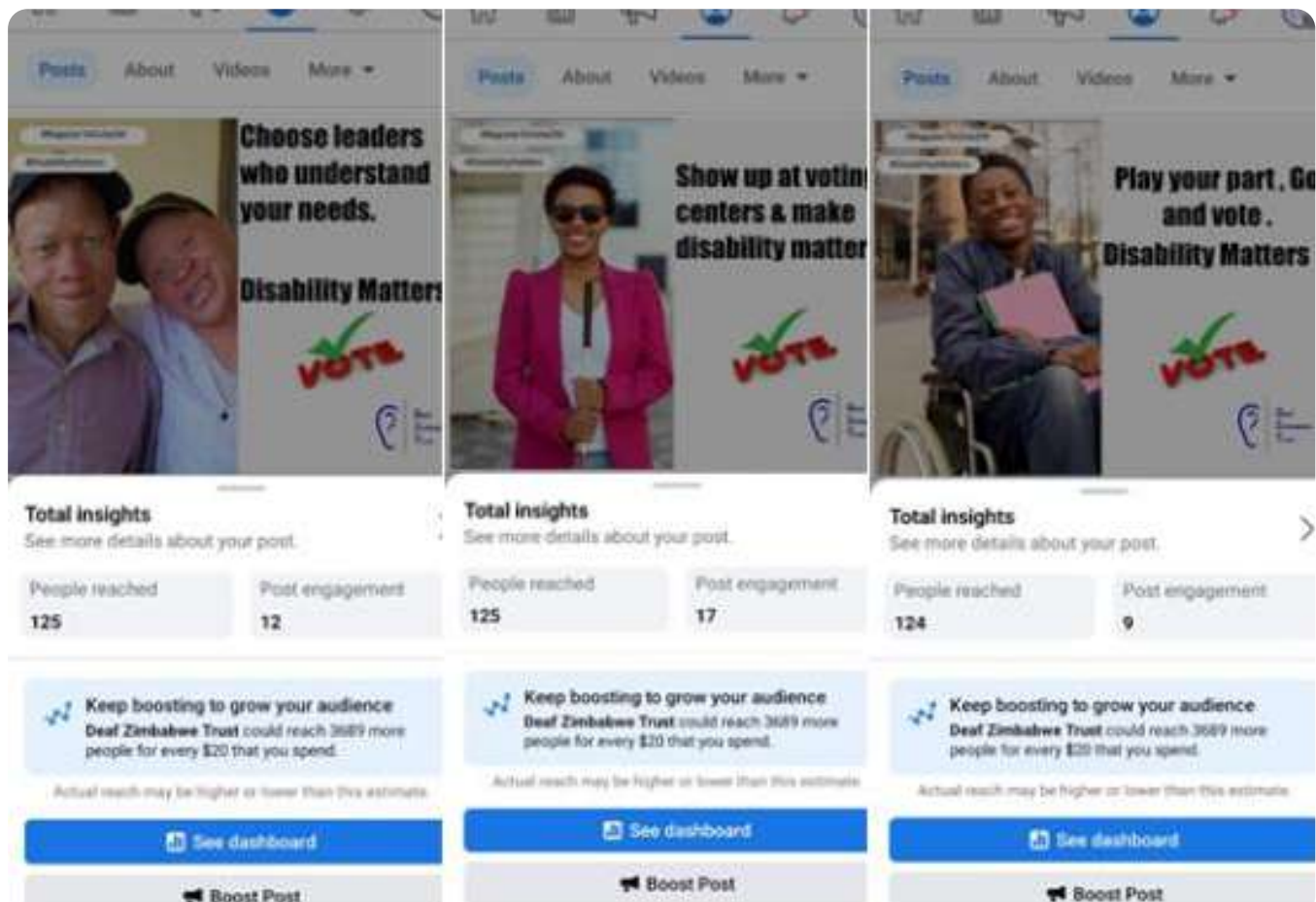


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Pic: Audiences
at Dzivarasekwa
roadshow

DZT RADIO AND SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AHEAD OF 2023 ELECTIONS

DZT participated in various radio discussions on CapiTalk and Star FM. The programmes provided a platform for DZT to discuss the elections in the context of participation by persons with disabilities. DZT also made use of social media to inform and educate persons with disabilities on the by-elections to enable them to participate in the process. On average, each electronic flier reached 124 people with an average of 17 post engagements



ERC LAUNCHES 2023 CONSTITUENCY & COUNCIL ELECTION DEBATES

ERC launched the 2023 Constituency and Council Election Debates ahead of the 23 August 2023 Harmonised Elections for Mount Pleasant and Norton Constituencies aimed at strengthening the quality of representation and citizen participation in elections. The debates had candidates from the two (2) main political parties ZANU-PF and CCC as well as an independent participant



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Pic: Facebook flyer and comments of the livestream of the debate

ELECTORAL REFORM ADVOCACY MEETINGS WITH KEY ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS

ZESN was invited to present its assessment of the pre-electoral environment to the SADC Electoral Advisory Council's (SEAC) on 14 April 2023 at the Rainbow towers in Harare. The SEAC had visited Zimbabwe on its pre-election goodwill mission with key electoral stakeholders.



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Pic: Members of the ZESN team pose with the SEAC Head of Mission after the meeting

On 25 May 2023, SADC Electoral Commissions Forum paid ZESN a visit to be briefed about the various electoral issues and updates before the Harmonised Elections.



Pic: The ECF-SADC Members pose with ZESN Executive Director and some members of the Secretariat at the ZESN offices

ZIMRIGHTS CONDUCTS VIRTUAL TRAINING ON VOTER MOBILISERS: APRIL 2023

ZimRights conducted three (3) virtual trainings for 69 (39 males and 30 females) voter mobilisers to mobilise people to register to vote and encourage people to inspect their names in the Voters' Roll on 24 and 27 May 2023. One meeting targeted participants in Masvingo Province and the other two (2) meetings targeted participants from the nine (9) Provinces of Zimbabwe. Citizens were also encouraged to use the mobile phone code *265# for Netone and Econet subscribers to inspect their details using their mobile phones. ZimRights also took advantage of the trainings to popularise the Peoples' Human Rights Manifesto (PHRM).



Pic: Social media flyers on Voters Roll inspection & political rights

2023 IEC MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION

ZESN distributed posters, calendars and fliers as part of efforts to reach end users of electoral information in the country's ten (10) Provinces. Below are some pictures that were taken in Zvishavane in Midlands Province, Mufakose - Harare Metropolitan Province and Gwanda - Matabeleland South Province.





“

Material
distribution in
Gweru

ELECTION SCENARIOS MAPPING WORKSHOP: MANNA RESORT, HARARE: 9 JUNE 2023

ZESN hosted an Election Scenarios Mapping workshop on 9 June 2023 at the Manna Resort in Harare. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the possible scenarios for the 2023 Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe, and their implications for the civil society in Zimbabwe. In attendance were 37 participants drawn from funding partners, members of the ZESN Board, the Academia and Civil Society Organisations.

“

ZI Director Isaac Maphosa providing insights on the possible scenarios ahead of the 2023 Harmonised Elections



The workshop concurred that there is a need for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to be united and coordinated regardless of their organisation's primary objectives as they work together towards the promotion of free, fair and credible elections

LAUNCH OF THE VOTE IN PEACE CAMPAIGNS: HOPLEY, HARARE: 1 JULY 2023

In line with provisions in Section 155 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe on ensuring violent free and peaceful elections, ZESN launched the Vote in Peace campaign at Anthony Shopping Centre Hopley in Harare on 1 July 2023. The objective of the roadshow was to raise awareness to over 3 000 people in attendance on the importance of fostering peace before, during and after elections as well as to mobilize citizens to go and vote in peace in the Harmonised Elections penciled for 23 August 2023. Popular Dancehall artist Killer-T performed during the campaign launch along with Wasu and the Millenium Syndicate; Dancehall Keddah; and MC Kay Tee. All the artists chanted messages of peace during their performances.



“

On stage:
Dancehall artist
Killer-T performing
in front of part of
the crowd at the
Hopley Roadshow

“

Pic: Part of the audience at the Hopely Roadshow



Acting Electoral Education and Capacity Building Officer Dudzirai Chiwuta during an interview with Star FM alongside the roadshow

Quiz shows were also conducted at various intervals, where audiences who gave correct answers were given ZESN branded wrappers and caps inscribed #YourVoteIsYourRight and Vote in Peace.

Star FM radio broadcasted the event live and offered a news and current affairs crossover at intervals. ZESN also distributed newsletters and flyers that encouraged peace in elections.

Furthermore, ZESN launched the Vote in Peace campaign roadshows at Nkayi Business Centre on 14 July 2023; Gokwe Centre and Magunge Growth Point on 15 July 2023. The roadshows were held in rural areas in line with the ZESN Communication Strategy, centered on serving geographically marginalized communities and communities of interest.

“

Pic: Lady P performing at the Nkayi Roadshow on 14 July 2023



The objective of the roadshows was to ensure continuity in educating and informing the over 5000 people combined in attendance on the importance of fostering peace before, during and after elections as well as to mobilize citizens to go and vote in peace in the Harmonised Elections scheduled for 23 August 2023.



Social media flyer advertising the Gokwe roadshow

Nkayi, Gokwe and Magunje community residents were educated on what electoral violence is, how it manifests, period in which electoral violence occurs, how it affects electoral processes and what must be done to reduce instances of electoral violence.



Pic: Legion entertaining fans at VIP launch in Gokwe on 15 July 2023



Pic: Mark Ngwazi edutaining at the Vote in Peace Roadshow in Magunje on 15 July

Quiz shows to ascertain the citizens' knowledge on electoral processes were conducted at various intervals during the roadshows, where audiences who gave correct answers were given ZESN branded wrappers and caps inscribed #YourVoteIsYourRight and Vote in Peace.

98.4FM and Platinum FM Radios broadcasted the events live and offered a news and current affairs crossover at intervals. ZESN also distributed newsletters and flyers that encouraged peace in elections.



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Pic: ZESN Officers being interviewed during Platinum FM crossover at the Magunje roadshow

CRITICAL REFLECTION MEETING: ZESN OFFICES AUGUST 2023



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Pic: Dr John Marondo outlining the objectives of the critical reflection exercise

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Pic: Group work during the critical reflection workshop





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Pic: Group work during the critical reflection workshop

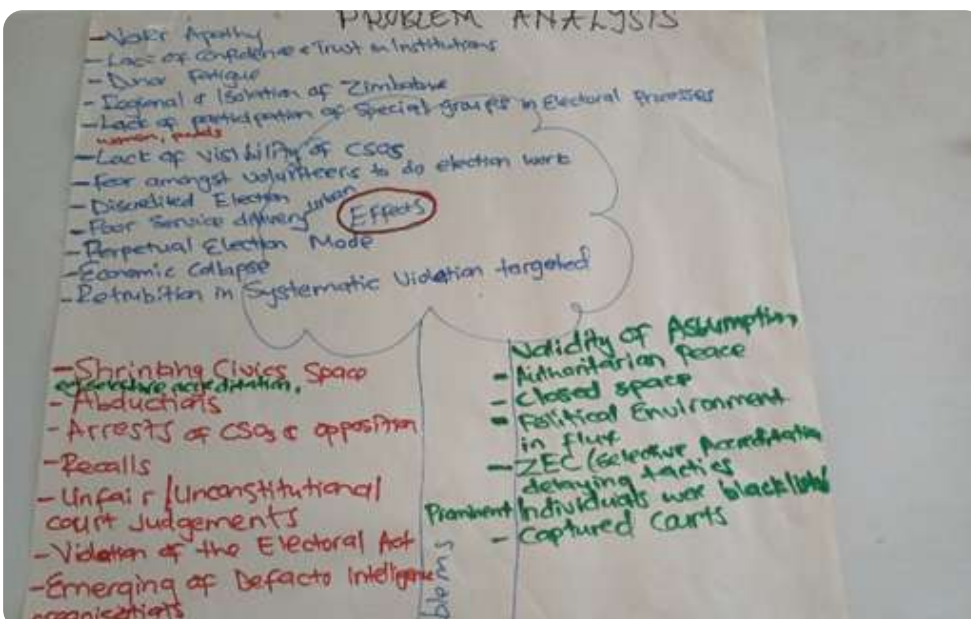
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Pic: Group work during the critical reflection workshop



“

A problem analysis diagram created by one of the breakaway groups during the workshop



DZT ENGAGES ZEC ON SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

DZT raised awareness for PWDs to participate in by-elections following the recall of CCC members of Parliament after the 2023 Harmonised Elections. Through the action, DZT provided Sign Language interpretation for videos produced by ZEC to promote access to information for persons who are Deaf. DZT provided Sign Language Interpretation for videos produced by ZEC to raise awareness on the by elections in various wards and constituencies. The video highlighted the areas where the by-elections would be held as well as the requirements for one to participate in the election. The videos were shared on ZEC's WhatsApp groups as well as WhatsApp groups for PWDs in the affected Wards and Constituencies.



Pic of Participants during delimitation stakeholder engagement meeting -
ZEC Director for Voter Education Facilitating

ANNUAL REFLECTION MEETING: CHENGETA LODGE: MAY 2024

ZESN held a critical reflection meeting to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of the Action's activities, both successes and challenges faced as well as areas of improvement. The meeting, which was held from 14 to 15 May 2024, served as a platform for shared understanding of the Project's goals and objectives. By collectively reflecting on the past year, the lead and sub-grantees identified lessons learned and came up with best practices that can be replicated, and it helped foster greater cohesion amongst participants.



Pic: ZESN
Programmes
Director Ellen
Dingani giving
welcoming
remarks



Programme Officers drawn from ERC, DZT, WALPE, WCoZ, WILD, ZimRights and ZESN attended the meeting.



Pic: Participants at the
Reflection Meeting

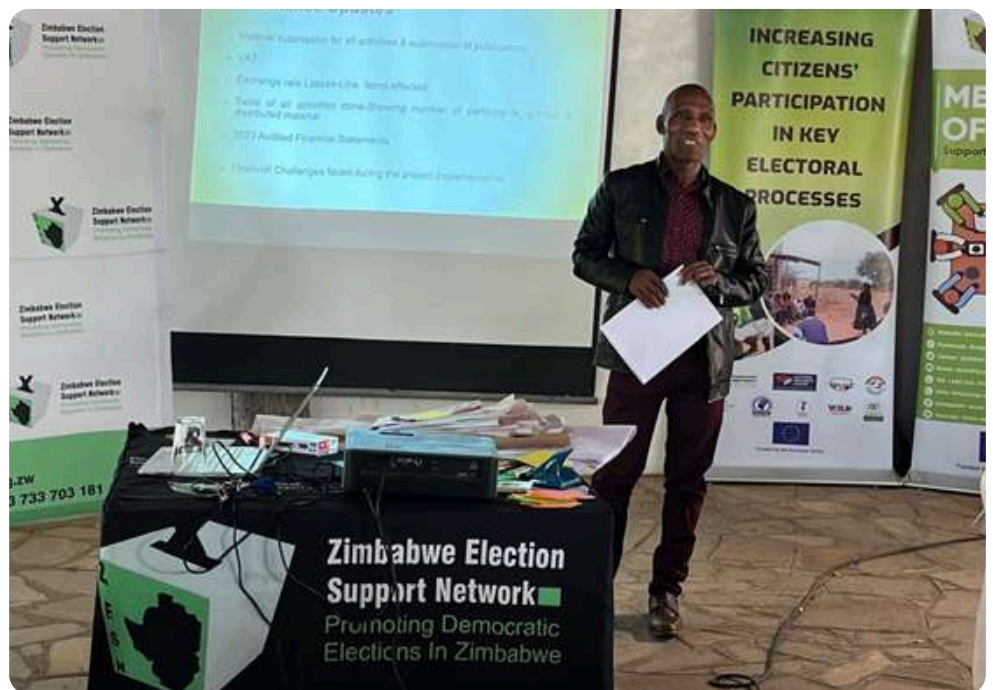


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Pic: ZESN MEAL
Officer
Komborero
Nkomo
explaining the
Project Log
frame

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Pic: Grants
Officer Felix
Nyabezi giving
an update on
the finance &
expenditure
report



All Project Partners presented the successes they scored as well as challenges they faced while implementing the Project and how they navigated the challenges.



DZT Programmes Manager
Paidamoyo Chimhini



ERC Legal and Advocacy Officer
Takunda Tsunga



WALPE Representative



WILD Representative



Pic: WCOZ Representatives



Pic: ZimRights Representative

TOWARDS THE 2023 HARMONISED ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE BOOK LAUNCH: HOLIDAY INN, HARARE: 18 AUGUST 2023

On 18 August 2023, ZESN in collaboration with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) hosted a reception at a local Hotel in Harare to launch the book “Towards the 2023 Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe.” About 40 participants graced the event, and these included Development Partners, senior and junior lecturers from the University of Zimbabwe, representatives of Chapter 12 Institutions, representatives of Election Observation Missions, Civil Society Organisations and the Media.



“

Pic: ZESN Executive Director Rindai Chipfunde Vava, UZ Reps; Dr Hardlife Zvoushe & Dr Solomon Muqayi



Pic: Some of the guests who graced the UZ-ZESN Book Launch

EU AMBASSADORS MEET MANICALAND TASKFORCE AND ZESN SECRETARIAT IN MUTARE

EU Ambassador along with those for Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, France and Greece met with the ZESN MEAL unit and Manicaland taskforce to get insights on civic voter education efforts. They were also interested in the impact of voter education on the electorate, voter registration mobilization and the challenges faced by citizens in participating in electoral processes.



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Pic: ZESN
Secretariat and
Manicaland Task
force meeting
with EU
Ambassadors in
Mutare

MEAL AND GRANTS OFFICE CONDUCT BACKSTOPPING FIELD VISITS 7 – 21 NOVEMBER 2023

The Action's MEAL Unit and Grants Office carried out backstopping field visits to all the eight (8) Action's partners in Harare and Bulawayo during the second year of the project. The MEAL Department had 7 physical and one virtual backstopping activity with the partners from the 7th of November to 21 November 2023. The MEAL Department and the Grant officer visited the partners to inquire about how the project was going. The objective of the backstopping visit was to assess Action's partners' compliance to the EU's MEAL and financial requirements. The team conducted spot checks/verifications by randomly requesting both MEAL and financial documents and verified the compliance in terms of completeness, quality, availability, etc. of the project documents. All the meetings went on well and the partners were notified about the upcoming Critical review event on 30 November 2023 at the ZESN Office.



Pic: ZESN technical backstopping with one of the Bulawayo partners (WILD)

POST-ELECTION CONFERENCE: HOLIDAY INN, BULAWAYO: 28-29 FEBRUARY 2024

ZESN organized a two (2) day Post-Election Review Conference in Bulawayo on February 28-29, 2024. The conference aimed to assess the 2023 elections, concentrating on legislative and administrative frameworks, the political environment, and the role of CSOs in Zimbabwe, among other pertinent issues. Specific objectives included facilitating a constructive evaluation and well-informed review of the elections, reflecting on successes, failures, and lessons learned. The conference sought to enhance stakeholders' understanding of gaps in the electoral framework that require addressing before the 2028 elections.

130 participants drawn from Chapter 12 Commissions, Political Parties, Partners, CSOs, CBOs, FBOs representing various interests including youth, women and PWDs, the Media, Residents Associations, members of the Academia and ZESN members attended the Conference.



Pic: Some of the Participants at the Conference



Pic: From left to the right: Paul Muchena, Kurai Makumbe, Ian Goredema, Dr Barbara Bhebhe & Dr Tendaiwo Mareger





“

From left to the right: Valerie Zviuya, Fortune Chasi, Dr. James Tsabora & Jeremiah Bhamu



Some of the Participants following proceedings at the post-election conference

“

Pic: Political Parties Reps: Dr Gorden Moyo, Elisabeth Valerio, Linda Masarira, Charles Madhiwa and Academic Dr Phillani Zamchiya





“

From left to right:
Mrs Farisai Chaniwa,
Rev. Useni Sibanda,
Professor Ruby
Magosvongwe &
Nigel Nyamutumbu

On the way forward, participants agreed that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and all other Chapter 12 Institutions be supported to exercise their constitutional mandate and retain their independence for them to effectively deliver their respective mandates. There was also consensus on intra party democracy as a critical steppingstone towards national democracy inspired, inter alia, by political party registration, regulation, and financing; in which case ZESN offered to support conversations, amongst key electoral stakeholders on the possibility of registration, regulation and financing political parties.

WALPE CONVENES POST ELECTION ACCOUNTABILITY INDABA IN MASVINGO

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Pic:
Participants of
the
accountability
indaba



YOUTH ELECTORAL REFORM STOCKTAKE MEETING: HARARE: 14 NOVEMBER 2022

On 14 November 2022 the Action supported 35 young people in a post-election dialogue. These were composed of 23 females and 12 males. The engaged participants reflected much on youth diaspora, where they highlighted that the mass movement of young people to other countries is due to limited youth opportunities in the country and the deteriorating governance system that is characterised with pseudo youth inclusion. They indicated that due to the prevailing context, there is a need for strengthened youth advocacy to achieve meaningful youth inclusion in electoral processes.



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Pic: Participants of the youth electoral reform stock take meeting

PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL REFORM CLUSTER MEETINGS ON THE COMPENDIUM: 8 – 16 MAY 2024

ZESN held Electoral Reform Cluster meetings in Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo and Mutare between 8 and 16 May 2024. The objectives of these meetings were to facilitate in-depth discussions on the key highlights of the Compendium of Election Observers’ Recommendations and identify electoral reform priorities for the current electoral cycle. The agreed priorities will be incorporated into the Petition on Electoral Reforms.

“

ESN Executive Director, Mrs. Rindai Chipfunde-Vava presenting at the Electoral Reform Cluster Meeting on the Compendium, Harare





Pic: Masvingo -
Electoral Reform
Cluster Meeting
Group Photo

In Bulawayo and Masvingo, participants also supported pushing for the establishment of an all-inclusive Electoral Reform Taskforce (ERT) as outlined in the 2023 Compendium. In Mutare, one of the top priorities that the meeting agreed on was the need to amend the legislation on recalls to ensure that it becomes difficult to recall elected representative and avoid the manipulation of the provision by political parties.



Pic: Electoral
Reform Cluster
Meeting Group
Photo -
Bulawayo



Pic: Electoral
Reform Cluster
Meeting Group
Photo – Mutare

At each of the meetings, two (2) participants were chosen to join the electoral reforms working group, tasked with leading the discussions and next processes on the Electoral Reform discourse going forward. The cluster workshops were a remarkable success and set the stage for more engagement on electoral reforms going forward.

BALLOT NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION 2024

ZESN produced 336 500 copies of the ballot newspaper from 2021 to 2024, and the EU supported the production of 87 000. In partnership with youths seconded by YETT, ZACRO as well as Taskforce members distributed 87 000 copies of the ballot newsletter produced under the Action at Mbare Bus Terminus in Harare Metropolitan Province to travelers going to various parts of rural Zimbabwe. Copies of the newsletter were also distributed at various meetings and exhibitions in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province, Midlands, Mashonaland East and West, Matabeleland North and South and Manicaland Provinces.



Pic: Ballot
Newsletter
Volunteers from
YETT



Pic: One of the Youths
asking for permission
from the driver to
distribute the
newsletter in the bus



CHALLENGES FACED

During the implementation of the Action, in particular the application or appending of the EU logo as agreed upon in the Communication and Visibility Plan, visibility was affected by political developments in the country.



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Pic: Tweet from social media influencer commenting on caps produced under the Action

ZESN STORIES OF CHANGE



"Violence against women in elections has severely hamstrung the participation of women in elections. ZESN empowered me with vital knowledge, strengthened my confidence, and capacity to articulate and defend women's interests. It fostered skills to aggregate voices, confront challenges, and advocate for safe, inclusive participation, inspiring resilience and unwavering commitment to gender justice in democracy", Linda Masarira President of Labour Economists and African Democrats (LEAD).

"As a young person with disability, my confidence to exercise my rights and to train the disability community on electoral processes has been enhanced in an environment with so many structural impediments, thanks to ZESN's work which has had a huge impact on me and other young people", Clever Mukazi Tariro Disabled Persons Support Group (TDPSG) Hopley.



CONCLUSION

The objectives of the EU Support to the Electoral Cycle Action were accomplished through a variety of capacity-building activities, including workshops, training sessions, and mentoring programmes. These activities equipped stakeholders with the expertise and competencies needed to participate effectively in key electoral processes.

Training programmes conducted by ZESN, ERC and ZimRights under the Action enabled CSOs to better understand their rights and responsibilities as civil society organizations. They learned how to effectively monitor electoral processes and advocate for transparency and accountability.

The Action's dedication to youth engagement in the electoral process motivated young people. Through the training programs offered by YETT and ZESN, they gained the knowledge and confidence to encourage their peers to participate in the democratic process.

Through various initiatives undertaken by WALPE, WCoZ, WILD and WIPSU, the Action provided women with the platform to highlight the unique challenges they face in electoral processes, such as limited access to information, gender-based violence, and unequal representation in decision-making positions. It also facilitated women's advocacy for equal participation and representation in the electoral process.

The Action understood that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) have historically faced barriers to participation in electoral processes. The Action's focus on inclusivity was crucial. ZESN and DZT worked with the PWDs sector to ensure that polling stations were accessible and that PWDs were able to make their voices heard in the electoral process.



**Zimbabwe Election
Support Network**
Promoting Democratic
Elections in Zimbabwe



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