



SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

# ANNUAL REPORT



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22

## **ABOUT SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME**

### **VISION GOAL**

A leading organization in enhancing an enabling environment for children and youth to fulfill their rights and contribute positively to their communities.

### **MISSION**

Protection and promotion of rights of children and youths for them to realize their full potential with the participation of families and communities.

### **GOAL**

A leading organization in enhancing an enabling environment for children and youth to fulfill their rights and contribute positively to their communities. To improve the plight of 8 500 vulnerable children, 1 500 youths and 7 500 households against all forms of abuse and exploitation and health related problems by providing an enabling environment to achieve their full potential and, become productive and responsible community members.

**The year 2022** marked the final year into the Organization's five-year Strategic Plan III which drove toward the above goal. The final year, the following projects contributed to Simukai's programming;

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## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

I am delighted to present to you the Simukai Child Protection Programme's Annual Report for the year 2022. The year has been a remarkable year for all of us at Simukai as we witnessed major programme changes that redefined Simukai. We remain grateful that Simukai emerged more resilient and reinvigorated, and our confidence in our capabilities is reflected in the trust that our partners have placed in us. I am grateful to our clients, partners, team members, and other stakeholders for their relentless collaboration to make this happen. In 2022, we were able to steer through the transition phase when one of Simukai's long-time partner pulled out to establish an independent organization. Colleagues at Simukai demonstrated remarkable resilience and resourcefulness as they embraced this change.

Despite all these challenges and setbacks, I am proud of the progress we have made so far in providing sustainable solutions for our communities around economic strengthening, healthcare, education, and community development. Simukai has remained a household brand in child protection with the impact of its interventions being felt across communities in Manicaland province. Simukai has maintained its full presence in Mutare, Chipinge, Makoni, Chimanimani and Nyanga districts dealing with society-wide challenges of child abuse, child marriages, drug and substance abuse, poverty and sexual reproductive health concerns among young people. However, we still have a long road ahead to ensure a better and brighter future for our society.

The year 2022 marked the end of Simukai's five-year Strategic Plan (2018 – 2022) and I am proud that from the findings of the Simukai End of Strategy Evaluation, the organization has surpassed most of the set targets. Simukai performed so well and thanks to our Management and the entire staff compliment for putting up such an excellent performance. These impressive results means that our foundation for future growth is set, and we have cleared the runway of obstacles to pursuing our next strategy. With humility, we believe that the record and results of Simukai over the last five years gives us the right to aspire to a high standard of operation. Our future strategic direction should afford us even more opportunities.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to convey my sincere regards and deep gratitude to the valued stakeholders for continued support and trust. You always have been the motivational force and have facilitated us to move ahead and achieve the excellent results despite the numerous challenges. I hereby place on record my sincere thanks to the Board of Trustees for their advice and support, all the employees of Simukai for their dedicated efforts and unstinted support. I extend my gratitude to the various Regulatory authorities, Simukai's valued programme participants, suppliers, vendors and investors for their consistent co-operation and trust. Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members for their steadfast support to Simukai throughout the year.

My Best Wishes to all of you!

**Willard Mutsira**

**Board Chairperson**

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

With great pleasure, I present the Simukai Child Protection Programme 2022 Annual Report. Your unwavering support resulted in yet another benchmark year for Simukai and our success can only be attributed to our stakeholders' commitment to the work of Simukai. Simukai has continued work around its four strategic pillars namely: Social Protection; Access to Education; Access to Health and Youth economic empowerment. Simukai continues to run Places of Safety in the three districts of Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni that provide temporary emergency shelter to survivors of the different forms of child abuse and gender-based violence. Through these safe and child-friendly shelters, Simukai provided post abuse care and support services to survivors. At these Centres, children and young people are linked to various support services such as clinical, legal and psychosocial support services.

On the education front, Simukai has implemented interventions that promote access to inclusive and quality education especially targeting marginalized children, including children with disabilities. In view of the high rate of unemployment among youth, Simukai has worked with communities facilitating the social mobilization of the most income insecure youth, to take leading roles in ensuring they earn enough for their families. Simukai worked with the youth on a market driven approach to technical and entrepreneurial skills training for youth through Centre-based Skills Training Programmes and the integrated skills outreach programme. Simukai also advanced access to sexual reproductive health rights for girls and young women. The aim being to ensure that girls and young women who are exposed to the risk of teen pregnancy, child marriage and gender-based violence are strengthened and linked to networks that fulfill their sexual and reproductive health rights.

On the cross-cutting interventions, Simukai promoted community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to ensure that communities become resilient to the effects of drought and climate change related disasters. Communities are facilitated to lead their own Hazard and Vulnerability Capacity Assessments and to make context specific livelihood choices. Simukai has developed initiatives in communities to advocate against child abuse, child marriages, child unsafe migration and drug and substance abuse. Such approaches include knowledge enhancement platforms on issues affecting children and strengthening in-school and out-of school child-led clubs for boys and girls for the promotion of their rights.

Throughout this report, you will find stories about children and young people whose lives transformed as a result of Simukai interventions that we hope will convey the need for your continued support and the impact your contribution has had on their lives.

As we look back at our accomplishments of 2022, we realize we could not have done it without you. I would like to thank all of Simukai's employees and partners for their hard work and contributions throughout 2022. My special appreciation also goes to our Board of Trustees and Management Board for their consistent support and we look forward to a successful 2023.

Happy reading!

**Evans Magumise**

**Director**



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS NOTED

### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Simukai through the Zoe Empowers Program empowered children to take control of their own journey out of poverty by availing start-up capital and agricultural support to OVC for establishment of viable Income Generating Projects. Target Districts were Mutare (Nhamburiko, Mushunje, Chipendekwe, Clare, Gandidzanwa, Himalaya, Takunda, Dora, Dzobo and Gutaurare) and Mutasa (Mandeya, Manica Bridge, Jombe, Chidazembe, Pafiwa, Honde Valley) with a total reach of 73 empowerment groups encompassing 1971 households. 450 sustainable and viable projects were established in fields of catering, building, carpentry, dress making, crafting, farming, detergent making and hair cutting resulting in livelihood enhancement. Agricultural support provided resulted in food security and improved consumption amongst project participants whilst 80% of the households' asset base improved due to livestock acquisition from selling agricultural surplus.

Zoe trained 450 households on child rights and child abuse. Increased awareness on child rights was noted amongst project beneficiaries, Mentors and community

members who reported thirty-two (32) cases of child abuse varying from sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse. The right to identity was promoted through assisting 32 children to acquire birth certificates (17) and national identity cards (15). The right to quality education was facilitated by providing a once-off school fees payment, scholastic materials and uniforms to 40



Cotton bussiness

primary and 60 secondary school learners. Improved educational performance was noted amongst children who received educational support and through their IGPs, the households managed to cater for school expenses that followed.

### REDUCED ACCEPTANCE AND OCCURRENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGES AND TEEN PREGNANCIES

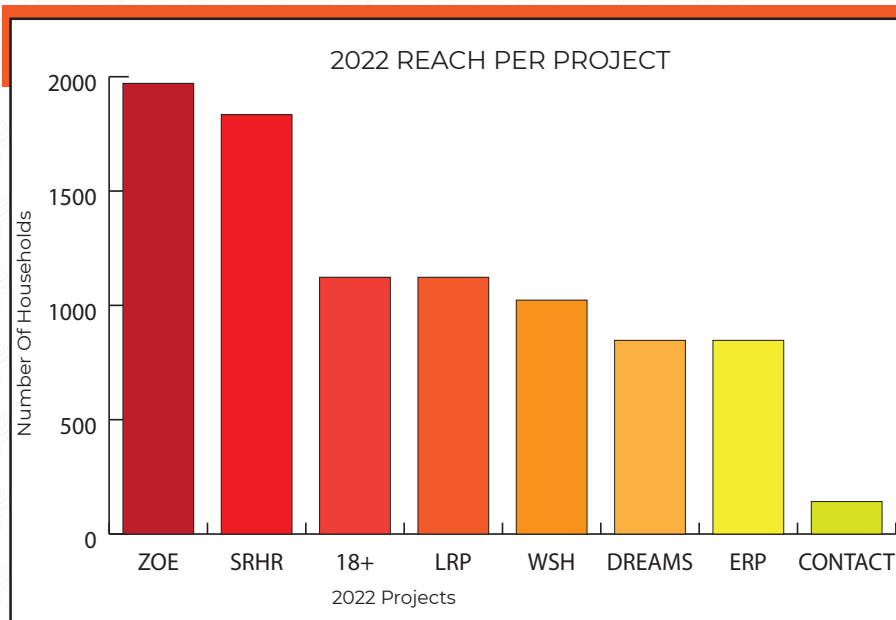
Through the engagement of traditional leadership and young people, Simukai Child Protection in partnership with Plan

International Zimbabwe implemented 18+ 'Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages focusing on Mutare and Mutasa Districts of Manicaland. Since the project was in its final year notable successes were recorded which included; over 80 child marriage cases being reported through youth club members.

Harmful cultural and social practices fueling child marriages were confronted through traditional leadership who as custodians of culture played a central role in mobilising communities, raising awareness and

## INCREASED AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN MANICALAND

Simukai supported by Plan International Zimbabwe, implemented the Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Girls and Young Women in Manicaland Project in Mutare and Chipinge Districts. A total of 1834 participants were reached physically through dialogues whilst over 40000 were reached through radio and



road shows whilst 40 were reached through case management in response to obstetric emergencies and Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Through such hybridized advocacy efforts, harmful social norms were challenged. Thus, leading to reduced cases of child marriages that were key in perpetuating Gender

assisting child protection structures in case response. Young people between the ages of 10-18 years participated in 10 youth clubs established in the 10 wards. The youth clubs acted as support systems for young people to deliberate on issues fueling child marriages and teen pregnancies, learn the harmful consequences, gain knowledge on reporting mechanisms, and raise awareness to their peers. Sustainability was driven through collaborative efforts by traditional leaders, young people and existing child protection structures.

Based Violence (GBV). Barriers to access SRH services at individual, household, community and societal level and a decrease in unintended pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and improved menstrual health and hygiene. The active involvement and participation of influential traditional leaders and Government stakeholders in the project contributed immensely to the reduction of harmful practices and those perpetuating GBV in girls and young women. Demand for SRH services was generated without

judgment in communities were accessing SRH services by women was regarded as taboo.

## PROVISION OF POST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES

Simukai as part of the FACT consortium implemented the final year of the Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-Free Mentored Safe (DREAMS) project which continued to address issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Through the project, Simukai facilitated the provision of temporary and emergency shelter to 847 (663 Adolescent Girls and 184 Young Women) in Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni Districts. Layering of services reinforced case management systems within the project. A total of 555 accessed safe clinical services whilst in the Place of Safety. Survivors of GBV received rehabilitative services that include basic literacy, psychosocial support activities, counseling and facilitated access to clinical

services through the referral system. Handing over cases of local community leadership (Traditional Leaders, Child Care Workers, Village Health Workers) for continuous monitoring. Community



Children Housed In the POS receiving remedial lessons

involvement including male participation in child protection proved positive in reducing incidents of abuse. Survivors were adequately rehabilitated and empowered.

## REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN LIVING AND WORKING ON THE STREETS

Street work was a key wing in the work done by the Organization. A total of 142 children were identified living and working on the streets. Rehabilitation and restoration engagements were made with the children. Household visits, educational support, health and hygiene services, street visits, life skills and play therapy were provided. Amongst the 13 children living and working on the streets who received



Children living and working on the street enjoying themselves during an excursion in Vumba



educational support, I was in his final term in Motor Mechanics. Efficiency in access to medical services was noted since the children were capacitated to seek medical attention with urgency as it was their basic right.

### **REDUCING INCIDENTS OF CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATION THROUGH CHILD-LED ADVOCACY.**

**A**dvocacy on child rights and responsibilities formed the backbone of Simukai's strategic focus. Through WeSeeHope funded Hope for Tomorrow project model, incidents of child abuse were decreased through strengthening the capacity of 15 existing Child Rights Clubs (CRC) with 623 children to advocate for their rights and responsibilities in Makoni Ward 16. A total of 400 households were equipped to protect and uphold the rights of children with maximum consideration of the best interest of the child. To facilitate livelihood enhancement whilst strengthening the financial muscle of caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children, 144 doers and 6 boer bucks were distributed to the 400 households in Makoni Ward 16. The right to education was facilitated through promoting access to education for ECD learners by working in partnership with Makoni Ward 26's Kudziwa community in the construction of an ECD Centre with a carrying capacity of 50 ECD learners. The Centre was successfully completed. Through the

Hope for tomorrow project children's confidence levels were increased as child rights clubs were seen participating in community advocacy platforms and commemorations. Through proceeds from CRC income generating projects, a total of 293 CRC members received were assisted through school fees payment and stationery.

### **FACILITATING FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE FOR CAREGIVERS OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**W**eSeeHope's Village Investment Programme (VIP)/ Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) complemented the Hope for Tomorrow Project. A total of 483 caregivers of OVC caregivers made up the 29 VSLA groups that existed in 2022. Through trainings on VSLA concepts and business skill/ entrepreneurship, the VSLA groups were capacitated to effectively manage their groups independently. Economic and financial autonomy was increased through the establishment of viable income generating projects in livestock



Exchange skills in Clare



Promoting women leadership and resilience in Disaster Risk Reduction through capacity building and dialogue in Chimanimani



Supporting smallholder farmers with materials for construction to secure land for a nutritional garden in Nyanga District to promote sustainable livelihoods



Women in Nyamhanga village (Nyanga District) Evergreen Agroecology nutritional garden showcasing vegetable production using agroecology practices such as water harvesting, production of arganic liquid manure fertilizers, use of thermal composts for manure production



Water storage facilities and water reticulation system through installation of water taps in the nutrition garden has lessened the burden of work for women to water plants in the nutritional garden, women can now save time to engage in other productive economic activities outside of the garden



Access to water for small holder farmers in Nyatate ward 17 through water storage facilities, borehole drilling and water reticulation system

and food stuffs. Households participating in VSLA reported an improvement in their consumption patterns from 1.0.1 (eating once during the day and once at night) to 1.1.1 (eating in the morning, afternoon and evening). Malnutrition in children became a thing of the past. Assistance was rendered to 76 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) through collections made towards the OVC Fund/Pot which was an important contribution made by group members to assist orphans and vulnerable children outside their households but

were in need within their communities. The children were assisted through school fees payment, stationery, school uniform and sanitary ware for girls. The VSLA became a platform for sharing ideas and discussing salient issues surrounding parenting and child protection and this served as a mechanism for child right and responsibilities advocacy.

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SKILLS

Impressive strides were made in strengthening community resilience through increasing their capacity to mitigate and adapt to disaster risks and topical climate crisis. Through supporting communities with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) hardware initiatives, Simukai supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe, through the Cyclone Idai- Phase 2

Response in Zimbabwe project managed to revive the Zunde Ramambo system (a system where by the community collectively owns and does their farming on a common piece of land overseen by the Chief and the harvest is put in a common granary for community use). This sought to contribute towards the Government feeding programs. The DRR committees In Chimanimani Ward 21 and 22 also sought to direct the produce from the Zunde raMambo towards providing meals on evacuation centres during crisis situations. To increase community awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction, a radio program was aired to disseminate information on efficacy of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in disaster response.

### **PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE, QUALITY AND EQUAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITY**

**A**ccess to education for societal change was promoted through support from IM Swedish Partner in Mutare (Dora) and Makoni (Mayo) respectively. A total of 202 (101F/101M) classroom practitioners were capacitated with knowledge on quality education, disability inclusion and mental health issues. A change in attitude was noted during the implementation of the leave no child behind mantra since children were assisted academically without discrimination. An increase in child rights knowledge

resulted a decrease in child rights violations. Barriers deterring out of school youth including young mothers were identified and communities sought to address the barriers. Education assistance was offered to 37 (22F/15M) children through proceeds from school- based income generating projects. School fees and exam fees payments made.

Simukai's Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre facilitated the right to education through offering Early Childhood Development, Catch Up (Primary School) and Vocational Skills training services for children and youth. A total of 195 (33 ECD, 60 Catch-Up and 102 VST) learners enrolled at the Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre. The Catch-Up program effectively paved way for learners into the formal mainstream education system. Home visits were conducted to households of ECD and Catch-Up Learners as part of learners' assessment. Through the visits collaborative efforts were made between teachers and learners to ensure that learners were adequately supported both at home and at school.

Simukai in partnership with ActionAid Zimbabwe contributed to the



Child participation during learning and exchange visit Program in Rusape.

advancement of economic justice and redistribution of women's unpaid care and domestic work through expanding fiscal and policy space and supporting investment in gender-responsive public services and social protection through **Dialogue on availability and accessibility of youth friendly services** were young people identified availability of services, gaps in the available services and possible strategies to improve on the services identified in Nyatate ward 17, Mapako ward 18 and Nyautare ward 8 in Nyanga District. The **formalization of women's economic groups in was facilitated in partnership with** Ministry of Women Affairs at district level. A total of 8 working groups were reached with women being empowered with knowledge on the registration processes and procedures such as developing constitutions and by laws. The organised groups are in bakery, loans and savings associations, and animal husbandry. Awareness raising on decent work was done to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth for women's full and productive employment for all community members in the rural community. **A w a r e n e s s raising on decent work** enhanced participants knowledge on formalizing any work practice A total of 65 participants (60F/5M) males engaged in the process. **Training on**

**Tax, tax justice, tax policy, development levies** for Ward Development Committees, Village Development Committees were all traditional leaders in Mapako, Nyatate and Nyautare wards were capacitated on key issues in the Traditional leader's Act and Rural District Council Act inline with revenue collections from communities. A total of 3 ward committees was reached in 3 wards (90 participants). **Young women and youths were trained on social accountability with** 128 young people (82F/46M) who were out of school and inschool. The trainings were held in collaboration with Ministry of Youths and Nyanga Rural District Council. The various issues covered included Government public resources, importance of Social Accountability, principles of Social Accountability, tools and methods in Social Accountability, challenges involved and the role of youths in the processes of Social Accountability. The goal was to build the capacity of young people to participate in localized development platforms and contribute meaningfully to these processes. **Women and youth**



Mrs Sithole (not real name) fetching water for domestic use at Takuradehwe borehole. Behind is the decommissioned nutritional garden.

**(56F/34M) were supported to participate in Ward based/ community based budget consultation meetings**

through orientation on the various and critical operations of the Nyanga District Council including their development structures. Priorities for 2023 budget were set with the community members in the three wards. Emphasis was

also given on the payment of development levies for the local authority to be able to initiate development projects locally in their respective wards.

Through support from ActionAid Zimbabwe, at risk communities at risk communities, women and young people were supported to be more resilient, to prepared for and to be able to respond to all crisis including, but not limited to economic and climate change related risks. **Capacity building on Disaster Risk Communication with WADCOs, VIDOCs, Women and young people** in Nyatate and Mapako wards on the various risk communication processes and their importance in their local context. A total of 188 participants (169 females and 19 males participated)

Documentation of Early Warning Systems and Indigenous Knowledge Systems on disaster preparedness at village level was done with 383 participants (302F/81M) from households in Nyutare Ward 8 and the local leadership. Hazards that were identified and related to contextual early warning signs are floods in the local perennial river (Nyamombe), drought



Munashe CRC members raising child protection awareness during a mobile awareness campaign

which has persisted the previous years and outbreak diseases such as malaria. Information gathered was consolidated to come up with contextual Indigenous Knowledge Systems for the communities. Through the Local Rights Programme, Simukai supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe commemorated the Day of the African Child in Nyanga District. A total of 155 participants (75F/80M). This was done during children`s career day and discussion was stimulated on harmful practices affecting children in Nyanga. Junior council as well as the teachers and students` representatives from schools participated to reflect on District practices and interventions in eliminating harmful practices affecting children in Nyanga District. An advocacy platform for learners to speak out on the issues and harmful practices affecting children in their communities was created and improved and promoted coordination was witnessed in District Child protection stakeholder forums.

The **Rural Women`s day** was commemorated with 162 participants (126F/36M). Women were capacitated on

their role in decision making and how this affected their lives. Women were noted assuming roles as at Water Committees in their local villages whilst some were involved in school development committees.

## EMERGENCY RECOVERY

**S**imukai Child Protection Programme supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe implemented the second phase of the response to Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe focusing on Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts. Through this Emergency Recovery Programme, one hand pumped 5000 litre community borehole was successfully established in Ward 3, Mudzingwa Village in Chipinge District. The borehole was solar powered with 4X410 watts high voltage solar panels and 1X2 HP solar pump. Access to clean and safe water was facilitated as 600 people access water from this water point.

A nutritional garden was successfully established in Chipinge Ward 3 Mudzingwa village. The garden measured (43m X 29m) 1 247m<sup>2</sup> and 50 households benefitted directly from the garden. The community and nutrition garden played a significant role in enhancing local food security and dietary diversity through meeting the community's nutritional needs and also combating malnutrition.

Farmers (50 female farmers) also received once off garden inputs. These included wide range of vegetable seeds, one knap sack, organic fertilisers and pesticides.

Simukai successfully held a 2 day training in Chipinge ward 3 with

members(43members)oftheTakuradehwe nutritional garden. The training sought to propper *sustainability strategies, facilitate value addition and create market linkages*. Farmers were equipped with agroecological knowledge and practises for nutrition gardening. They were trained on effects of climate change on farming practise whilst also demonstrating water harvesting techniques (fertility trenching bed, mulching and double digging).

## STORIES OF CHANGE

### HAPPINESS TRIGGERED BY WATER

**H**and pump boreholes have been the traditional means of accessing water across most rural communities in Zimbabwe, Mudzingwa Village included



Tapiwa (not real name) gladly taking a drink from the tap for the very first time in his village. In the background, a successfully installed solar system and a 5000 litre water storage facility



We got manure and meat from my livestock

(Chipingeward 3). These have since outlived their life span and maintenance challenges have reduced their sustainability as secure sources of clean and safe water. Takuradehwe borehole is one such example of a water supply system that was not able to provide sufficient water supply throughout the years. Community members who depended on the borehole cited corroded galvanised pipes which no longer reached the water depth during the dry season as the major challenge. During the dry season households, particularly women and girls, walked longer distances to fetch water from neighbouring villages which translates to more time spent fetching water. Women farmers in Mudzingwa village were forced to abandon and decommission their nutritional gardens and move their garden to Tanganda river. As one woman farmer mentioned;

***'when access to safe water is not provided, children and women are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.'***

This affected borehole yields which

in turn resulted in the decommissioning of an existing nutritional garden, which provided the household with nutritional variety and in some instances used to supplement household income.

The installation of a solar powered water system for the Mudzingwa Village has been received as a panacea

to the existing water challenges that the village has been facing for a long time. This development solves the water crisis that the community has been facing during the dry seasons, and also this sustainable water supply system means women and children get to spend less time fetching water and frees up more time which can be used for schooling, economic activities and other personal-development initiatives. This has been taken as an opportunity to improve on the quality of public services putting into consideration how different individuals are inversely affected by the availability or unavailability of such public services. The Mudzingwa Village also had their nutritional garden restored and extended to incorporate 20 more households into the garden.

Fruits and vegetables produced from the Takuradehwe nutritional garden will play an important role in addressing nutritional needs within the village by providing access to a variety of foods. These will also have a positive impact on community's livelihoods as they can also provide a steady income when produce are sold



I keep boshveld and sell eggs to the community and my group, members

### **FEAR MADE HIM FLEA; FAITH BROUGHT HIM BACK.**

**B**ad company corrupts good morals! When Tadiwa lost his parent at the age of 12, he became a delinquent due to neglect and frustration. He felt he had no one to answer to any more. With the help of bigger dishonest friends, he stole some appliances got arrested. The court gave him stern warning not to commit another crime in five years lest he would be thrown into prison. Shortly after, he allegedly stole some eggs and then he remembered he had been warned. In fear of getting imprisoned, the boy fled home for Mutare town, not so far from his village.

Tadiwa would now have to experience the street life he had only heard in tales. Upon entering town, all of his belongings got stolen. He had to start from scratch. However, being a boy of good personality, he attracted a few friends who helped him out on how to survive on the streets. He secured a job in no time since he had knowledge on basics and looked desperate enough to be trusted. He found a job as a pool token salesman and also

bartended and helped clean. All these he did in exchange for shelter and food. He sometimes would help his other friends with accommodation in the room that he had secured when there were extreme weather conditions.

Tadiwa learnt about Simukai Child Protection Programme through street visits conducted by Simukai Officers and

because some of his friend in the streets, he began attending sessions.

He would get medical assistance, counseling, some life skills training, basic personal hygiene essentials, psychosocial support activities and edutainment. These helped reinforce good behaviour in him. The staff knew that there was something off with the information he provided about his background. He claimed that he was an only child and had no relatives. He was afraid he would be turned in if he ever told the truth. He made sure he gave no information that would facilitate family tracing.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected Tadiwa's income generating strategies such that he slowly started providing his personal information which family tracing through the Department of Social Development. He now had faith that his beloved aunt would accept him back. Indeed, when he was reunified with his aunt, she was happy he was back home. He was provided with an income generating poultry project to help occupy him as well as capacitate him



Types of projects at individual households	Types of projects done by groups
Livestock breeding (broilers, piggery, layers, traditional chickens, goats, rabbits, turkeys, guinea fowl, boschveld)	Buying and selling of clothes, shoes and blankets
Buying and selling of phone accessories	Buying and selling of plastic wears
Buying and selling groceries, Grocery shops	Buying and selling of beauty and hair products
Buying and selling potatoes	Making and selling of drinks, petroleum jelly, floor polish, soap
Fruit and vegetable market	Fish farming
Bee Keeping	Market gardening
Tobacco farming	Detergent making

to help his aunt take care of his needs.

During the first follow-up on the child, it was discovered that things were however not as great as the organisation expected. The community was resisting the return of the child back into the village. They did not let their children associate with him. Continued support was offered through home visits by the Simukai Officer together with representatives from the Department of Social Development to help the child adjust and the community to accept that

the child was their responsibility too. The Village Head was involved in helping the child settle in and ensure acceptance in the community.

Tadiwa was assisted to enrol for Motor Mechanics with Nyanyadzi Vocational Training Centre. The Organisation assisted him to secure a placement for attachment. He felt safe, secure and confident that he would never go back to the streets since his hope had been renewed.

## ZOE EMPOWERS

### INTRODUCTION

**Z**oe Empowers project aims to economically empower orphans and vulnerable children by providing financial assistance to start long-term income-generating projects that will increase household income. The many difficulties that orphans and vulnerable children face stem from the extreme poverty that pervades their families. As a result, the goal of Zoe Empowers project is to empower children to take control of their own journey out of poverty. After three

years, children are expected to be running their projects successfully, sustainably and confidently. Despite the economic hardships and increase in inflation Zoe, has successfully implemented its project activities during the year 2022 in Mutare (Nhamburiko, Mushunje, Chipendeke, Clare, Gandidzanwa, Himalaya, Takunda, Dora, Dzobo and Gutaurare) and Mutasa (Mandeya, Manica Bridge, Jombe, Chidazembe, Pafiwa, Honde Valley) Districts. Zoe worked with 73 empowerment groups (1971 households), and 37 of them graduated. Vulnerable



Group in Honde doing fish farming

children and youth received trainings and financial support in the various thematic areas that is, Income generating activities, food security, child rights, Health and vocational skills training.

## BUSINESS SKILLS AND FINANCIAL FLUENCY

Zoe Empowers provided trainings to 450 beneficiaries in Chitakatira, Vumba, Nhamburiko, Honde valley and Mushunje on basic business operations: creating a business plan, proper record and bookkeeping, marketing, customer relations, the importance of ploughing back profits for expansion purposes, and various saving plans. After training in the first year, 450 households were supported with either grants or vocational support. Out of 450, 64 beneficiaries received vocational skills support in various fields that include Catering, building, carpentry, tailoring, crafting, farming, detergents making and barber shop. The beneficiaries had skills and they were supported with tools, equipment,

and funds to start their trade business immediately and the beneficiaries with an interest but who were unskilled were enrolled in apprenticeships or vocational training. A total of 15 groups received group income generating activity funds during early 2020 and the groups are participating in different types of group projects.

All the 73 empowerment groups were trained on the importance of saving and investing in their future. The groups are saving through mobile banking, holding savings through livestock, and individual tin banking. Through Zoe Empowers support households now have dependable sources of income which has made it possible for them to adopt various saving approaches. They also invest their money in property. Through the profits realized from their businesses and savings, groups used purchased various household goods, expand and started new businesses. Groups also visited each other regularly and help with tasks such as farm activities, latrine construction, and house renovations.



Masimba group members making contributions to their group savings

## CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

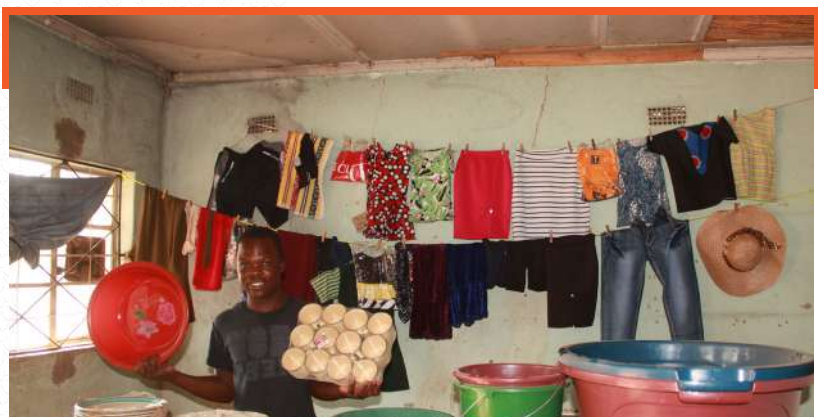
Challenges	Mitigation
Inflation - The unstable economy had an impact on IGA beneficiaries.	Encouraging beneficiaries to save their money in livestock and through group table banking

## SECURE FOOD AND HOUSING

The cropping season in 2021/2022 was favorable, and all 360 supported households harvested enough maize, averaging 15 x 50 kgs. Agriculture Extension officers provided training on how to preserve harvested maize, and all 360 households received crop preservation pesticides (Chirindamura dust). This provided security to these families by preserving the crop they had harvested. Zoe provided trainings on basic farming practices, Pfumvudza during the period under review to the newly 30 empowerment groups with a total of 900 households. They were trained by Agriculture Extension Officers who were based in their communities. After the training, Zoe provided 5kg of certified maize seed and 50kg ammonium nitrate each to the 900 household in Honde valley, Vumba, Chitakatira, Nhamburiko, Himalaya, Chipendeke, Gutaurare and Mushunje. The ZOE project provided certified maize seed and chemical fertilizers to children in order to improve agricultural yield. Due to the fact that agriculture is essential for food security, Zoe project provided children with certified maize seed and fertilizers to help them increase their agricultural yield. The children were also encouraged to use organic

fertilizers to ensure a steady supply of nutrients to the crops, which increased yield. Families are becoming more food secure as a result of the seed and fertilizer assistance. Previously, farming was done with locally available resources such as uncertified seed and organic fertilizers. Prior to assistance with agricultural and financial assistance for income-generating projects, the level of poverty among families was high, and children were reportedly sleeping on empty stomachs.

All the first year (450 beneficiaries) received trainings on animal husbandry. Zoe Empowers supported 50 households with Boshvesld chickens in Chipendeke, Dzobo, Gutaurare and Manzununu. A total of 85% of the Zoe beneficiaries are rearing livestock like poultry, goats, sheep, pigs and cows, which are helping to supplement household nutrition and increase wealth through breeding. 15 groups also received each garden seeds so as to improve household nutrition.



Shadreck showcasing his business



Mentors dancing during a mobile child rights awareness campaign in Makoni District

Good housing was a big challenge to the 450 households recruited in March 2022 in Chitakatira, Vumba, Nhamburiko, Honde valley and Mushunje. Zoe Empowers supported house repairs for 14 households in Mutare and Mutasa districts. The families have provided resources like water while group members assisted with labor and locally available materials. The other remaining households are also making significant renovations to their homes using proceeds from their newly started businesses.

## HYGIENE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

A total of 450 households were trained on topics such as the basics of hand washing, disease prevention, nutrition, personal grooming, proper food handling, and sexual and reproductive health in Mushunje, Nhamburiko, Gutaurare and Chipendeke. The trainings were conducted by environmental health technicians from the ministry of health. This created a linkage so that participants know where and how to access medical care if needed. Prior to this awakening, families had no

knowledge of the diseases or were misinformed about it. The beneficiaries have pledged to adopt and, in most cases, have already implemented a set of health standards at their homes, which include building a utensil rack, digging a garbage pit, establishing a tippy tap, and maintaining a proper and clean latrine.

They were also educated on

the importance of having money saved up to address medical emergencies and as a result, 80% of households are saving funds from livestock. Zoe helped 15 beneficiaries with medication, transportation, and admission fees. These were critical cases involving mental health and ear, stomach, and leg operations.

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The prime goal of Zoe empowers is to ensure that children have access to quality education by providing a once-off school fees payment, scholastic materials and uniforms. In this regard, 40 primary and 60 secondary learners received stationery, uniforms, exercise books and tuition fees. Those who were not privileged to proceed with their education were enrolled back to continue with their studies. They had relinquished their studies due to lack of fees as well as failure to meet ancillary expenses. Children who received Zoe assistance have hitherto shown great zeal and passion. Through the funds generated from Zoe, 80% of them are now able to meet their school expenses because they

have established business which provides sufficient income.

## CHILD RIGHTS INITIATIVES

At the time of recruitment, many of the participants had undergone traumatic experiences involving a violation of their rights. Often, they had worked at menial jobs for meager wages or for food and clothing. Sometimes they were denied wages after working. Three cases of land being grabbed by relatives after the death of parents were also reported among the households. Zoe trained 450 households (265 males and 185 females) on child rights and child abuse. A total of 17 children were assisted to acquire birth certificates and 15 national identity cards. Five hundred and twenty (520) Information Education and Communication material were designed with child rights and various advocacy messages for orphans and vulnerable children to improve their knowledge and understanding on child protection. Thirty two (32) cases of child abuse were responded to by Zoe Empowers varying from sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse. These cases were reported by Zoe Empowers beneficiaries, Mentors and community members. Four of the children were survivors of Cyclone Idai who had no shelter and prone to abuse, four were in need of birth certificates; three were child marriage survivors with one child having attempted suicide and four were young girls who were trafficked to South Africa, Botswana and Oman. Two girls who had been trafficked to Oman were successfully returned to Zimbabwe and they are now safe with their families.

A lot of case management, layering of services was done to make sure that the children got the support their need.

## EXCHANGE OF SKILLS

Since the beginning of 2022, soaring inflation has caused the economy of Zimbabwe to deteriorate precipitously. The third-year groups saw the necessity for skill sharing in order to satisfy the needs of their separate and diverse communities and so they planned a learning and exchange visit. The main areas of attention were manufacturing floor polish, detergents, drinks, and bakery products. They gathered their resources, obtained funding from their group savings, and held community-based exchange trainings. After the training, the 12 individuals and four groups started their own businesses based on what they learned from their peers. One group donated drinks and soap to children living and working in the streets as part of giving back to the community.

## GOOD PRACTICES

- Post-harvest trainings reduced grain loss, ensuring household food security.
- The layering of services with other stakeholders such as traditional leaders and community Case Care Workers aided in project monitoring and program sustainability. This also ensures that groups will continue to work on their projects after they graduate.
- The family-centered approach ensured the projects' success.
- Building the capacity of non-project stakeholders will aid in project monitoring.

**FIG 1: 2022 GRANTS INCOME**

Funding partner	2022 Grant Disbursements
WeSeehope	US\$ 82,409.00
Plan International	US\$ 68,523.00
OaK Foundation Zimbabwe	US\$ 48,864.00
ZOE Empowers	US\$ 529,181.00
Action Aid Zimbabwe	US\$ 137,786.00
Swedish Development Partner	US\$ 77,445.00
Dreams Initiative	US\$ 46,574.00
Bread & Water for Africa	US\$ 41,511.00
	<b>US\$ 1,032,297.00</b>

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The Finance and Administration Department played a custodian role to Organizational resources and effectively safeguarding the assets. It ensured orderly and efficient conduct of business including adherence to Management Policies and Procedures. Timely production of reliable, accurate and complete financial information. The Department also ensured adherence to internal control systems in order to prevent and detect errors and fraud whilst complying with Funding Partners' requirements.

### ECONOMIC SITUATION

Simukai Child Protection Programme managed to implement its activities due to creativity and innovation, determination and teamwork. The financial year 2022 was characterized by the following shortcomings;

- Sky rocketing fuel prices resulting to fluctuations in the prices of goods and services

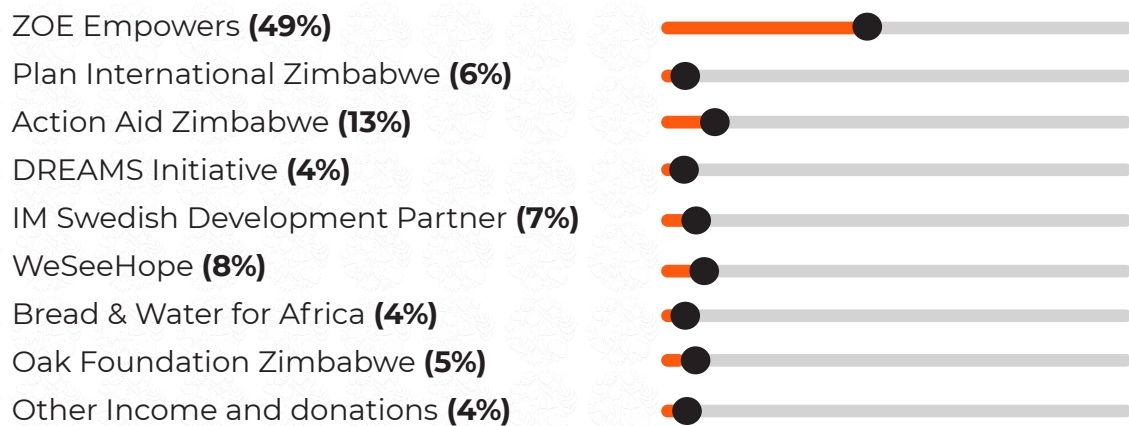
- Exchange Rate fluctuations resulting to goods and services priced differently thus for those paid in cash and through bank transfers.
- However Simukai remained vigilant and managed to implement all budgeted activities. The Organization remained informed of the changes in both monetary and fiscal Policies during the fiscal year.

### COMPLIANCE

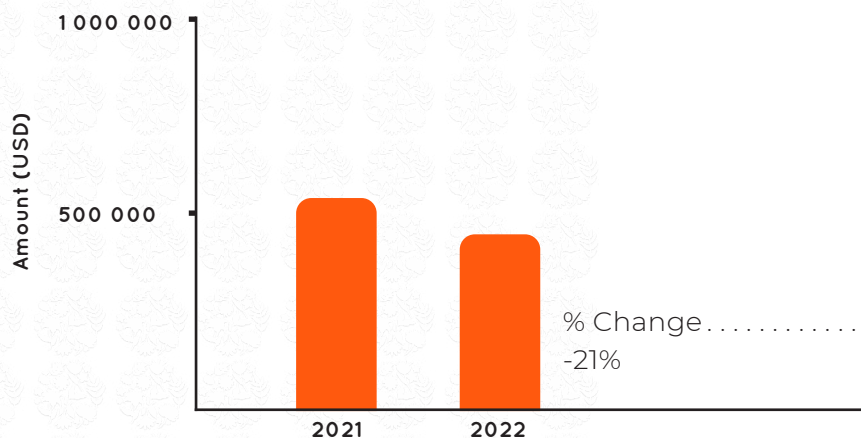
Simukai Child Protection Programme remained informed of the changes in the economy with respect to both monetary and fiscal policies during the fiscal year 2022. The Organization ensured compliance with legal and regulatory requirements which governed Organizations in the same trade. The Organization has binding Memorandum of Understandings with the Local Councils of Mutare, Chipinge, Makoni, Nyanga, Mutasa and Chimanimani Districts. The Organization also adhered to Funding Partners financial guidelines and requirements for continued funding. Compliance with other statutory

**FIG 2: OTHER INCOME**

Source/Project	Amount
Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre	US\$ 69.00
Simukai Youth Education Pack(YEP) and Catch Up	US\$ 39,272.00
Donations and Other Income	US\$ 5,969.00
	<b>US\$ 45,310.00</b>

**FIG 3: -FUNDING SITUATION IN PERCENTAGES****FIG 4: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS**

Year	Income(US\$)	Expenditure(US\$)
2021	1,462,744.00	1,447,289.00
2022	1,077,607.00	1,188,221.00
% Change	-27%	-18%

**Fig 5: Simukai Statement of Financial Position**

Training	Facilitator's Details	Source of Funding
Climate Change	Elvis Augustine	IM Swedish Development Partner
Disability Training	Walace Mupfumwa	IM Swedish Development Partner
Entrepreneurship Training	Jephius Mundondo	ZOE Empowers
Sustainable Agriculture Training	Kudakwashe and Daniel-Foundations for Farming	Oak Foundation Zimbabwe
Child Safeguarding Training	Department of Social Development	Oak Foundation Zimbabwe

obligations and timely payments towards NSSA, Withholding Tax and Pay as You Earn (PAYE) were ensured.

## 2022 FUNDING SITUATION

The Organization depended on funds from eight (8) Funding Partners that included Weseehope, ZOE Empowers, Action Aid Zimbabwe, IM Swedish Development Partner, Oak Foundation Zimbabwe, Plan International Zimbabwe, USAID- Dreams Initiative and Bread and Water for Africa (BWA). The total 2022, annual income for Simukai Child Protection Programme amounted to US\$1,077,607.00 (One Million and Seventy-Seven and Six Hundred and Seven Thousand United States Dollars Only) which represents a 26% decrease from 2021 total annual income of US\$1,462,744.00. Four (4) % of the funds were realized from Organizational Income Generating Projects and donations whilst 96% was from Funding Partners.

## VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

Simukai Child Protection Programme maintains a fleet of 11 functional

vehicles with the following registration numbers AFO8069 (Toyota Fortuner), AFO7910 (Honda Fit), ACU8440 (Nissan Hard body-D/Cab), AC04367 (Toyota Hilux), ADA4109 (Toyota Hilux), ACC5666 (Nissan Hard body-D/Cab), AAL9938 (Mitsubishi Colt), AEF9834 (Isuzu KB300), ADV8259 (Nissan Wolf) AES6718 (Toyota GD6) and AAB0775 (Nissan Hard body).

## AUDIT

The Organization received an unqualified Institutional External Audit Report for the 2022 fiscal year. The external audit was carried out by Rockstone Chartered Accountants Zimbabwe (a registered with Public Accountants and Auditors Board). The report was sent to the intended recipients during the course of the year

## DONATIONS

Simukai Child Protection Programme continued to receive donations in cash and kind from individuals, business community, government departments and churches during the fiscal year 2022.



We remain grateful to Funding Partners and well-wishers who remembered us and our work in their times of surplus.

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

### STAFF COMPLIMENT

**S**imukai had a staff compliment of 40 (M 22/ F18). The Organization continued to get support from students on attachment from universities such as University of Zimbabwe, Bindura State University, Chinhoyi State University, Midlands State University and Africa University. Students on attachment supported staff whilst training on the job and gaining work experience. Simukai had an Internship Compliment of 18 (F10/M8) across all Centers.

### STAFF MEMBERS CAPACITY BUILDING

**T**he 2022 Staff Capacity Building Trainings were well informed from the 2021 Staff Performance Gaps identified through Performance Appraisal processes. As was the norm for the past years, these Trainings were meant to mitigate the effects of poor performance individually or at Organizational level. Below is

a table showing trainings conducted

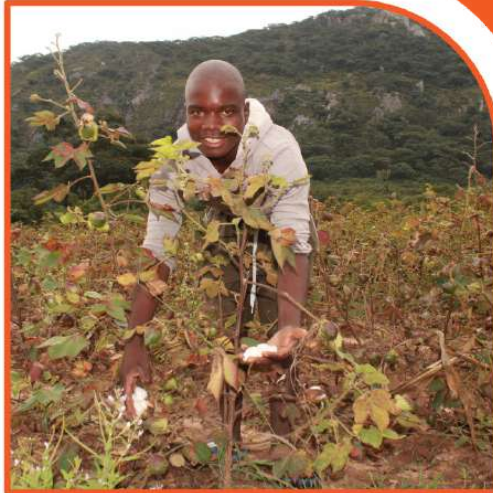
### STAFF WELLNESS

**A**s part of Wellness Simukai Staff, Volunteers and Interns participated in some Calendar Events such as the Cancer Power Walk held on the 5th of November 2022 and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence held on the 9th of December 2022. This enhanced health, wellness and reinvigorated the spirit of unity among colleagues as they interacted outside the usual working space. Members of Staff appreciated the efforts by the Organization as they participated in the Zumba dance exercise and aerobics after the walk.

### STAFF WEDDINGS

**O**ne staff member was joined to her partner in holy matrimony on the 29th of October 2022 in Mutare. Simukai Congratulates and wishes her a blessed union.

# SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME



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