

Simukai

Child Protection
Programme

2020 Impact Report





2020

impact
Report



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“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

James 1:27



Children living and working in the streets



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Contents

Mission Statement	1
Chairman’s Remarks	2
Director’s Foreword	4
The Story of Change	6
Operational Context	8
Organizational Impact Areas for 2020	10
Impact 1	12
Impact 2	28
Impact 3	40
Impact 4	44
Cyclone Idai Recovery Project	52
Expansion and Growth: Chipinge Child Protection Centre	54
Human Resources Report	55
Financial Report	57
List of Donations	61

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Simukai Child Protection Programme

Vision

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

Mission

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

Goal

To improve the plight of 8 500 vulnerable children, 1 500 youths and 7 500 households to all forms of abuse and exploitation and health related problems by providing an enabling environment to achieve their full potential and, become productive responsible community members.



Shanduko group member posing for a photo after a training workshop at Madziwa Secondary School

Chairman's Remarks



*Mr Joel Dzveta,
Board Chairperson*

Welcome to our Impact Report for 2020. I am delighted to present our 2020 Impact Report, which shows how Simukai Child Protection Programme has significantly advanced the execution of its strategy (2018 to 2022). As Simukai, we are proud of being a successful, growing Organization and of the important contributions that we make to wider society. At a time of global uncertainty, we believe our role in society becomes more important as children are normally the worst affected in any crisis. The unprecedented speed and magnitude of change today demands the

courage to challenge convention, explore new directions, spot opportunities, and take calculated risks to reach strategic goals. Our response to the unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic has been outstanding. Colleagues at Simukai demonstrated remarkable resilience and resourcefulness as they embraced new ways of working and adjusting to the “new normal”.

The entire team at Simukai displayed impressive agility and a remarkable ability to adapt and change during the year 2020. Along with our entire Board, I have always valued how the Simukai team rise to meet every challenge and opportunity. We thank them for taking that dedication to new heights this past year as they adapted to the challenges of a global pandemic

and delivered uninterrupted service to our communities when they needed us the most. Innovation is one of Simukai's core values along with teamwork and accountability and this has enabled our team to navigate its way well through a tumultuous year. Again, we did so thanks to the dedication, capability, and resilience of our entire team at Simukai. It goes without saying that in order to power the Organization to achieve its next level of growth, we need to leverage our most crucial asset, employees to their fullest potential. Reorienting and reskilling our employee pool is critical at this stage.

On behalf of the Management Board, I congratulate the Simukai team on their impressive results and achievements in 2020. We

Chairman's Remarks

express our recognition of their dedication and hard work. We all appreciate the dedication, skills and professionalism of our employees. We fully appreciate the continuing commitment and support of our partners in their entirety. As I look at how we completed the year 2020, inevitably, our results have been impacted by the pandemic. Nevertheless, with clarity, focus and confidence in the future I am confident that we will emerge from the pandemic ready to build an even stronger Simukai.

Simukai's Management Board is committed to good corporate governance and ethical business practices that promote the long-term interests of programme participants, funding partners and different stakeholders. Throughout 2020, Simukai responded to the operational setbacks from COVID-19 with strong

governance and oversight. The Management Board approved difficult but necessary financial decisions to preserve the positive results that the Organization has recorded over the years through its different interventions. Measures such as repurposing of funds towards COVID-19 interventions for the safety of staff members and programme participants and creation of a cushion fund to support young people's small businesses affected by the pandemic. It is my privilege to share this 2020 Simukai Child Protection Programme Impact Report that celebrates the impact of our ceaseless dedication to connecting with purpose in all that we do.

Mr Joel Dzveta,
Board Chairperson

.....with clarity,
focus and confidence
in the future I am
confident that
we will emerge



Mrs F B Matsanga interacting with beneficiaries at Ruwombwe, Makoni District

Director's Foreword



*Mrs Francisca Barbara Matsanga,
Director Simukai Child Protection Programme*

The year 2020 has been an eventful year like no other, to say the least. When we started out, we were looking forward to a great year of supporting vulnerable children and their communities without any hindrances. Moreover, with the strong team and networks that we had built over the years, we were well on track to achieving all the long-term targets we had set out in our strategy. Then COVID-19 struck the world with full force. The global pandemic presented a crisis on a scale, many of us have never experienced before. The toll it has taken on human life is heartbreaking, while it has also

caused the largest economic downturn for decades, which in turn affected the protection, promotion and fulfilment of children's rights. From the very beginning of the pandemic, our focus was squarely upon two things: Securing the well-being, health and safety of our own employees, our programme participants and steering the Organization successfully through this unprecedented crisis. I am proud to report that we achieved both.

We implemented comprehensive hygiene standards across all our Centres and provided our employees with clear guidance – including the preventive measures they should take. The situation at some point demanded that some of our employees work from home and we reacted quickly to provide them with the tools that would enable them to do so. We connected with more

programme participants and stakeholders than ever before and expanded our digital capabilities and reach. We could define it as the year of evolution towards a stronger corporate identity. The winds of change have pervaded every aspect of Simukai's operations, from our interventions to our employees. Not even the management has been immune to it. It is my pleasure to briefly walk you through the major milestones of the year and give you a taste of the surprising achievements you will encounter throughout the report.

Throughout the year 2020, Simukai continued to implement interventions guided by its four thematic areas of Health and Psychosocial Support, Education, Advocacy and Economic Strengthening. Through these four impact areas, Simukai strategically positioned itself to promote

Director's Foreword

.....our focus was squarely upon two things: Securing the well-being, health and safety of our employees, our programme participants and steering the Organization

children's rights ensuring that the principles of non-discrimination, best interest of the child, meaningful participation, maximum survival and development were at the centre of programming. In 2020, about 29455 programme participants were reached through Simukai's programming in the six districts of Mutare, Makoni, Chipinge, Chimanimani, Mutasa and Nyanga. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual platforms were mostly used to reach out to programme participants. Where no such platforms exist, the Organization adopted an approach where programme participants were reached out to in smaller groups in compliance with COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Of particular concern was the disruption in the education system owing to lockdown restrictions and the effect thereof on the realization of children's rights. Thousands of children are reported to have dropped out of school owing to the prolonged closure of schools

during the lockdown restrictions. Majority of girls who dropped out of school were reported to have been married while boys were engaging in harmful economic activities such as illegal gold mining. The COVID-19 pandemic created more challenges for children than before and it takes all stakeholders to come together to address these challenges. The use of digital devices such as cell phones and laptops for online classes has exposed children to the risk of cyber bullying, children seeing offensive images and messages and cyber predators. The sudden rise in these child protection issues caught society unaware and there is need for urgent interventions to arrest the situation before it goes out of hand. A reflection on the unprecedented challenges of the year 2020 and the way in which Simukai navigated its way through the most testing 12 months in our history, is quite encouraging.

One of the biggest lessons we learnt is that the only way

to get through such a year is by working together as a team. Therefore, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our employees. They have demonstrated resilience and shown great commitment in these unprecedented times. In addition, I would like to say thank you to you, our Board of Trustees and Management Board, for the trust you have placed in us. We will continue to do everything we can to remain worthy of this trust. As a leading Organization in the child rights sector with a strong strategy in place, we are very well positioned for the years ahead.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Mrs. Francisca Barbara Matsanga
Director



The Story of Change...

By Lispho Rugaro

In 2015, I was at the verge of giving up on my academic ambitions even though I was a 13 pointer. My dreams were now centred on playing football since recognition in the football circles had helped meet my high school fees demands. After high school it was a different case altogether as family, relatives and football coaches could not

raise funds for me to pursue university studies. I tried applying for scholarships across the country and this was the time, I visited Simukai Child Protection Programme for assistance. While I was seated by the reception awaiting attendance, the Director, Mrs Matsanga walked in and asked everyone the services they were seeking. At this very moment my story changed, because after hearing my concern she personally assigned “Chiaraidzo” (a Simukai Officer)

with the rest of the team to profile and work on my case. I returned home, attended to my daily tasks and joined the Manicaland youth games team for National Youth Games. It was during this time that the Simukai team was sourcing funds for my university studies. I received a life changing call; Simukai would assist me to do a late application to the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). Through their support, I enrolled for Social Work at UZ two weeks after the official opening of classes. It was this moment that marked a life changing journey in my life.

I started an academic journey to pursue my Social Work Degree with UZ whilst engaging in extra curriculum activities and playing football for the university's first team. Simukai continued to mobilise funds for my fees and when I was in my 2nd year, they sourced financial support for my tuition and accommodation from a certain family, which assisted me up to my 4th year. This

My sincere gratitude goes to Simukai Child Protection Programme for their generosity and support towards realizing my academic dream. What you did for me cannot be summarised in material and financial support only but is an emblem of love that manifested in the life of a poor boy from the ghetto with ambitions. Mine is a sad story of a young boy who almost gave up his academic ambitions due to lack of financial resources to meet college needs.

inspired me to work even harder. At college, through these unified efforts, I passed all my courses remarkably and left a mark academically and also in other activities. Whilst in college, I represented Zimbabwe at the model United Nations for Universities at the Parliament of Zimbabwe, I was the best speaker for Universities Debate and won accolades twice in one year. With UZ men's soccer team, I won 1 bronze and 2 silver medals as the captain. I also led various charity activities with students for children on the streets and prisoners. For my university internship placement, I got a distinction in Social Work practice. The Simukai team assisted me with placement opportunities and I applied with a local Organization as a volunteer on attachment. During this placement, through the guidance I ended up receiving recognition professionally and I was assigned to be a Social Work intern in Mutasa District. This helped me to grow professionally and academically and through such exposure, I was recruited by the same Organization.

Simukai never ceased to support me and I graduated with a 2.1 Degree Class in Social Work. On my graduation day, I was with my mother who was ill at that time and an Officer from Simukai attended my graduation to celebrate this achievement with us. The Simukai team played a very positive role in my career and also assisted in the treatment of my mother. My story can go on and on as indeed Simukai, lifted me up from a slimy pit and set my foot upon a rock (Psalm 40v2 -5). Through their support I have been able to accomplish and continue working towards growth and success. You made a difference in my life, and I am extremely grateful. I am now a Registered and Practising Social Worker working in the child protection and case management sector in one of the largest OVC projects in the country. I aspire to be one specialist in the field of Social Work someday. I attribute all this to Simukai's generosity and support. You showed me love when all hope was lost. Indeed you changed my story. Thank you Simukai for lifting me from the pit of despair. May God bless you as you serve the vulnerable children of Manicaland!



Lispoh Rugaro:and the story of change continues

Operational Context

Economic Context

A World Bank Working Paper updated on the 15th of August 2020 cited shortages of foreign currency as a factor that led to extreme contraction of agriculture, electricity and water production which pushed more than half of the population into food insecurity. Significant quasi-fiscal activities resulted in rapid depreciation of the local RTGS currency and high inflationary pressures. Prices of basic commodities such as food, basic goods and services increased by 725 %. This resulted in severe loss of purchasing power for majority of people who lived below the poverty datum line. Consistent local currency depreciation, disruption of production and trade as a result of COVID-19 fueled inflationary pressures. The 2020 Rural Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) report highlighted that households saw an average 51.5% reduction in income compared to 2019. This resulted in children's educational, health and nutritional needs being affected. The situation exposed most children and households targeted by Simukai Child Protection Programme to further vulnerability. This resulted in the need for Simukai to widen its nets to reach out to affected households in the 6 districts of Manicaland Province (Mutare, Chipinge, Chimanimani, Makoni, Nyanga and Mutasa).

Environmental Context

The year 2020 was a peculiar year marked by persistent economic crisis further worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This came just when the country was still trying to recover from the effects of Cyclone Idai which had hit the country in 2019.

Social Context

The sharp increase in protection concerns during the COVID-19 lockdown resulted in an increase in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. Children were uniquely affected by the combination of climatic shocks, economic challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic. From January to September 2020, 5,507 GBV cases were reported through the National GBV Hotline, a 200 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2019, when 1,930 GBV cases were reported through the hotline. The combined effect of the humanitarian crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic had far-reaching implications for the demand and supply of education services. Over 4.6 million children in Zimbabwe lost access to education while over 1.7 million school children lost access to school feeding programmes as schools were closed for over 6 months. The education system in Zimbabwe was already stretched before the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of multiple crisis, including the impact of Cyclone Idai in 2019, the economic crisis coupled with hyperinflation and the ongoing drought <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/zimbabwe/> Downloaded: 6 Dec 2020.

Access and utilization of essential health services declined from April to October 2020 compared to same period in 2019 (OHCA; 2020). Prolonged closure of schools due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown had major negative effects on children's learning and general well-being, which could have further negative repercussions on future educational achievements. Prolonged school closures exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and inequalities among children, especially girls, children with disabilities, those in rural areas, orphans and

vulnerable children, as well as those from poor households and fragile families. Cases of child marriages and teen pregnancies increased drastically affecting the girl child more. Boys on the other hand were not spared; they were seen engaging in illegal and risky activities such as illegal mining (gold and diamond panning) as they sought to generate income and to assist their caregivers to supplement household income whilst schools were closed. Protection concerns therefore, spiralled as children in Simukai's areas of operation became more and more idle by staying home due to the lockdown.

The increase and emerging vulnerability of children resulted in the call for Simukai to continue with its work in easing the plight of marginalised, abandoned and side-lined children with particular emphasis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Manicaland. The increase in cases of GBV, child abuse (sexual, physical and emotional), child marriages, child unsafe migration and child labour among others with intensified risks during the pandemic sought Simukai's intervention in the health, education, advocacy and economic strengthening components. Simukai played its role in complementing Government efforts through implementing tailor made interventions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic which was a disaster with a difference as it impacted heavily on both children and adults in a number of ways. The Organization came up with accelerated work plans to catch up with the time lost during the national lockdown.



Changing lives....

Organizational Impact Areas for 2020

Simukai strategically positioned itself to promote children's rights ensuring that the principles of non-discrimination, best interest of the child, meaningful participation, maximum survival and development were at the centre of programming. Activities implemented were in line with the following impact areas:

Impact 1

Increased awareness level of children and the community on social protection (Health, Education, Economic, Strengthening and Information).

Impact 2

Increased health access and psychosocial wellbeing of children, youth and households.

Impact 3

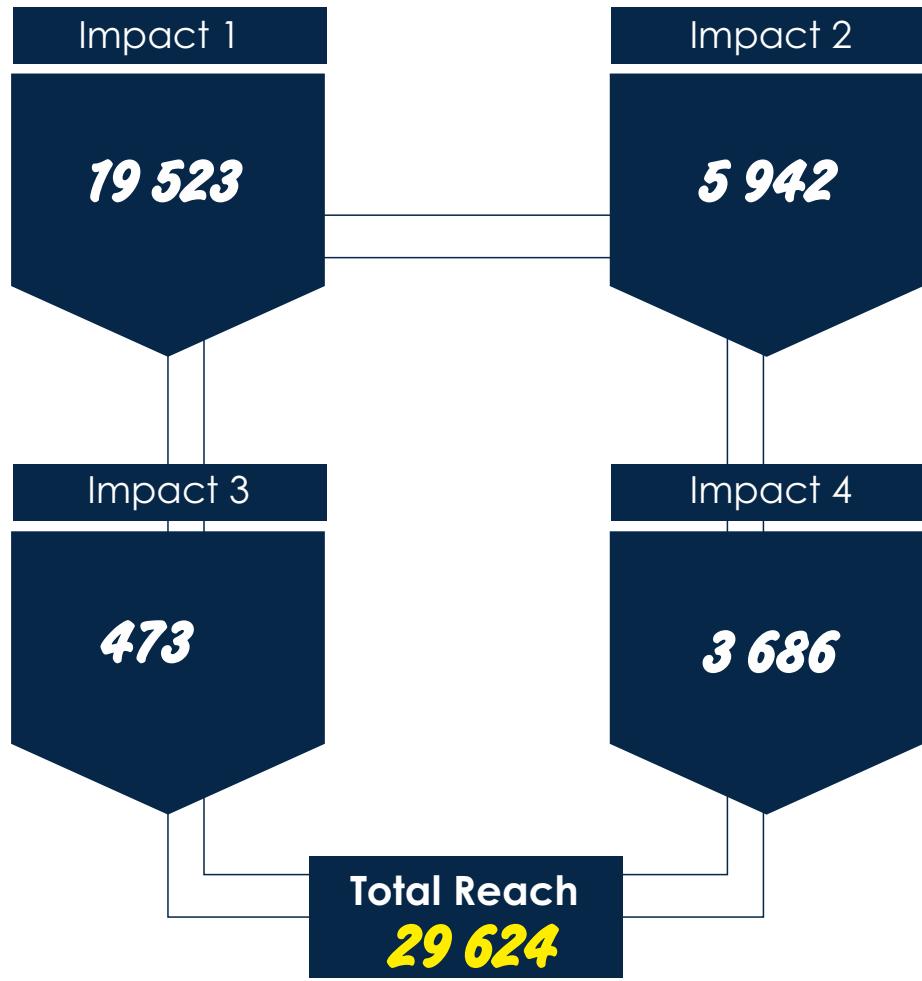
Increased access to formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and youth.

Impact 4

Increased resilience of vulnerable households for self-sustainability.

2020
Strategic Impact Areas

Organizational Reach



....and the fight for the rights of children goes on

Impact 1

Increased awareness level of children and the community on social protection (Health, Education, Economic Strengthening and Information).

Focus

- enhancing people's knowledge on child rights, responsibilities, effects of harmful practices such as child abuse, child marriages and early pregnancies.

Reach

- **19 354** - Children, Caregivers, Traditional Leaders and community members were reached.

Activities

- Awareness campaigns on promoting child rights, responsibilities, child abuse, child marriage, sexual reproductive health and response mechanisms, capacity building training workshops, media engagement, community review meetings and dialogues were held.

Significant Achievements in 2020

2 763

Youth clubs, mentors, Traditional Leaders and households were reached through the 18+ Strengthening the Voice of Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project,

3 137

Households were reached under Zoe Empowers Project

2 245

Children, community cadres and households (1 436 F/ 704M) were reached through Save the Children funded Children on the Move Project.

506

WeSeeHope funded Hope for Tomorrow Project reached out to 321 females and 185 males children, caregivers and community cadres

3 570

IM Swedish Development Partner reached to children, classroom practitioners, School Heads, community cadres and households.

7 302

Simukai's social media platforms (facebook, Instagram and YouTube) reached to the above in the period under review.



Community garden members working in their garden



Awareness Raising

Advocacy was central in Simukai's programming as it offered an opportunity to reach out to communities with information on child rights, responsibilities, child rights violations, child marriages, child unsafe migration and disability inclusion among other emerging issues. Child protection issues were worsened by the COVID-19 situation whose effects extended to children who relied on protection from caregivers who were also heavily strained by the pandemic which had affected the livelihoods of most households. Due to the pandemic, high volume events could not be conducted as they breached the COVID-19 preventative measures of physical distancing and prohibition of gatherings. Simukai capitalised on virtual awareness raising through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube), drive through shows (road shows), TV and radio shows through Diamond FM and Issues Pane Nyaya where child protection and COVID-19 information was disseminated



IM project officer and learners from Nyahondo Primary and Nyahondo Secondary School, marching during International Day of the Girl Child in Mayo



Shanduko group members posing for pictures after the child protection, child rights training workshop

IM

IM project conducted 6 drive through Road Shows in Dora (Mutare District) and Mayo (Makoni District) reaching a total of 1200 people. Awareness on sexual, physical, emotional abuse and Gender Based Violence was raised whilst emphasising on the need to report cases. There was an increase in the reporting of cases during the lockdown period in Dora and Mayo, which was attributed to the increased advocacy sessions.



Raising awareness on Child Rights in the community

Children on the Move

Children on the Move Project reached 1256 people (828F/ 428 M) in Chipinge Wards Ward 7, 8, 12, 23 and 24 through raising awareness on child unsafe migration, its effects, clearly stating the protection risks faced by children during the migration cycle and places of destination. Children engaging in unsafe migration in Chipinge risked being trafficked, smuggled, losing life, drowning, child labour, exploitation, language barriers which deprived them of their rights. This campaign was aired on ZBC TV resulting in thousands of people across, the country being reached with information on child unsafe migration.

18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project

18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project conducted drive through awareness raising campaigns in the 10 wards of operation in Mutasa and Mutare Districts. A total of 1 837 people were reached through the campaigns. The importance of birth registration for children and also on the negative and harmful impact of child marriages and early pregnancies on the lives of girls was highlighted. The campaigns were spearheaded by Traditional Leaders who had initially received capacity building training on child marriages. To successfully conduct the campaigns, Traditional Leaders joined forces with Ward Coordinators who work under the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Community Child-Care Workers, Young People who are part of 18+ Youth Clubs and Youth Club Mentors in planning, mobilizing and facilitating the campaigns. Diamond FM covered the campaigns and facilitated discussions on air around child marriages. During phase one of the project, it was noted that the lack of birth



Youth Club Members participating through poem and songs during a meeting in Marange

certificates proved to be a serious challenge in responding to child marriage cases because the age of the victim of child marriage could not be easily verified and perpetrators took advantage of this to claim that the girl was above 18 years. This prevented justice from being executed. Simukai, through the Registrar General's office facilitated acquisition of 1087 birth certificates; 525 national identity documents and 18 death certificates during mobile birth registration campaigns. However, the demand for birth certificates was huge, the queues could not be exhausted due to financial constraints.



Youth club members sewing masks and sanitary pads in Marange



Mutare District Roadshow raising awareness on birth registration and ending child marriages

Child Participation and Advocacy



Forward and Tamuka Child Rights Club members and their mentors



Youth club income generating project of sewing masks and reusable sanitary pads



Youth club members posing for a photo after an Ending Child Marriages Campaign

Child participation is one of the key child protection principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which stipulates that children have the right to freely express themselves in matters affecting them within their households, schools and communities among others. They should be given an opportunity to share their views and their rights should be respected. Section 81 of Zimbabwe's Amended in 2013 outlined Children's right to be heard which emphasizes the importance of child participation and advocacy. Simukai, in its child protection

endeavours, believes anything for children without the children brews interventions that do not effectively promote the best interest of the child. During the year under review, Simukai encouraged participation of children without discrimination by age, gender or other circumstances. Children with disability were encouraged to participate in Child Led Groups, Girl and Boy Empowerment Movements, Youth Clubs and Child Rights Clubs. The closure of schools due to the COVID-19 lockdown adversely affected children's platforms for child participation. Aadvocacy activities were done

following COVID-19 preventative measures of social distancing, proper wearing of face masks, washing of hands with soap and running water and constant sanitizing of hands whilst some were done virtually activities to promote active participation by children. However, due to lack of devices (radios, TVs, smart phones) especially in rural communities, virtual activities were limited to a small proportion of children and households.



Child led clubs, raising awareness during International Day of the Girl Child in Mayo

A total of 229 (153F/76M) children participated in child led groups within the **Children on the Move Project** in Chipinge. The children clearly outlined effects of child unsafe migration and the need to focus on their education first. **Zoe Empowers** conducted child rights sessions in which a total of 333 children participated. During these sessions, children's rights and responsibilities were discussed and incidents of abuse were shared to alert participants on what entailed abuse. To comply to COVID-19 guidelines, Zoe Empowers beneficiaries met and worked in small groups called empowerment pods observing measures of wearing face masks, social distancing and frequently washing hands with soap and running water.

Through the **Hope for Tomorrow Project**, 301 (135 F/166 M) children were reached during household visits and within their cell groups (small groups with CRC members). The children met to learn, discuss and raise awareness on child rights, responsibilities and child abuse through poetry, drama, songs, dance, quiz and sports. The following table shows the number of children who participated in CRCs in 2020;

Club	Boys	Girls	CRC Members
Hazvidi Hope	23	17	40
Tashinga	34	23	57
Neshungu	15	15	30
Budiriro 1	12	10	22
Budiriro 2	13	7	20
Progress	12	13	25
Vision	12	6	18
Ngwarirai	14	12	26
Forward	16	19	35
Tamuka	15	13	28
Total	166	135	301

Child Participation and Advocacy

In previous years, CRCs religiously met every weekend but due to the COVID-19 pandemic their meetings were affected. To ensure continuity of interaction with children, Simukai equipped the children's caregivers with skills to make reusable facemasks and alcohol-based sanitisers which were distributed to CRCs for use during their meetings. The CRCs were also resorted to meeting in smaller groups with a maximum of 15 children per meeting to help ensure effectiveness of social distancing. Simukai also capitalised on household visits which helped in hearing out child protection ideas and concerns from both children and their caregivers in one space. During household visits; children aired out their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 77 children eloquently outlined their rights and expressed their worry over how the continued closure of schools negatively affected their academic performance. They noted that staying home had perpetuated children's vulnerability to abuse and bad behaviour which resulted in increased cases of child marriages and early pregnancies. A total of 9 cases of

child abuse cases were reported directly by children from CRC, attributing the reporting action to empowerment of children through the project. Three of the children received emergency shelter from Simukai and were referred for other requisite services whilst the other 6 received psychosocial support from Simukai together with their caregivers.

The IM project conducted quiz competitions in Dora and Mayo where 103 (54F/49M) participated. Primary and Secondary School learners were asked child protection related questions educate them whilst also measuring their knowledge on child right, responsibilities and underlying child protection legal frameworks. Their performance in terms of knowledge displayed confidence and active participation than in the previous year. However, it was noticed that, primary school learners performed better than secondary school learners. A total of 262 Child Protection Committee (CPC) members participated in meetings to enhance their visibility in communities and encourage

vibrancy. Through the meetings, school CPCs collaboration with Ward CPCs to conduct 3 awareness sessions (2 in Mayo and 1 in Dora to raise awareness and advocate for the ending of child marriages at Mutiwegora Secondary, Dora High and Rusununguko Secondary Schools.

Under the 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages project, 10 Youth Clubs were formed in the 10 wards of operation in Mutasa and Mutare Districts. These Young People met at least once a month, to learn and discuss various topics that affected them including SRHR, child marriages, being assertive and GBV using Plan International's Champions of Child Protection modules. A total of 41 schools with Girls Empowerment and Boys Empowerment Movement (GEMBEM) also participated. The number of young people who participated was as shown in the table below:

Child Participation and Advocacy

CLUB	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
GEMBEM CLUB MEMBERS	1097	965	2062
YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS	356	288	644
TOTAL	1453	1253	2706

Meetings were held with young people in the 1st and 4th quarter of the year to develop strategies to combat child marriages and early pregnancies by young people. Young People came up with approaches to be used in advocating and lobbying against child marriages. Among them were development of advocacy messages against child marriages to post around schools and community centres, organising sports tournaments for awareness raising, clean-up campaigns and use of sports and arts (dramas, poems) to spread awareness in school and community events. The project supported the Youth Clubs with soccer and netball balls and distributed pamphlets on birth registration and child marriages.

Young people (32 (21F, 11M)) participated in a preparatory meeting ahead of the drafting and dissemination of by-laws by Traditional Leaders. The objective of the meeting was for young influencers to discuss child marriage as a crime and how they could work with Traditional Leaders to end child marriages. They learnt how to share information on the negative consequences of child marriages to their respective communities. The young influencers were educated on the position of the international, regional and national law on child marriages. In Zimbabwe, child marriage is illegal but not yet a crime unless aspects of it amount to abuse for example sexual and emotional abuse. Therefore; young people were encouraged to be actively involved in advocating for child-friendly policies including criminalisation of child marriages.

Following this, TLs and Young People met to review and draft commitments which ensured child marriage victims were returned to parental or family care,

Child Participation and Advocacy

TLs pledged to impose fines on those who were involved in child marriages and to raise awareness on the negative consequences of child marriages. The commitments were meant to strengthen TLs response to child marriages whilst alerting the community of child marriages. Young people agreed to collaborate with TLs in raising awareness and hosting community dialogues on ending child marriages.

Young people and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) representatives from Mutare and Mutasa Districts also participated in an exchange meeting which reached 76 ((51F; 25M) participants. The aim was for young people and CPCs to share activities done towards ending child marriages and also their experiences, successes and challenges on reporting cases of child marriages. Youth clubs reported that they were meeting in the clubs on a weekly basis to learn on various topics using the Champions of Change modules.



- 1). Traditional Leaders participating in a group discussions on ending child marriages
- 2). Mafarikwa Youth Club mentor displaying the masks and sanitary pads that they are sewing
- 3). Youth Club members drafting their commitments during a training workshop
- 4). Mentors and Youth Club members from Nyachityu, Marange displaying their products

Capacity Building

Simukai implemented various activities to capacitate and empower children, child protection cadres (Traditional Leaders, Mentors, CCWs, Village Health Workers) and communities to be agents of change. The Organization contributed to an increase in the number of children advocating for child rights within their households and communities.

Through the Zoe Empowers project, 1920 households were trained on health issues that included Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, HIV and AIDS, Malaria and COVID-19. The trainings were conducted by local nurses from Mutare and Mutasa clinics.

IM project reached 1 550 children through 2 Career Guidance Expos conducted in 14 schools in Dora and Mayo. Information on formal and non-formal education and how people could make a living out of it was shared. Children were exposed to different career opportunities available in the industry and the requirements thereof. It was noted that an estimate of 85% of rural learners went to school without a clear career objective in mind that

would help shape their choice of high school subjects and future courses. The career guidance brought out some risk factors such as child marriages, early pregnancies and child abuse that children faced as they grew up and how their future could be negatively affected.

To ensure children's safety and protection within schools, institutional trainings with classroom practitioners on child protection, safeguarding policies, code of conduct, case management and counselling were conducted by the IM project in which 152 (65F/64 M) classroom practitioners including School Heads in Dora and Mayo participated. School Development Committees (SDC) and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were empowered and were able to prioritize issues of development in the best interests of learners in schools, highlighting the importance of SRHR and Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues. The SDC members were able to create strong linkages with community members. In Dora, Mutare District and Mayo

in Makoni District, 14 schools were capacitated to install hand washing facilities as part of compliance to COVID-19 regulations. The project capacitated 200 CCWs in Dora and Mayo to effectively handle child protection cases.

A CCW Training of Trainers (ToT) to strengthen the collaborative efforts between community CCWs and Hope for Tomorrow Project Mentors in child protection was conducted under the Hope for Tomorrow project. A total of 5 CCWs (4 F/1 M) participated in the ToT and this was more of a learning platform for both participant and facilitators (Simukai staff) as emerging child protection cases during the COVID-19 pandemic within Ruwombwe Ward 26 of Makoni District were shared. These included increased cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and child labour. It was also reported that children sought piece jobs where they were offered as little as two cups of beans for a day's job in an irrigation area in Ward 16. Sexual abuse cases were also rampant in the irrigation area. Food insecurity was noted as a major challenge

Capacity Building



Education Inspector capacitating community leaders on Second Chance Education



20 Hope for Tomorrow Mentors after receiving bicycles



Geared to assist: Mentors after receiving bicycles

resulting in children in Ruwombwe going to Mavhudzi High School to collect leftover food. The food would be consumed by their households to curb food shortages within homes in Ruwombwe.

To strengthen intergenerational efforts in championing child unsafe migration in Chipinge District, 300 community members (292F/ 132M) were capacitated through the Children on the Move Project. Of these 195 (139F/56m) were CCWs whilst 105 (60M/ 45 F). The 2 groups underwent refresher training and mentoring to effectively end child unsafe migration since children were increasingly reported to be migrating unaccompanied by their caregivers to either South Africa or Mozambique. Through mentoring,

community awareness was enhanced and unmasking dangers of unsafe migration resulted in people understanding that pastures were not always green on the other side of the border.

Through the 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project, Traditional Leaders (TLs) and religious leaders participated in refresher trainings, the 1st reaching a total of 152 participants 72 (19F; 53M) in Mutasa and 80 (9F; 71M) Mutare District) and the 2nd reaching 93 TLs. The trainings were to discuss the implementation of action plans to end marriages. Harmful effects of child marriages, the progress of the law on child marriages and the importance of birth registration in ending child marriages were discussed.

They came up with ward-level action plans to curb child marriages and early pregnancies which they shared with community members during ward-level meetings with 553 people. The causes of child marriages that were raised were not only limited to religious and cultural drivers, but also that children made unintelligent and uninformed decisions that resulted in early sexual debuts, teen pregnancies and child marriages. This led to TLs engaging Young People during awareness campaigns on the dangers of child marriage. Traditional Leaders resolved to maintain proper registers of their community members, verify ages of married couples upon being culturally informed of new marriages 'mushumo' and continue to raise awareness.

Soft Advocacy



Hope for Tomorrow Project Officer during a household visit



Ruwombwe Environmental Health Technician sharing information on COVID-19 during a Community Review Meeting



Chief Tandi encouraging village heads to end child marriages in Chiundu

Simukai strategically adopted different methods to push its advocacy agenda. One of these methods was through dialogue with children and households. To understand the effects of COVID-19 on children and its effects on the Hope for Tomorrow Project, Community Review Meetings were conducted in Ruwombwe's 5 clusters of Chakuma, Gwangwadza, Manyora, Gurure and St Johns reaching 200 (181F/19 M) participants. Through dialogue caregivers of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) highlighted that, continued closure of schools resulted in children and caregivers spending much time together in the home, causing misunderstandings between children and caregivers. Caregivers highlighted how they had lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic. Through dialogue a

way forward was mapped and parenting skills shared to improve relations between caregivers and children as well as to cope with stress and shocks brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

IM project conducted 6 dialogue sessions in which 338 (123M/215F) children in Dora and Mayo participated. Children discussed their rights and responsibilities with the aim to cascade information to their colleagues and respond to cases of abuse with urgency.

Media Engagement

The disruption of physical awareness due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in Simukai capitalising on print media, TV, radio shows on Diamond FM and virtual platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Whatsapp as effective methods to raise awareness on

issues of child abuse, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and international commemorations among others. Eight Radio sessions on child marriages, right to education, effects of child unsafe migration and COVID-19 were aired on Issues Pane Nyaya and Diamond FM courtesy of IM, 18+, Zoe and Children on the Move Projects. Through the IM project, Simukai appeared twice on Mai Chisamba show where effects of child marriages were discussed and the Day of the Girl Child was commemorated through discussing challenges encountered by the girl child on a daily basis. Radio and TV were effective channels for reaching out to people across the country.



Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube including Karanganda TV were very useful in reaching out to 7 302 people especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

Through Facebook, 4 cases were reported, child protection advice was sought and referrals were made to other partners who could address issues raised.

The 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project conducted a meeting with 20 (7F/13 M) journalists from various media houses was held to enhance their knowledge on ending child marriage programming, to analyse the role of the media in child protection and improve the quality of reporting on child marriage issues. In addition, the objective was to



Simukai Officers speaking about the challenges faced by the girl child during the Mai Chisamba show

discuss the influence of media on policy change and public perception with regards to child marriages and teen pregnancies. The need to empower adolescent girls with information on sexual reproductive health for them to confidently stand against child marriage and abuses was raised. The media and civil society agreed to collaborate in mobilizing communities and advocating for an end to child marriages. Simukai capitalised on virtual platforms which appeared useful for raising awareness on emerging child protection issues.



Simukai Officer participating during Mai Chisamba Show

Commemorations

ADVOCACY CALENDAR (Commemorations)	08-Mar	07-Apr	12-Apr	25-Apr	01-May	15-May	01-Jun	12-Jun	16-Jun	08-Sep	11-Oct	15-Oct	17-Oct	19-Nov	Dec
International Women'S Day	Red														
World Health Day		Blue													
International Day of the Street Child			Blue												
World Malaria Day				Blue											
Workers' Day					Green										
International Day of Families						Green									
International Children's Day							Yellow								
World's Day Against Child Labour								Yellow							
Day of the African Child									Yellow						
International Literacy Day										Brown					
International Day of the Girl Child											Purple				
International Day of Rural Women												Purple			
International Day for Eradication of Poverty													Purple		
World Day of Prevention of Child Abuse														Orange	
16 Days of Activism Against GBV															Yellow

A total of 16 days highlighted in the chart above were observed through raising awareness and linking the days to issues affecting children and communities. Social media posts and road shows across Mutare and Mutasa Districts were used as commemoration strategies.

Simukai reached an estimated 850 people through a drive to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child supported by Zoe Empowers and IM. The Simukai Team drove through Chikanga, Dangamvura, Sakubva and Town areas stopping at market places to share messages on the challenges faced by the girl child which include emotional,

physical, sexual abuse, child marriages, and lack of educational and economic opportunities among others. Communities were urged to support, promote and uphold child rights and treat all children equally regardless of their gender.

IM project in Mayo commemorated the Day of the African Child and International Day of the Girl Child through marching around Mayo with children holding placards and reciting poems on child abuse, child marriages, child rights and responsibilities. A total of 227 (127F/100M) children took part in the commemorations.



Commemoration of the Day the Girl Child in Mutare urban



Traditional Leaders participating during a quarterly meeting at Domboshava in Marange

Impact 1 Most Significant Story

Traditional Leaders fight Child Marriages in their own homes

In Mutsago Ward of Mutare District, Village Head Tiago Mavhiza is one of the Traditional Leaders who has shown determination in fighting the inhuman practice of child marriage, especially due to the negative consequences that flow from it. He said, "I have learnt a great deal about the illegality of child marriages and seen the ills associated with child marriages since my involvement with the 18+ project. I am determined to continue fighting and ensure that child marriage is not

acceptable in my village and that it becomes a child marriage free zone"

Child marriage showed up unexpectedly on the Village Head's own door when his daughter was taken for child marriage. A distant cousin from her wife's side of the family named Jonas briefly visited their village that fateful December 2020.

During that time, the Village Head's 15 year old daughter Maria (not her real name) who was in Form Two disappeared from his home whilst he was at church with his wife. They later found out that Jonas had lied to Maria that her parents had allowed her to travel with him for holidays, but in actual fact Maria was being taken to be his wife, which was incest.

When the Village Head received a call from his daughter who had been taken away without his consent, he immediately communicated the case to Simukai Child

Protection Programme's 18+ Project Officers and a Community Child-Care Worker who was also a youth club Mentor in his ward. Immediately, he embarked on a journey to Nyanga to rescue his daughter from the child marriage. He reported the matter to Rusape Police as a crime of child abduction before he proceeded to Nyanga to search for his daughter. He said that, "There was no way I would allow my daughter to be married at such a tender age because it was illegal and there were many harms that she could experience as a result. Even more, my daughter was taken from me without my consent which was not right."

When he arrived in Nyanga, he went to the homestead of his wife's cousin and saw his daughter, but Jonas was nowhere to be found. He then took his daughter and was referred to Mutare General Hospital for clinical assistance, to ensure she had not been raped or sexually violated in any manner. She also received

Sexually Transmitted infections (STIs) screening and a pregnancy test, and fortunately the results were all negative. Up until now, the man who abducted Maria is still at large. Maria was now safe in her parent's home and continuing with her education. She said that, "When Jonas told me I had been taken to Nyanga to be a wife, I was not happy at all because it was against my will and I wanted to continue with my education. I called my father to come and take me back home."

Village Head Tiago Mavhiza had consistently attended trainings and quarterly meetings to stop child marriages through the 18+ project implemented by Simukai Child Protection Programme. The project strategically engaged Traditional Leaders at all levels to participate in the fight against child marriages due to their influence and authority. Traditional Leaders were able to influence change and urge their communities to shun this harmful practice.



Traditional Leaders taking part group discussions on successes challenges and best practises during a quartely meeting

Impact 2

Increased health access and psychosocial wellbeing of children, youth and households.

Focus

- Ensuring access to health and psycho-social services for children, youths and households.

Reach

- During the year under review, a total of **6 742** beneficiaries were reached through Health and Psycho Social Support interventions.

Significant Achievements in 2020

679

Children from Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni Districts were reached through the DREAMS project

343

Children accessed services from Simukai's 3 Drop in Centres

729

Girls, women, local Nurses, Environmental Health Technicians and VHWs were reached under the ActionAid funded Local Rights Programme in Nyanga

800

through the Emergency Recovery Programme in Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts.

3 833

Households reached 3 833 in Mutare and Mutasa Districts under the Zoe Empowers Project

220

Beneficiaries were reached through the Hope for Tomorrow Project

138

Beneficiaries were reached through the 18+ project

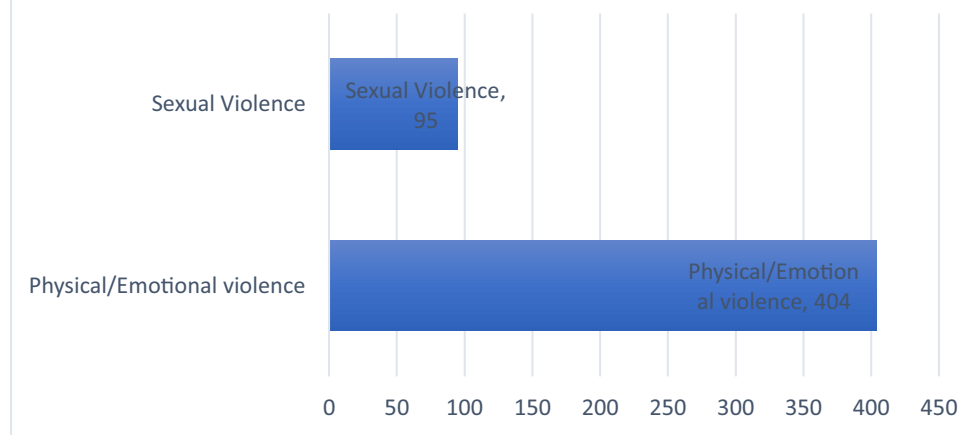
Case Management for GBV survivors

Transforming lives through individualized care and services for clients (survivors of GBV assisted by Simukai) and other Simukai beneficiaries to meet their goals was crucial in fulfilling Impact 2 under Simukai's programming. Simukai through the DREAMS initiative offered comprehensive case management to increase the health and psychosocial wellbeing of 679 children and young women in Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni Districts. Survivors of GBV accessed emergency shelter in Simukai's 3 Places of Safety. Upon admission, they were adequately profiled to understand the nature of abuse they had encountered. Referrals were made for the children to access external services such as health, legal, educational and economic strengthening among others. Nature of cases handled by Simukai during the year under review was as follows;



Simukai officer providing counselling to a Child Rights Club member

Reach By Nature of Violence for Makoni, Chipinge and Mutare



The chart above highlights that 399 cases reached by Simukai were physical/emotional violence and 95 were of sexual violence. The sexual violence 95 survivors were immediately referred for the minimum clinical package (HIV testing and STI screening). Efforts were made to fulfil the 72 hour benchmark which calls for survivors of rape to access Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to protect them from contracting HIV and AIDS whilst unwanted pregnancies were prevented within the 120 hour benchmark.



Simukai Officers following up on a Child Rights Club member

Continuous counselling was offered to GBV survivors in the Place of Safety by Simukai Officers. Basic literacy services were offered to 623 children between the ages of 10 to 18 years to ensure that they did not lag behind in their school work whilst in the Place of Safety. After receiving all services, family tracings were done with

help from the Department of Social Development to ensure safe reunification or relocation of the child. The 10 to 14 years age band was under reached due to caregivers concealing cases of violence against children by trying to solve them at family level as compared to other age bands where mature adolescent girls and

young women independently reported their cases. Communities were encouraged to report child violation cases and treat them with urgency.

The DREAMS Project conducted a 3 day excursion with 15 girls and young women between 10 to 24 years. The excursion was meant to boost survivors of GBV's self-confidence regardless of the experience they would have encountered. This was achieved through engaging in team building activities and offering psychosocial support to the girls. DREAMS Ambassadors from Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni shared their stories with the girls and this motivated them to be effective agents of change. Some girls who had survived various forms of abuse such as sexual, physical and emotional came to the excursion low and discouraged but on the 3rd day of the excursion they were relieved, free and excited to continue with their lives, putting their past behind.



Simukai Officer raising awareness on child marriage

Zoe Empowers Project distributed buckets, soap and mosquito lotions to 1100, first year households with an aim to enhance safe hygiene methods. The health kits were targeted towards prevention of Malaria and Covid 19. A total of 95 groups received 1 water tapped buckets and 2ltrs hand washing each to promote regular hand washing during their group meetings. Zoe beneficiaries with skills in sewing made reusable face masks which were distributed to 2 500 households, each getting 2 facemasks to protect themselves during their Empowerment Pod gatherings. Through support from Zo Empowers Project; 12 toilets and four, 2 roomed houses were constructed. The following chart represents achievements by Zoe Empowers' Health and Hygiene component during the year under review.

Project Activities	Target	Reach
Training on Sexual reproductive health rights and malaria prevention	2310	2130
Distribution of Health kits i.e. buckets, soap and mosquito repellents	1100	1103
Toilet and house construction	27	27
Distribution of water tapped buckets and liquid soap for groups	97	97
Distribution of face masks	2500	2500

Clean Up Campaigns

On December 5, 2018 President Mnangagwa launched the National Environment Cleaning Day and declared that every first Friday of the month a National Clean-Up day. The main aim is to ensure that the country has sustainable environmental management and waste disposal systems. The theme of the clean-up campaign as declared by the President is “Zero tolerance to litter: My Environment, My Pride”. Since the Declaration, Simukai Child Protection Programme staff members, interns and volunteers, have been religiously tidying up the Organizations premises on this set day. Children from the Contact Centre Department as well as the Place of Safety have also been engaging in the clean-up campaigns. The clean-up campaigns have created a sense of ownership and love for a clean environment by staff.



Simukai officers participating in a National Clean Up campaign in Odzi

Drop in Centre



Children living and working on the Streets of Mutare engaging in sports at Mutare Drop in Centre

Children living and working on the streets are usually a forgotten group of vulnerable children. Factors cited as driving children into the streets in 2020 included ill-treatment by step parents particularly step mothers, poverty, lack of school fees, mother bringing boyfriend home whilst sharing the same room with child and juvenile delinquency. Simukai's Drop in Centres in Mutare, Chipinge hosted and catered for the needs of 343 children living and working on the Streets from Monday to Friday. Simukai offered the children decent meals, encouraged them to bath, do their laundry and discussed matters affecting them which helped restore their wellbeing. The children were offered psychosocial support through counselling, lifeskills, spiritual transformation and play therapy among other interventions. Through a volunteer registered nurse, the children received medical support which included medical fees payment, advice and counselling.

Relationships of mutual trust with the children were built through street visits and social discussions. A total of 1035 day street visits and 42 night street visits were conducted whilst 28 children were reunified with their families.

Different stakeholders were engaged towards meeting the needs of the children living and working on the streets whilst at the same time minimizing crime and spread of diseases. When COVID-19 struck in March 2020, lives of children living and working on the streets were greatly shaken and their livelihoods threatened. Their sources of food, drugs, bathing spaces, counselling services and medical assistance decreased as most service provider closed office as they complied to COVID-19 regulations.

Simukai partnered with DSD and availed Simukai's Rehabilitation Centre in Sakubva to serve as an Isolation Centre for children living and working on the streets of

Mutare during the COVID-19 lockdown. A total of 19 children were accommodated at the Centre, received decent meals, spiritual and emotional support. The children were given time to play and watch TV. A total of 18 boys were successfully reunified with their families. However, some children on the streets could not be assisted since they were not willing to move to the Isolation Centre. Girls on the other hand opted to be locked down in homes of some men who temporarily offered them accommodation in exchange for sexual favours. The Drop in Centre continued to thrive through the help of well-wishers who made donations towards the welfare of children who came to the Centre. Lack of a fixed budget covering the needs of children living and working in the streets of Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni continued to be an operational challenge faced by Simukai.

COVID-19 Response

The major health issue in 2020 was the COVID-19 pandemic which struck Zimbabwe in March. To complement Government efforts to ensure access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as part of Impact 2, Simukai through its various projects embraced COVID-19 guidelines provided by World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care in all project activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected Simukai because most of the Organization's beneficiaries were reached through community meetings. The restriction of gatherings and travelling resulted in the need for innovation and creativity. Resuming of project activities after the lockdown meant ensuring maximum protection of beneficiaries from COVID-19. However, the limited resources could not permit all projects to provide Personal Protective Equipment for their volunteers.

OAK Foundation extended its hand in response to COVID-19 by providing funds for the purchase of PPEs to ensure continuity of programming as well as protecting staff members in Simukai's various areas of operation. The PPEs were distributed to Simukai Staff, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Village Health Workers, Mentors, Child Care Workers Vulnerable Community Members and Stakeholders among others. The PPEs distributed to beneficiaries coupled with information dissemination helped flatten the COVID-19 curve as community members became eager to protect themselves, their children and those they came across. The following items were procured and distributed accordingly with support from OAK Foundation;

PPE Item Procured	Quantity
Branded re-usable masks	5 000
5 Litres hand sanitiser	37
500 ml hand sanitiser	200
750 ml liquid soap	204
Box of 100 Latex gloves	200
5L liquid soap	30
5L bleach	30
Buckets with tap	30
Infrared Thermometers	10

Zoe Empowers project's Health and Hygiene thematic had a principle objective to ensure that beneficiaries access health services when needed and promote a healthy lifestyle. During the year 2020; Zoe's health and hygiene activities shifted from the usual personal and environmental hygiene to focusing more on trainings and support on disseminating information on COVID-19 infection, prevention and reporting strategies/mechanisms. The project partnered with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) at District and Local level to assist in cascading the information. Children were encouraged to maximize on activities that were not heavily affected by the pandemic. These included face mask making, liquid soap and sanitizer making following the standards by World Health Organization (WHO).

All 110 groups including those that graduated in April 2020 from Zoe received awareness on COVID-19. Of these groups; 30% received awareness before restrictions were set and 70% via messages and WhatsApp platforms. MoHCC assisted in disseminating information at community level. These trainings helped demystify myths of issues of COVID-19. For example, assuming that it did not affect people of color, it could be cured using Antiviral Viral Therapy (ART), rural communities could not be affected since people there do not travel much.

Children were also advised to have tippy taps at their households to promote frequent washing of hands with soap and running water. The tippy taps were made through assistance from the Environmental Health Technician (EHT). 80% of the Zoe beneficiaries managed to make tippy taps at household level.

Local Rights Programme (LRP) funded by ActionAid empowered women and girls living in poverty and exclusion through increased civic participation, sustainable and resilient livelihoods, capacitating them whilst ensuring their protection in emergencies. LRP was implemented in Nyanga District under Saunyama Chieftainship, Mapako Ward 18 and Nyatate Ward 17 and Nyautare Ward 8 and reached a total of 729 rights holders (women, youths, child led development committees, community leadership structures, small holder farmers and the community at large). However, in 2020 LRP programming was tailored to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project instantly shifted its focus to respond to the emergency in form of community preparedness and prevention. A total of 193 (115 F/78M) community cadres (VHWs, CCWs etc.) were capacitated with COVID-19 information. Water Point Committee members 273 (174F/99M) were trained on management of water points (boreholes and deep wells). LRP distributed handwashing liquid, latex gloves, handwashing buckets, liquid soap, hand



Plaxedes Musendo and her mentor from Wisdom group in Gandidzanwa sewing their face masks



Peace group sharing information on Covid19 to the community

sanitizers, disinfectants, disposable facemasks, re-usable facemasks, infrared thermometers, goggles, methylated spirit and chlorine bleach. The distributed PPEs brought relief to the implementing communities' health personnel as they did their work. A total of 1 000 COVID-19 posters were distributed to 6 local clinics, schools, business centres, community leaders, community cadres and the Nyanga community.



Learners in Mayo sewing face masks



Simukai Officer conducting temperature checks and hand sanitizing beneficiaries in preparation for a Community Review Meeting

Simukai emphasised the importance of frequent hand washing with soap and running water as a COVID-19 preventative measure. Communities within which Simukai operates were encouraged to establish hand washing points and every household was encouraged to install a tippy-tap. LRP established hand washing stations in 4 clinics in 4 wards (Nyatate, Nyautare, Mapako and Ruchera). Communities made use of established hand washing stations for health and hygiene to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases which were likely to spread as a result of lack in handwashing practice. The handwashing stations included tapped water buckets and localised tippy taps which had an advanced mechanism with less handling in the process of washing hands where one had to step on pedal to release running water with soap from the tap for handwashing. Communities appreciated the hand washing practice emphasised during LRP activities and established hand washing stations instilled a positive practice of frequent washing of hands especially in public spaces. Simukai effectively observed COVID-19 preventative measures of properly wearing face masks, social distancing and frequent hand washing and sanitizing among others.

A total of 10 sessions were conducted to train 138 youth club members (89 female and 49 males) on sewing of reusable face masks and sanitary pads in Mutare and Mutasa Districts under the 18+ Strengthening the Voices of Civil Society in Ending Child Marriages Project. Each Youth Club received start-up materials which included 15 metres fleece material, 15metres cotton material, 30 metres t-shirt material, 10 metres polythene plastic, 46 metres elastic, 1 pack hand needles and 1-pack machine needles, 1 scissors, 1 tape measure and 5 thread balls. The youth club members remained occupied during the lockdown. They generated income from the face masks and

sanitary pads they sold. Through staying occupied, mischief was reduced. Hope for Tomorrow Project in its response to COVID-19 trained a COVID-19 taskforce made up of 10 caregivers. The taskforce enforced COVID-19 precautionary measures of proper wearing of facemasks, frequent washing and sanitizing of hands and social distancing, among others during project activities. Ten caregivers were trained to sew reusable facemasks and to make hand sanitisers. Those trained cascaded the knowledge they acquired to 200 caregivers in Ruwombwe. Each club received 5 meters polycotton material, 3 meters elastic, 1 pair



Hope for Tomorrow caregivers undergoing facemask sewing training



Hand sanitizing before a Child Protection Committee Meeting

scissors, 10 sewing needles, 10 litres hydrogen and 2 litres glycerol. The PPEs were used to protect children and caregivers during project related activities. The Hope for Tomorrow project through partnering with Ruwombwe Ward 26's Environmental Health Technician, Village Health Workers (VHW) and Lead Mothers enforced the installation of tippy-taps at their homesteads. Through further monitoring, it was noted that 256 households were reached and each household had at least 2 tippy taps in their yard. This was after households in Ruwombwe were encouraged to have 4 tippy-taps in their yards (1 by the entrance, 1 by the toilet, 1 by the dish washing area and 1 strategically positioned within the yard).

Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) conducted hand

washing campaigns in form of road shows in Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts. Health Centres (Saziya, Ngorima, Mutema, Musani, Changazi Clinics) and communities in both Chipinge and Chimanimani received PPEs. The distributions were as follows:

Items	Quantity	Recipients
Buckets	800 (20l)	800 households@2l/ HH
Liquid soap	450 (5l)	800 households@2l /HH
Hand sanitizers	450 (5l)	800 households@2l /HH
Latex gloves 10 *100	21 boxes	7 Health centres @30 boxes
Goggles	54	7 Health centres@ 7 /HC
Face masks	189boxes	7 heath centres @27/HC



Impact 2 Most Significant Change Story

Fear made him flee, faith brought him back

Bad company corrupts good morals! When Tadiwa (not his real name) lost his parent at the age of 12, he became a delinquent due to neglect and frustration. He felt as though he had no one to answer to anymore. With the help of older dishonest friends, he stole some appliances and 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 of 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 basic skills and seemed trustworthy. He worked in the TNT Building, as a pool token salesman and bartender and helped clean the bar. 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. He would attend sessions at Simukai Child Protection Programme with these friends and he also enjoyed the sessions.

He would get medical assistance, counselling, life skills training, basic personal hygiene essentials, psychosocial support activities and edutainment. These helped reinforce good behaviour in him. Simukai 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 allow family tracing such that nothing more was done for him except providing him with basic amenities and some health and psychosocial support along with linking him with relevant stakeholders when need arose. With the coming of COVID-19, life changed for Tadiwa. The shop in which he worked and stayed was closed due to the pandemic and he had to

go back to the street. When the news that Simukai in collaboration with DSD had converted Simukai's Rehabilitation Centre in Sakubva to an Isolation Centre; Tadiwa was elated. Services he received whilst at Simukai's Drop in Centre continued and he also received PPE. However, at the Isolation Centre, most children let out information that helped reunify many of them and this inspired him to come clean and tell his true story. This allowed for a family tracing on his behalf, he now had faith that his beloved aunt would accept him back. Indeed, he was reunified with his aunt, who was happy he was back home. He was supported with an income generating poultry project to help occupy and empower him to assist his aunt take care of him.

During the first follow-up on Tadiwa, it was discovered that he had not settled well in the community. The community was resisting his return into the village. They claimed he was a thief based on tales of what had happened before he had left. They did not even believe the chickens he was keeping

were his as they thought that he could have stolen them from wherever he had been. They did not even let their children associate with him. This was more than just a cause for concern and Simukai stepped in. Home visits were done by the Simukai staff together with representatives from DSD to try and re-integrate Tadiwa into the community. The Village Head was consulted; he assured Tadiwa that he would help him settle without hustle. Tadiwa felt safe and secure and became more confident now that he knew Simukai was there for him.

Through Simukai, Tadiwa was enrolled at a local Vocational Training Centre. This, along with the poultry project helped him become independent and financially stable. Street life was no longer an option. Looking back at his life before the streets, during the street and back at home, one can really appreciate the transformation. Like a born again Christian lifted up from a slimy pit with feet set onto a solid rock, Tadiwa is set for success and stability.



Children living and working in the streets before and after rehabilitation during the Covid pandemic

Impact 3

Increased access to formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and youth.

Focus

- Facilitating access to quality and inclusive education for children and youth

Reach

- A total of 473 children and young people were offered education assistance by Simukai through its programming.

Significant Achievements in 2020

Enrolment (Pre-School, Catch Up and Vocational Training)

203

A total of 203 learners were enrolled at the Rehabilitation Centre. The Pre-school sought to gainfully occupy OVCs under the age of 6 years and enrolled 36 learners (28 ECD A learners and ECD B 8 Learners). The Catch Up programme, a non-formal program which offered basic education to learners of primary level age (Grade 1 to 7) had an enrolment of 25 learners whilst Vocational Training which gave youth who an opportunity to acquire livelihood enhancing skills, had 142 learners. Following the COVID-19 lockdown, lesson delivery for vocational learners enrolled at Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre was mainly virtual, through Whatsapp platforms whilst ECD learners did the pick and drop model whereby, the children dropped and collected their work from the Centre. Challenges encountered included the postponement of Higher Education Examination Council (HEXCO) examinations to 2021 due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mainstreaming learners from the Catch Up class to the formal schools was hindered the prolonged closure of schools.

A total of 473 children and young people were offered education assistance by Simukai through its programming. When restrictions were eased, Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre was assessed and inspected for safety and compliance to COVID-19 protocols in preparation for the resumption of normal operations and was granted COVID-19 Compliance Certification. Measures observed included regular washing of hands at all entrance points, temperature screening of visitors and staff upon entry at the Centre, waste management, maintaining social distancing and ensuring proper wearing of masks at all times.

Tertiary Education

203

Under Zoe Empowers, a total of 203 beneficiaries were assisted with start-up kits and fees for vocational training. The training fields included Hairdressing, Food Preparation and Housekeeping, Farming, Soap and Drink Making, Pot Making, Fish Farming, Tailoring and Hairdressing to mention but a few.



Tafadzwa Muriwa from Hope group, Odzi showcasing his tools for motor mechanic after training at his workshop in Odzi town



Trish Mukwada doing her hairdressing business after receiving training

42

Through the Hope for Tomorrow Project 42 children's (from Hazvidi hope CRC) right to education was enhanced through school fees payment from CRC IGA proceeds. Other CRCs opted to pay fees for their members when schools were fully functional due to the COVID-19 lockdown.



Benizer Nemawunga in his vegetables garden project

Under Zoe Empowers, a total of 203 beneficiaries were assisted with start-up kits and fees for vocational training. The training fields included Hairdressing, Food Preparation and Housekeeping, Farming, Soap and Drink MakiSimukai mobilised funds to support tertiary students. In the year 2020, 25 (12 males, 13 females) tertiary students were assisted with accommodation, tuition and subsistence at colleges around Zimbabwe. A total of 7 students started college in Education, Accounting, Marketing and Retail, 4 students graduated (2 with Bachelors of Commerce Degree in Accounting, 1 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Development Studies and 1 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology). Of the 4, 1 student graduated with a first class degree and was awarded Midlands State University Book Prize. Two students were on attachment during the course of the year. A total of 3 students who had graduated in 2019 managed to secure jobs in 2020 and 1 pursued her Master's Degree at Africa University. Apart from tuition and accommodation, Simukai continued assisting the students by offering work readiness in securing vacation jobs where they worked and raised funds for other basic needs whilst also providing them with trainings in work readiness.

Improving access to Education in Chimanimani

Learning benefits every human being and it is one of Simukai's ambitions to make sure that education is available to all. Simukai's ActionAid funded Emergency Recovery Programme (ERP) successfully constructed a two classroomed block at Tiya Secondary School in Chimanimani District and furnished it. Tiya was



The recently completed classroom block at Tiya Secondary School.

identified with the help of stakeholders from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Public Works as having only 2 blocks which did not adequately meet the standards of a secondary school. Previously the community around Tiya Secondary School did not have any prospects for expanding the school or improving it. However, through ActionAid the community showed a sense of ownership to community development. They mobilized locally available resources such as common bricks, concrete stones, gravel and water for the classroom block construction.

The coming of COVID19 requirements coincided with the construction of the block, hence contributing positively to the called for teacher- pupil ratio as learners could now maintain social distancing during lessons.

“Development is what we are longing for and hands up to our brother-in-law Simukai for recognizing us”; said the Councilor of the Ward as he rendered gratitude for the work done by Simukai in collaboration with ActionAid. The classroom will go a long way in promoting children's access to quality education since education liberates the intellect, unlocks the imagination and is fundamental for self-respect.

Impact 3 Most Significant Change Story

A village boy with a city dream

*Manley Nemakonde,
after graduating at Midlands State University*



Some say that the death of a parent is the end of the world for the children; the case seemed true for Manley. First it was his mother who died when he was only in Grade 6. His uncles took him in and paid his school fees. He passed his Ordinary and Advanced Level but sadly college or university fees became a problem. He had to go back to his rural home which his parents had left.

Manley was later discovered by Simukai through Zoe Empowers project and trained on various skills; he started a broiler and garden project. Zoe taught him about conservation farming as he was taught ways to increase yields and diversify his crops through intercropping. He learnt a lot from Zoe and took every opportunity he got to disseminate the information acquired to his peers. Having learnt that Manley had passed his A Level, Simukai under its Tertiary Scholarship Programme (TSP) assisted him financially and emotionally to enrol and study towards attaining

a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology at Midlands State University.

Whilst at University, Manley supported himself with food and other necessities from the proceeds from his broiler and garden projects. He engaged in various activities which kept him occupied and helped him develop public speaking skills. He completed his Programme in 2020 with a first class degree and was awarded:

- MSU Book Price award
- First Mutual Health Award for the Best Undergraduate Student in the Department of Psychology
- Nyaradzo Life Assurance Award

He is a young man who dreams big. He termed himself “a village boy with a city dream” since he knew that nothing was out of his reach and all he needed was to take action. His faith was renewed. Having lost his

parents he thought that God had forsaken him but later realised that God was with him through it all.

Manley's Special quotes

Manley was often quoted saying:

- “Thinking is the hardest work out there, which is probably the reason so few engage in it”
- “A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work”
- “Men die of boredom, psychological conflict and disease, they do not die of hard work”

Impact 4

Increased resilience of vulnerable households for self-sustainability.

Focus

- Economic strengthening and creation of opportunities for children and households.

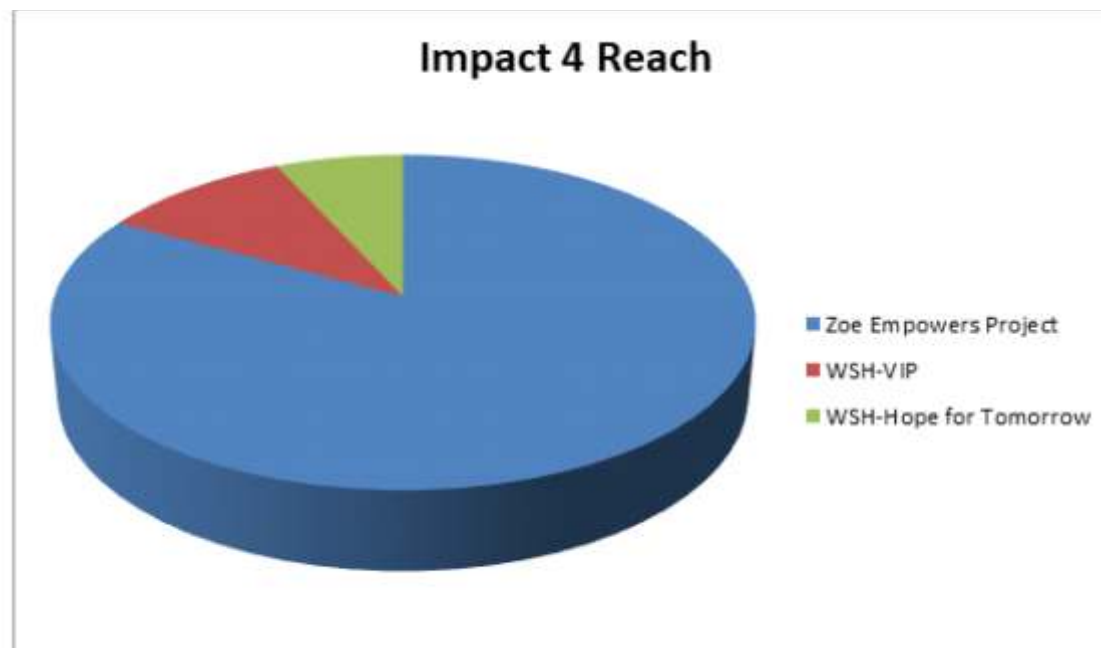
Reach

- **3686** households reached through impact 4 interventions

Activities

- providing entrepreneurship trainings, funds to start income generating projects, agricultural inputs and complimentary trainings to support and effectively manage livestock and their projects

Impact 4 Support from Partners



Income Generating Endeavours

In 2020, a total of 450 beneficiaries were recruited into Zoe Empowers Project. Three hundred and thirty (330) beneficiaries were from Wards 3, 5,16,18,20 and 24 of Mutasa District whilst 120 beneficiaries were recruited from ward 1of Mutare Rural District. To economically strengthen the households, 660 Beneficiaries were supported with entrepreneurship trainings. Trainings were facilitated by Government stakeholders from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Small to Medium and Economic Development.

Beneficiaries were further supported with USD\$150.00 each to start individual income generating projects. Out of the 660 Beneficiaries, 35 % started poultry production, 18% market gardening, 10% buying and selling groceries, second hand clothes and other wares, 22% goat keeping, 10% bakeries and 15% started projects such as detergent making, crafting, barber, hairdressing, tailoring, peanut butter making and bee keeping. Monitoring visits conducted showed that beneficiaries were using their profits to pay for school fees, buying scholastic material, clothes,

food, medication and other basic needs.

Trainings on entrepreneurship encompassing market linkages and use of natural endowments helped beneficiaries to source markets for their products within their communities and beyond. Households managed to use and benefit from natural resources in their home regions. For instance, 2 households in Clare started a bee keeping project which enabled them to cater for the needs of their households which both had an average 5 people each. Prior to project 3 children from the 2 families had dropped out of school but managed to re- enroll back into school as soon as they started yielding profits from their projects.

Income generating activities affected by COVID-19 lock down	Income generating activities done during Covid-19 Lockdown
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grocery shops -Buying and selling of second-hand clothes -Catering businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Traditional Poultry -Goat keeping -Market gardening -Keeping and selling fish -Crafting -Bee keeping -Detergent making -Broiler keeping -Tailoring -Barber shop

Covid-19 lockdown started a month after 2019 Class 2 groups received individual IGA support. They had not created a market base; had no savings and were still trying to set up their businesses. They only had one type of business which was then affected by the pandemic, since they had not yet diversified to other projects. Zoe cushioned these groups by providing affected households with further support of USD80 to re- boost their economic activities.

Food Security



Development Bakery Group show casing their products during the support visit



Believe Group members constructing their fish pond.



Empowerment pod for Thanksgiving Group in Munyarari harvesting beans from their garden

Food security forms one of the most significant pillars of the Zoe Empowers Project. Loss of livelihoods coupled with extreme food price hikes restricted poor households including Zoe beneficiaries' capacity to obtain access to sufficient food. The COVID- 19 pandemic perpetuated food insecurity especially amongst very poor households. Drought-induced water shortages in most rural areas threatened food security. In 2020, Zoe Empowers worked with Orphans and Vulnerable Children between 12 to 21 years totalling 3060 in Mutare Rural and Mutasa Districts respectively. The support provided was targeted at household and group level with each empowerment group comprising 25-30 household.

During the year 2020, the following achievements were noted under the Zoe Empowers Project. A total of 77 first and second year Empowerment groups received nutrition garden inputs which comprised of 50kg of Compound D, 100g rape, 200g covo, 100g tomatoes, 150g cucumbers, 100g onions, 100g cabbage, 100g sugar loaf, 100g carrots and 100g tsunga seed packs. Two watering cans and 20 litres spraying knap sacks were also distributed to each working group. All first year Empowerment groups secured land near water sources with support from Traditional Leaders. All the 77 empowerment groups had functional nutrition gardens which enhanced food quantity and diversity, thus improving the nutrition

status of households. The groups shared the garden produce and sold surplus. However, due to high temperatures most water sources dried up and this affected nutrition gardens. A total of 450 households in their 1st year in Mutare Rural (Odzi, Chiwere, Chinota, Takunda, St Francis, Gandidzanwa, Clare, and Arda) and in Mutasa District (Manica Bridge and Honde Valley) received agricultural farming inputs. Each household received 10kg of certified maize seed (early maturity variety) and 50 kg of Ammonium Nitrate fertilizer. Trainings were conducted on the concept of Pfumvudza Farming. This is a crop production intensification introduced by the Government of Zimbabwe for small



Crucial Kumunda of Provide Group in his vegetable garden



Shelling maize harvested from the inputs got from Zoe



Benizer Nemawunga in his vegetables garden project

scale farmers to use limited resources and maximize on harvest. Traditional Leaders, Mentors and Agriculture Extension Officers (AGRITEX) monitored the beneficiaries' fields.

Zoe Empowers extended its hand of mercy to the affected beneficiaries during the COVID-19 induced lockdown. Households with affected livelihoods received small animals like rabbits, chickens, goats, guinea fowls and turkeys because these projects continued to be viable during the lockdown. The livestock multiplied fast, thus enhancing nutrition and food security among households. They started getting manure and milk from the goats, eggs from chickens

and other poultry. Through ensuring food security, Simukai positively improved and cushioned household's nutritional status and consumption patterns.

Village Investment Programme (VIP) - WeSeeHope

During the period under review, VIP also known as the Village Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) operated in an economic climate which was highly inflationary. The beginning of the year was characterised by an interbank exchange rate which later shifted to an Auction system exchange rate. This resulted in VIP groups' uncertainty on whether to

abandon RTGs dollar transactions in favour of US dollars whilst at the same time losing the time value of money when they saved in US dollars. A notable achievement was the VIP groups' use of an Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC) pot collected by groups to support extremely vulnerable children in their communities mostly with school fees payment, stationary and food.



Tineruvimbo VSLA group celebrating during a share-out gathering

Activities	Key findings
Support and monitoring visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIP groups were resilient to the changing economic environment and appreciated benefits derived from VIP such as access to funds for immediate needs and small businesses generated them income.
Refresher trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Refresher trainings with 25 VIP group members were conducted. Previously VIP groups were well versed with sharing out proceeds at the end of the cycle when they operated a fixed share. However, in cases of flexible shares, they were not very competent. Through training group members grasped concepts well and began sharing out accordingly.
VIP groups Graduation ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 VIP graduating groups (Mudzimaiwanhasi, Tamuka, Kupfumaishungu, Batanai, Runyararo and Hamamaoko) exhibited resilience after conducting 3 full cycles (36 months) continuously. They were weaned off and could effectively document their transactions and share out on their own.
New VIP groups formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 newly formed VIP groups , made up of 88 household heads were very enthusiastic about saving after they agreed to save in US dollars. They all adopted flexible savings from \$2 to \$10 per month . The groups were oriented in the key concepts of OVC pot (funds collected to assist orphans in the community) and group IGAs which they received well.
New VIP groups Facilitators training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Facilitators were trained on VSLA concepts and received further support on documentation. The facilitators cascaded the same training to their group leadership well as observed during monitoring visits where their documentation was in order.



Maclean Haisoswi showing her harvest from her onion income generation project.



Neshungu VSLA during their meeting



Hazvidi Hope VSLA during their meeting

Goat Pass on

In 2020 Goat Pass on continued within the Hope for Tomorrow Project with 251 households in Ruwombwe Ward 26 participating in the initiative with a total of 107 goats in circulation. The goat pass on project sought to enhance the economic muscle of households of Child Rights Club (CRC) members within the Hope for Tomorrow Project in such a way that they would be in a position to adequately meet the educational and nutritional needs of the children under their care.

A total of 126 households' asset base was strengthened through the 135 (74F 61M) kids produced under the goat pass on cycle in Ruwombwe. Eight households were fortunate to receive twins whilst 1 household received triplets. At least 20 households from each cluster were effectively using goat manure as the main fertiliser for their vegetables and maize. This improved their yields, household consumption and enabled them to generate income from selling surplus. However, goat mortality was noted due to various ailments. To reduce goat mortality, Simukai availed 10 veterinary kits distributing 2 kits per cluster targeting Ruwombwe's 5 clusters. Each kit included 50ml Ivermectin, 100ml Hitet 120 LA, 100ml Vitamin C, 50ml Exit, 4 20ml Syringes, 2 needles and 1 dosing syringe. A total of 40 livestock watchdogs were selected and trained from the clusters with a role to

manage the goats and broilers within the project as well as vaccinate and dose community goats at a fee. Through this initiative community vigilance, ownership and commitment to improve goat health was noted, cash was generated within the clusters to further restock the goat medicine. Community members were empowered to become Para veterinarians through the training they received from and a qualified Veterinary Officer. The following table offers a picture of the goat pass on project in Ruwombwe.



Simukai officer and mentor vaccinating goats in Ruwombwe, Makoni District

Cluster	Households	Goats	Births	Twins	Deaths	Total # of Goats
Chakuma	52	28	30 (19S 11H)	3 sets	4	58
St Johns	56	31	34 (14S 20H)	3 sets	2	65
Gwangwadza	54	13	23 (13S 10H)	1 set triplets	5	36
Manyora	42	16	23 (20 S 3 H)	1 set	3	39
Gurure	47	19	28 births (11S 17H)	1 set	4	47
Total	251	107	135 kids (74S 61H)	8 sets twins 1 triplets	18	245



Clanish feeding her broilers which are almost ready for the market

Impact 4 Most Significant Change Story

Hope Restored

“Ndaisaziva kuti h u p e n y u hunokwanisa kungo fuma hwashanduka, ndine mufaro usingapere mukati memoyo wangu,”

literally translated as, I did not know life could change so fast; I have so much joy in my heart says Clanish, a double orphan who lost her father at 12 years and her mother when at 14years.

She and her sister Shalom were left in the custody of their maternal grandmother who took care of them through selling firewood which she walked about 5-7km to fetch. At the age of 15, Clanish and her sister dropped out of

school due to lack of school fees and began assisting their grandmother to sell firewood. Even though they did not get much from it, it was their only means of survival. On good days they would earn at a \$1 a day from selling firewood, whilst on other days people took firewood on credit but never paid. The community stigmatized them and called them names. The stigma they faced traumatized Clanish and her little sister;

“When my parents died no one from the community came to neither check on us nor pay condolences. Only my sister, grandmother, 2 relatives from my mother's side and I were at the funeral. People did not come because they knew we were not going to offer any food. I realized that people only love you when you have

something to offer”;

Clanish explained her experiences with tears in her eyes. They could only manage to eat once a day or sleep on an empty stomach. The level of poverty pushed Clanish into child marriage but that did not last as her husband left her just before she gave birth. She returned to stay with her grandmother and sister. When Clanish was identified into Zoe Empowers project, she lived in a hut made of wood and plastered with mud. It was not a safe shelter but that was what they could afford and that was their home.

Clanish received US\$150-00 to start her income generating project in May 2018. She started a broiler project where she bought 50 day old chicks, chicken feeds, feeders as well as vaccines. Clanish worked hard as she did not

want to go back to her firewood fetching days. She began making enough profit and managed to diversify to market gardening. The girl that was known as a “firewood seller” is now known for selling broilers and vegetables. She has also started a business for her sibling who now sells drinks.

“My life changed overnight, the community now greets me, I now have friends and they no longer call us names,” said Clanish as she was talking about her achievements from the projects she is doing. She now sells her broilers in batches as demand is very high. She is now able to buy groceries and medication for her grandmother who is now old and sick. Clanish has also managed to build a one roomed house and has started saving up to extend it. She is happy that she now stays in a better house and when the rains come she no longer worries that their house might fall on them whilst sleeping.

Clanish was not only supported with funds for income generation, but with various trainings which include

sexual and reproductive health, malaria prevention as well as personal and environmental hygiene.

“I am now very conscious about the cleanliness of my environment as well as my body. I used to just wake up and go to fetch firewood. I would actually sleep without taking a bath giving myself an excuse that I did not have soap. Thinking of it now, I feel ashamed that I did not value my body,” said Clanish shyly. “I have had more pain than happiness growing up and because of that I had stopped believing in God. But as Ecclesiastics 3:1 says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,” I now know and understand that it was all in Gods time that my life would change despite the many challenges I faced growing up.”



Clanish, her sibling and daughter standing in front of her house she built



She managed to start a business for her sister using profits from her project

Cyclone Idai Recovery Project (ActionAid)



Community members showing off their health and hygiene kits received from Simukai supported by Action Aid



Health and hygiene kits distribution in Chimanimani



Chipinge Ward 3 Environmental Health Technician (EHR) chairing a Covid 19 awareness session.

The Cyclone Idai Recovery Project was a 1-year project carried out by the Emergency Recovery Project within Simukai which is funded by ActionAid. This was a follow up to the Cyclone Idai Response Programme. The objective of the project was to help communities recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai that struck the Eastern border towns of Zimbabwe, such as Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts in 2019, leaving many households homeless and impoverished. The project sought to enhance and create a conducive environment with regards to access to protection services and rights to women and girls, seeing communities with improved water and sanitation awareness in both Chimanimani (Ward 16, 21 and 22) and Chipinge District (Wards 1 and 3). The software component worked towards ensuring community preparedness to reduce the impact of disasters and influence Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans and policies and showing accountability to affected communities in Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts. Simukai managed to adhere to the planned path of implementation necessitated by funds availed by the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) under ActionAid.

ERP Significant Achievements

The implementation phase had four clusters that included WASH, Education, DRR and COVID-19 Response. In unveiling the results as a source of pride, the following cluster based achievements were noted:



Water tank installed at Tilbury Primary School

CLUSTER	ACHIEVEMENTS	BENEFICIARIES	BEST PRACTICES
Wash	-Installation of 3 piped water schemes	-Vhimba, Fairfield Primary and Tiya Secondary Schools	-Drawing water from nearby sources (approximately 2km from the schools)
	-Installation of 2x 5000litre water JoJo and Jumbo tanks	-Fairfield, Tribery, Vhimba and Tiya Schools	-Thorough water capacity testing to determine the yield of the boreholes
	-Installation of solar powered borehole	-Bangwe Primary in Chipinge	
	-Assessment for prospective installation of borehole	-Goko Primary School	
	Establishment and Strengthening of Water Point Committees (WPC)	4 WPCs	
Education	-Participatory Health and Hygiene Session through Hand Washing Campaign	Chimanimani (wards 16,21 & 22) Chipinge (wards 1& 3)	
DRR	-Establish and strengthen committees in 5 Wards in Chipinge and Chimanimani	Chipinge (Mutema, Maunganidze) Chimanimani (Tiya, Kopa and Rusitu)	
	-Refresher Training on Disaster Risk Reduction, Management and Communication	Chipinge (Wards 1 & 3) Chimanimani(Ward 16)	

Expansion and Growth: Chipinge Child Protection Centre



Chipinge Child Protection Centre: From footing stage to roofing

A dream written down with a date becomes a goal, a goal broken down into steps becomes a plan and a plan backed by action makes dreams come true. This entails how Simukai Chipinge Child Protection Centre came into existence. The determination to determination to ease the plight of orphans and vulnerable children resulted in the birth of Chipinge Child Protection Centre. Since 2009, Simukai has been offering emergency shelter in Chipinge to child survivors of GBV from a rented facility. The rented facility was small and could only accommodate a limited number of children

in Chipinge. With the high prevalence rate of gender based violence in Chipinge District, Simukai could not fully reach out and offer appropriate services which included place of safety to survivors of child abuse and neglect, psycho-social support for child living and working on the street and offer basic literacy sessions. Having applied for a piece of land from Chipinge Town in 2017, 2019 saw the Council donating a 5400m² residential stand for the construction of Simukai's Child Protection Centre. After extensive resource mobilisation, indeed God heard Simukai's prayer as the

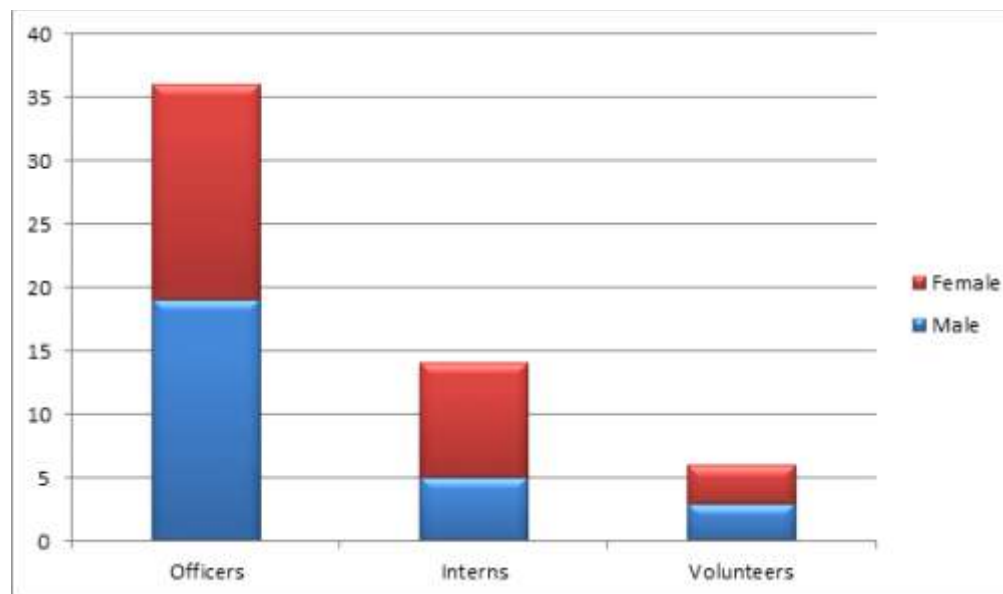
Japanese Government and the people of Japan awarded Simukai with a US\$90 858.00 grant for the construction of a state of the art Child Protection Centre in Chipinge District. The Centre will go a long way in availing adequate care and protection of children. It will have a positive impact on the achievement of Simukai's broader child protection and development objectives to ensure child survival and health, education, economic growth and equity.

Human Resources

Overview

Simukai employees continued to be the greatest asset of the Organisation utilized through proper Human Capital Management systems which allow flexibility and individual growth. Work life balance mechanisms have been put in place and some staff members tied the knot in the course of the Year 2020. Despite the operational drawbacks resulting from Covid-19 at the beginning of Year 2020, Simukai managed to produce positive results to the beneficiaries it served, maintained good relations with Government stakeholders and sustained positive relations with its funding partners through innovation, professionalism, efficiency and meeting donor requirements. Adherence to Ministry of Health and Child Care and World Health Organisation regulations in regards to Covid -19. A number of Trainings were held and the emphasis on respecting structures on the ground in operational areas allowed for delivery of Programmes without any conflict in these areas and this contributed immensely in realizing organizational objectives.

Staff Compliment



Simukai had a staff compliment of 36 (17 females and 19 males). Support was received from Universities such as University of Zimbabwe, Bindura State University, Great Zimbabwe State University, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Midlands State University and Africa University. Students on internship received on the job training

and gained work experience. Simukai had an Internship Compliment of 14 that is 9 females and 5 males.

Staff Matrimonies

Two staff members tied the knot with their partners in 2020. Congratulations and Simukai wishes them blessed unions. Staff members supported the



Simukai Director, Mrs Matsanga giving remarks during the Annual Planning Meeting



Simukai members of staff participating at the Annual Planning Meeting



Capacity building training of Simukai staff members

weddings through their presence and contributions and they enjoyed themselves on these memorable events as they all danced and hailed the newly weds.

Trainings

An array of efficient and effective employees within the Organization has continued to be of paramount importance over the years hence the need for constant Training Needs Analysis. As a result, Simukai is committed to ensuring a stable and dependable delivery of services through a well-trained and sustainable workforce. Below is a list of trainings held in 2020:

Covid-19 Pandemic Training

On the 22nd of June 2020, Simukai Child Protection Programme staff was trained on COVID- 19 infection, prevention and control mechanisms. Personnel from the Ministry of Health and Child Care facilitated the training at Simukai, Mutare Main Offices.

Staff members were equipped with in-depth knowledge on the COVID-19 pandemic as they continued to serve communities in Manicaland. The take home phrase was: Be sure to play your part: Stay faithful to your face mask (don't leave it behind), frequently wash your hands and avoid crowded spaces.

Gender Based Violence and Cognitive Behavior Therapy Trainings

On the 21st of September 2020 a Cognitive Behavior Therapy and GBV training was held at Simukai, Mutare Main Office. The Training was meant to capacitate Simukai Staff on how to communicate with clients who had special psychological support needs. On the same date, members of staff were capacitated through Gender Based Training. The training was intended to capacitate Simukai Staff on effective handling of Gender Based Violence Related Cases in its areas of operation.

Financial Report

Introduction

The Finance and Administration Department played a custodian role to Organizational resources effectively safeguarding Simukai's assets. It ensured orderly and efficient conduct of business, including adherence to Management Policies. Timely production of reliable, accurate and complete financial information remained its mandate. The Department developed, improved and ensured adherence to internal control systems to prevent and detect errors and fraud whilst complying to donor requirements.

Compliance

The Organization remained informed of the changes in both monetary and fiscal Policies during the fiscal year. It complied with the legal and regulatory requirements which governed Organizations in its trade. Simukai has binding Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the Local Councils of Chipinge, Makoni, Mutare, Mutasa and Nyanga Districts. The Organization also adhered to Funding Partners financial guidelines and

requirements for continued funding. Compliance with other statutory obligations and timeous payments towards NSSA, Withholding Tax and Pay as You Earn (PAYE) were ensured.

2020 Funding Situation

The Organization depended on funds from ten (10) Funding Partners that included WeSeeHope, Zoe Empowers, Action Aid, IM (Swedish Development Partner), Oak Foundation, Plan International Zimbabwe, USAID- Dreams Initiative, Central Church of Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Save the Children and Bread and Water for Africa. The total 2020, annual income amounted to US\$1,490,066.00 which represented a 3% decrease from 2019 total annual income. Organizational Income Generating Projects contributed to 5% of the funds while 95% were from Funding Partners as illustrated in Fig 1 below.



Members of Simukai staff during a Gender Based Violence and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Training



Capacitating Staff: Gender Based Violence and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Training

2020 Impact Report

Funding partner	2020 Grant Disbursements
WeSeeHope (Hope for Tomorrow Project and Village Investment Programme).	US\$ 45,438.91
Plan International (18+ Strengthening Civil Society in Ending Child Marriages Project).	US\$82,050.57
OAK Foundation (Fuel, Vehicle Maintenance, Administration Salaries, Knowledge Management, Audit contribution and COVID-19 response)	US\$47,587.00
Zoe Empowers (Zoe Empowers Project programming and Hope Companion)	US\$ 753,660.00
Action Aid (LRP and ERP)	US\$151,917.15
IM (Swedish Development Partner) IM Project	US\$69,008.00
FACT Zimbabwe (DREAMS Project)	US\$108,392.18
CCAP	US\$20,000.00
Bread & Water for Africa	US\$36,462.48
Save The Children (Children on the Move Project)	US\$16,923.08
Japanese Government and the People of Japan Chipinge Child Protection Centre.	US\$90.858.00
Total Disbursements	US\$1,422,297.37



Simukai staff following proceedings at the Annual Planning Meeting



Capacity building training of Simukai Staff

Fig 2: Other Income

<u>Source/Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre	US\$888.36
Simukai Youth Education Pack(YEP)and Catch Up	US\$63,967.27
Donations and Other Income	US\$2,913.00

US\$67,768.63

Fig 3: Diagrammatic Presentation of Funding Situation

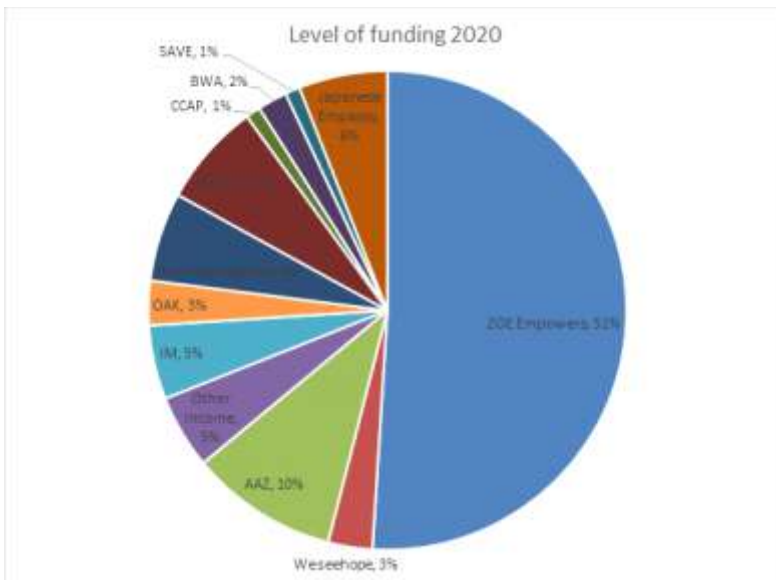
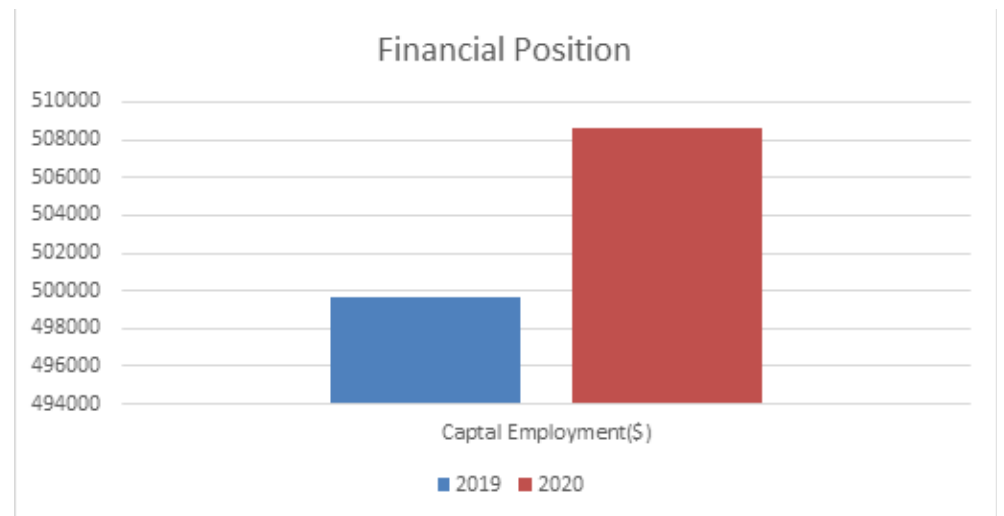


Fig 4: Simukai Statement of Financial Position



6. Vehicle Administration

Simukai Child Protection Programme maintained a fleet of 9 functional vehicles following a disposal of one aged vehicle during the fiscal year 2020.

7. Audit

Rockstone (a registered Audit Firm with the Board of Accountants and Auditors) carried out the external audit for 2020 during the fiscal year 2021. The Organization received an unqualified Institutional External Audit Report.

8. 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 2020. Some individuals, churches and groups took time to come and worship, fellowship, play and

provide Psycho- Social Support to children in Simukai's Places of Safety, a culture that has grown amongst "friends of Simukai". Numerous donations in cash and kind were received and the majority chose to remain anonymous. Simukai's work is appreciated by many and its work remains relevant and fits in well with Government's goals to push forward the National Spatial Data Infrastructure strategy. The Organization remained grateful to Funding Partners and the following well-wishers who extended their hands towards supporting Simukai's work in 2020.



A reliable transport system is needed to reach out to some of the most remote communities we serve

List of Donations 2020

	Individuals	Groups /Organizations/Churches
1	Natalia Nyakabao	Reaching out Everywhere
2	Sister Cathrine	St Peters Methodist Church
3	Claudius Makazhu	Zesta Jabolyn Foundation
4	Gwinyai Nyamhingura	St Mary's United Methodist Church
5	Kadadia Kirit	Harvest House International
6	Chiaraidzo Magadaire	United Family International Church
7	Ms Manyumwa	Humanitarian Cooperate Branding
8	Rev Musona	
9	Pastor Munembe	
10	Ms Dolf	
11	Karina Martin	
12	Mrs A.R. Mawadzi	
13	Nicholas Chovhunoita	
14	Reverand Musona	
15	Nivea Chindomba	
16	Prince Damalanga	
17	Mr Nyamuranga	
18	St Ellen Masere	
19	Kupa Charity	
20	Samuel Gwaure	
21	Priviledge Mlambo	
22	Mrs Zungunde	
23	Fortue	
24	Mr Chidzvondo	
25	Mrs Saurombe	





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