



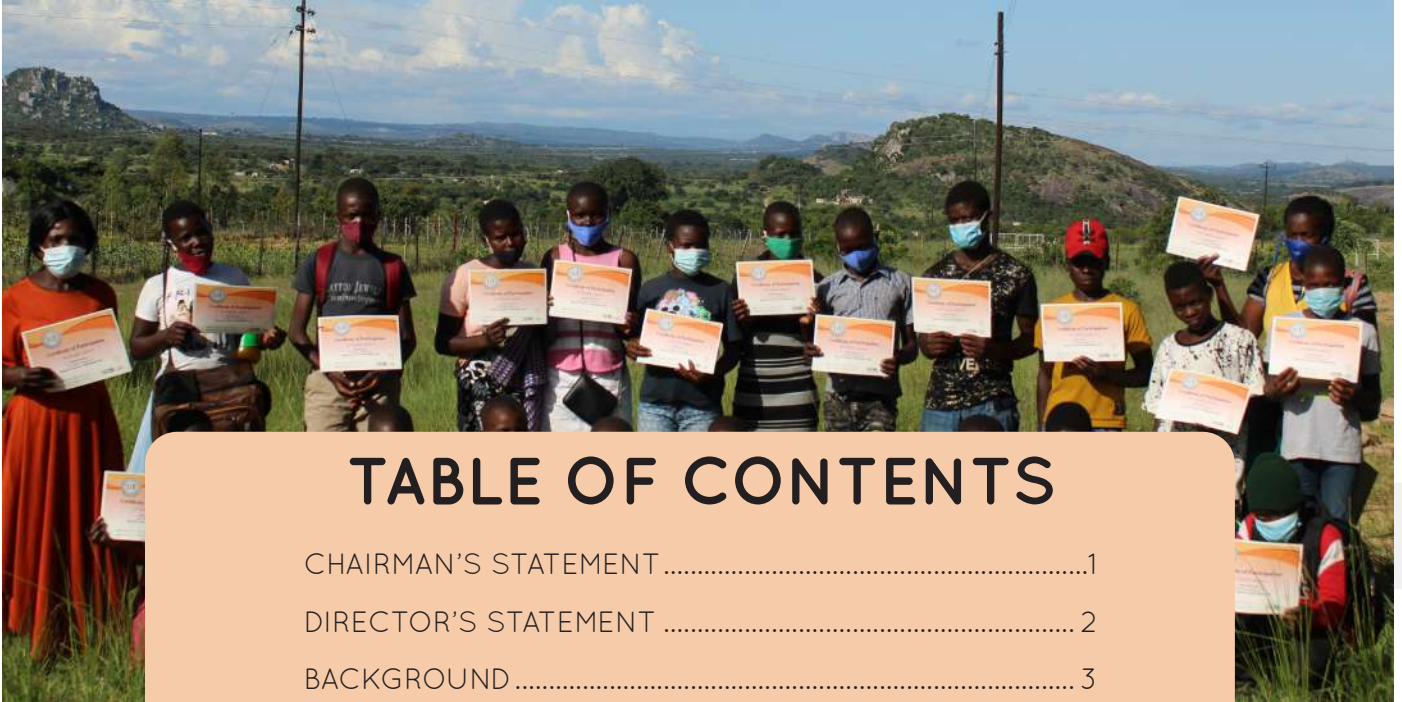
## SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME



# 2021

# Impact Report





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## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

I am delighted to present the Simukai Child Protection Programme 2021 Impact Report, which shows how we have significantly advanced the execution of our strategy. We are proud of being a successful, growing Organization and the important contributions we make to wider society. The year 2021 was a difficult year for Simukai Child Protection Programme. The year presented itself with several challenges because of two reasons: first, the continued impact of COVID-19 and second, commodity inflation. However, despite these challenges Simukai persevered and effectively served its clients throughout the year. Even during the deadly pandemic, Simukai showed extraordinary commitment and kept delivering tirelessly for the clients. I continue to be grateful to Simukai for the commitment and wonderful execution of duty.

Despite all the setbacks, I am happy to report that Simukai is still on the right track and increasingly in control of its own destiny even during these uncertain times. I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the dedicated employees of Simukai. Without their efforts and commitment, Simukai could not have performed and sustained its operations during these challenging times.

I would also like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Director and management for their continued strong and unequivocal support towards the cause of Simukai.

Simukai has displayed impressive agility and a remarkable ability to adapt and change during the year 2021. Our teams have moved quickly to focus on areas of operations that will help us to return to growth as we emerge from the pandemic. The combination of our strong programming models, our capabilities and culture and our refined strategy, allows us to look to the future with confidence.

After several years with Simukai having three separate Boards running affairs in Mutare, Makoni and Chipinge, the year 2021 was marked by a Board of Trustees' resolution for Simukai to adopt a new governance structure where one Board will play an oversight role over management across all Simukai operational areas. This new governance structure is anticipated to bring efficiency and standardize all Simukai operations.

I extend my gratitude to the various Government and Regulatory authorities, Simukai's valued clients, suppliers, bankers and stakeholders for their consistent and resolute co-operation and trust.

I would like to conclude by saying that Simukai has maintained a strong presence across Manicaland Province. With such a strong footprint, in Manicaland, resources permitting, we are deeply committed to extend our services to the whole of Zimbabwe in the coming years.

As I sign off, I want to thank you for keeping faith in Simukai Child Protection Programme. I wish all of you the best!

Thank you!

**Mr. Joel Dzveta**

**Board Chairperson**

**Simukai Child Protection Programme**



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am pleased to share with you the Simukai Child Protection Programme 2021 Impact Report which highlights the priorities and accomplishments of the Organization in the year 2021. As I reflect on the year 2021, I am struck by the remarkable achievements that Simukai has registered despite the setbacks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through self-sacrifice and dedication, everyone in the Simukai family pulled together and did whatever it took to register these impressive results for Simukai. I want to acknowledge and thank the Board and staff for their perseverance, dedication, passion and commitment to the work of Simukai.

Simukai continued to support and enhance the well-being of children in difficult circumstances and marginalized members of the community through innovative ways. The Organization delivered its programmes guided by the main four pillars of Health and Psychosocial Support, Education, Advocacy and Economic Strengthening. Of particular note is the fight against child marriages that Simukai took to a much higher level by hosting the National Symposium in Harare on Ending Child Marriages that drew participants from the Senior and Junior Parliamentarians, Traditional Leaders, like-minded Civil Society Organizations, the Media and young people. For the first time, the year 2021 saw Simukai facilitating the highest number of birth registrations for vulnerable children and young people. Simukai continued to support survivors of Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani and Chipinge to recover from the devastating effects of the natural disaster through provision of clean and safe drinking water and preparedness to mitigate the effects of future disasters.

Drug and substance abuse has become a problem among children and youths, so bad is the situation that the majority of young people in urban and rural communities are involved in drug and substance abuse. It is imperative that the problem of drug and substance abuse among children and youth be analysed and understood from different angles so that intervention strategies are created and employed to directly address this growing problem. Simukai's education portfolio has continued to support access to quality education to vulnerable children and young people stretching from early childhood education (ECD) through to tertiary education. Household economic strengthening has been promoted through grants for vulnerable households to start small businesses, vocational skills training for young people, savings and lending schemes in communities and cash transfers. Through it all, Simukai remained committed to its strategic priorities and goals.

Despite the challenges we continued to face in the second year of the coronavirus pandemic, our team has maintained an uninterrupted level of service and support for our programme participants, while also accomplishing significant achievements. I want to thank all levels of government for their phenomenal support this past year. I want to thank everyone who has been involved with the work of Simukai, for your unique contributions to where we stand today as an Organization. Looking forward to the year ahead, I know that we will continue to work through every challenge that comes our way. Our future is bright, thanks to your support. Happy reading!

**Mrs. Francisca Barbara Matsanga**

**Director**

**Simukai Child Protection Programme**



# SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

2021 IMPACT REPORT

## BACKGROUND

### Environmental Landscape

The year 2021 was marked by devastating loss of life due to the persistent COVID-19 pandemic. As cases of COVID-19 continued to rise in Zimbabwe, demand for essential items, such as face masks, hand sanitizers and hand washing stations significantly rose. Like all emergencies and humanitarian crises, the COVID-19 pandemic hit women, girls, the poor and the most marginalised the hardest, essential public health information was shared with vulnerable communities and supporting essential services such as emergency shelter for girls and young women at risk of domestic violence.

Simukai Child Protection Programme worked to ensure that social protection and humanitarian support targeted and protected vulnerable groups such as children, girls, young women, people living with disability and the elderly amongst others as they were being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and other crisis situations. The pandemic unleashed a surge in violence against women and girls across the country, which were intensified by continued lockdowns with little or no access to services and support networks.

#### Core Values

- » Accountability
- » Innovation
- » Integrity
- » Non-discrimination
- » Teamwork

### Economic Landscape

Zimbabwe had a population of 14.98 million in January 2021, 52.3% of Zimbabwe's population being female, while 47.7% being male. Of Zimbabwe's total population, 32.3% lived in urban centres, while 67.7% lived in rural areas. Digital 2021: Zimbabwe

Households' loss of access to basic social services and deepening of negative coping strategies risked the wellbeing of most Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) working with Simukai Child Protection Programme (Simukai). Poverty levels remained high with a significant proportion of households experiencing reduced or no income since the onset of the pandemic. The coverage of social assistance programs remained low. The economic challenges and extraordinary shocks caused by the drought and COVID-19 pandemic called for Simukai to continue with interventions to support and protect lives and livelihoods of OVC and households' longer-term recovery.

### Social Landscape

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to keep some children out of school (ZimStat, Rapid PICES phone surveys July 2020 and December 2020-March 2021). Less than 30% of school-going children in rural areas engaged in education and learning compared with 70% of urban children as much emphasis was put on virtual education delivery which was inaccessible for the poor and marginalised learners.

### The change Simukai sought to achieve in 2021

Increasing awareness levels of children and the community on social protection. Increasing health access and social wellbeing of children, youth and households

Increasing access to formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and youth. Increasing resilience of vulnerable households for Self-sustainability.

## ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

### Our Vision

A Leading Organization In Enhancing An Enabling Environment For Children And Youth To Fulfil Their Rights And Contribute Positively To Their Communities.

### Our Mission

Protection And Promotion Of Rights Of Children And Youths For Them To Realize Their Full Potential With Participation Of Families And Communities

### Our Goals

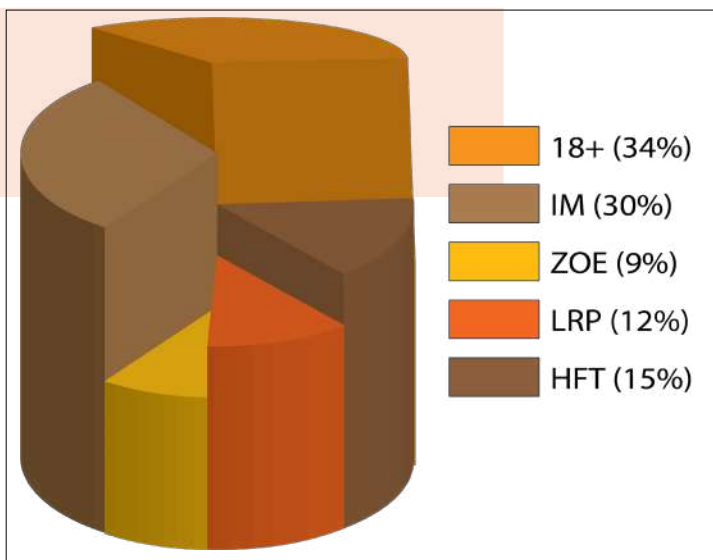
To Improve The Plight Of 8500 Vulnerable Children, 1 500 Youths And 7 500 Households Against All Forms Of Abuse And Exploitation And Health Related Problems By Providing An Enabling Environment To Achieve Their Full Potential And Become Productive And Responsible Community Members.

# 1. ADVOCACY

## Key achievements (activities, impact and reach)

Advocacy remained key in Simukai's programming throughout 2021 with the following projects contributing to the Advocacy goal of Simukai:

- i. Zoe Empowers Project,
- ii. Swedish Development Partner (IM) Project,
- iii. 18+ Ending Child Marriages Project,
- iv. Hope for Tomorrow Project,
- v. Children on the Move Project,
- vi. Local Rights Programme (LRP)



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

Child protection issues relating to child rights, responsibilities, case reporting, child marriages, child unsafe migration, disability inclusion, birth registration and civic participation among others were central to the advocacy agenda for the year 2021.

### Awareness Raising and Commemorations

#### Highlights of Advocacy activities carried out in the year 2021

##### 1. Provincial Symposium on Ending Child Marriages

A Provincial Symposium on Ending Child



CRCs singing during a Graduation ceremony in Ruwombwe Makoni District

Marriages was conducted in July 2021 through the 18+ Project with Young People, Traditional Leaders, youth organizations and Government stakeholders from District and Provincial levels. The following statements were cited by participants;

**“I use my influential position as a Junior Parliamentarian to advocate for the alignment of the law and the criminalization of child marriages. As young people, we need to be deeply involved in issues that affect us and we are grateful for this opportunity”.** Tanaka Makuhwa, a young person and Junior Parliamentarian.

**“Getting married as a child is not an achievement to any young person, stay away from it and report if you are being forced”.** Ruvimbo Topodzi an applicant in the landmark Mudzuruzx Constitutional Court case which effectively outlawed child marriages in 2016.

##### 2. National Symposium on Ending Child Marriages

The Provincial Symposium influenced the National Symposium on Ending Child Marriages held in Harare on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. The event was coincided with the International Day of the Girl Child, under the theme **“ToWards a Child Marriage Free Generation”**. The objectives of this high-level meeting included sharing of interventions and impact on ending child marriages and identifying strengths and gaps on the existing legal and policy framework

for further advocacy. The National Symposium enabled young people from Youth Clubs and Junior Parliamentarians to share young people's experiences in contributing to end child marriage and recommendations.

### Key outcomes of the National Symposium on Ending Child Marriages

- » The participants agreed to strengthen the multi-sectorial approach to end child marriages.
- » Data collection was identified as a gap which required strengthening to reveal magnitude of child marriages and progress made in reducing the occurrence of child marriages.
- » The need to record all cases from Village to National through schools, health institutions, CPCs, Traditional Leaders and youth clubs.

### 3. The International Day of the African Child Commemorations

The International Day of the African Child was commemorated through a drive-through roadshow in Mutare on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 and in Mutasa on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2021 in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation. Young People from Gondenyakudyara, Samanga, Muparutsa, Mutasa, Mudzimundiringe, Buwerimwe, Nyachityu and Mutsago had an opportunity to recite poems, speeches, songs citing the causes and harmful effects of child marriages on air through Diamond FM. Diligence Mhukayesango cited that;

*“Commemorating the Day of the African Child highlights how important we are as children and gives us a platform to voice our concerns on child abuse and child marriage issues”.*

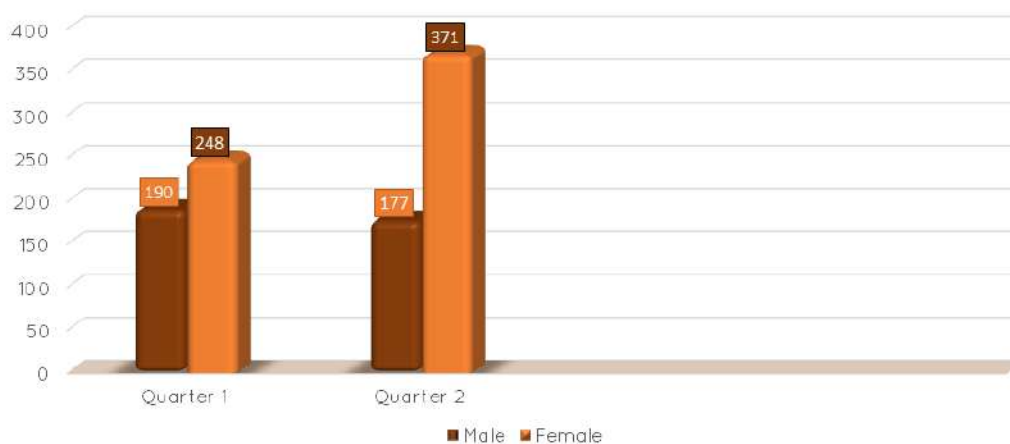
Young girls were supported in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child in Mutare on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. A total of 20 girls from Mutare and Mutasa participated in job shadowing, to meet inspiring professional women.

Traditional Leaders in Mutasa and Mutare Districts conducted awareness meetings and roadshows.

The goal of these meetings was to motivate community members to contribute to Wards the ending of child marriages in their respective communities. CCWs and Village Health Workers (VHWs) were involved in raising awareness on the referral pathway, sexual reproductive health (SRH) and COVID-19.

Traditional Leaders and Youth Clubs followed up on the implementation of commitments to end child marriages which resulted in increased awareness raising campaigns conducted in schools and during community gatherings. A multi-stakeholder approach was commended as effective in addressing child marriages. Headman Zindi of Mutasa District said;

Attendance at awareness raising sessions on ending child marriages by Traditional Leaders (1st and 2nd Quarters of 2021)



Source: Activity Attendance Registers



*“We are creating good working relationships with different stakeholders such as the Victim Friendly Unit and the Department of Social Development to ensure easy referral and access to services when child marriage cases occur”.*

In raising awareness, it was considered important to promote education. Headman Muponda, from Samaringa in Mutasa District reiterated that;

*“We are encouraging parents to continue sending their children to school especially the girl child to strategically avoid child marriages”.*

However, it was noted that survivors of child marriages were not returning to school due to the fear of stigma and being judged. Hence, awareness was put on issues of second chance education for school dropouts.

#### 4. Sensitization meetings

A sensitization meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs), Junior Parliamentarians and Educators was conducted to discuss the existing laws on child marriages, gaps in law and to formulate action plans to advocate for the alignment of laws. Emphasis was placed on existing gaps in the law particularly the non-criminalization of child marriages which resulted in complacency to report cases, because the perpetrators did not face any penalties for their actions which caused considerable harm to the child affected. The MPs were lobbied to bring to attention the criminalization of child marriages in Parliamentary law-making debates, while Junior Parliamentarians were encouraged to use their platform as Young Advocates and Influencers to speak out publicly on child marriages and hold campaigns.

#### 5. Other Commemorations

Four commemorations were conducted under Zoe Empowers during the year, under review. The 8th of March 2021, marked the commemoration of International Women’s Day under the

theme, “Choose to challenge.” A total of 8 Zoe Empowers’ female beneficiaries and 3 Project Facilitators participated and, shared pledges against inequality and and shared pictures on Simukai’s various social media platforms. The pledges made included;

**“I will speak up when my rights are violated.”** Sandra 23yrs, Hardworkers Group, March 2021 Graduate.

**“I will report any form of child abuse.”** Esther 21yrs, Hardworkers Group, March 2021 Graduate

**“I will not use hate speech to other women on social media.”** Noreen, Project Facilitator, Zimbabwe

**“I will help create gender friendly spaces for young people.”** Wadzanai, Project Facilitator, Zimbabwe

Commemoration of the **Day of the Street Child** was on the 12th of April 2021, a Radio program conducted on Diamond FM. Three boys living and working on the streets had the opportunity to share their experiences on radio.

Simukai through Zoe Empowers commemorated the **Day of the Girl Child** which was an awakening moment for Zoe beneficiaries especially from Passion Group, Class 2 2021 in Pafiwa, Mutasa District as one girl called Shantel participated in the National Symposium on Child Marriages hosted by Simukai Child Protection Programme at Holiday Inn Hotel, Harare on the 11th and 12th of October 2021. Shantel shared her story of attempted rape, how she reported and how Simukai responded through instruction from the Department of Social Development. The child was rescued from the abusive situation, offered temporary shelter for 10 days and reunified with her parents.

Simukai through Zoe Empowers joined Mutare City Council in the 16km March to mark the **Sixteen days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV)** from Madziro Butchery in Zimunya to Mutare Central Business District (CBD). The march was to remember all lives lost due to GBV as well as to encourage community

members to report cases of abuse. Government stakeholders and other development partners participated in this annual commemoration.

Through Simukai's Local Rights Programme funded by ActionAid Zimbabwe women and girls were supported to participate during the Commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Based

violence. A total of 204 participants (84 males and 120 females) were reached at Ward level in Nyatate Ward 17. Women and girls at community level were supported to advocate against all harmful cultural practices and social injustices that were gender related such as sexual, physical and emotional violence. Government stakeholders and other Civil Society Organizations including Simukai had an opportunity to interact with the community and share solidarity messages on referral pathways and procedures, in case of any GBV and child marriage practice. The role of traditional leaders and reminding traditional leaders on the power they had in ending GBV and child marriages were emphasised. Simukai through the 18+ Project further commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence by producing and erecting a hanging banner in Mutare Central Business District with the national theme - "End Violence against Women and Girls, No to Child Marriages". The main aim was to encourage people to report all cases of abuse including child marriages.



Violence.  
A total  
of 204

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Simukai through the 18+ Project further

## 6. Child Participation and Advocacy

Through Simukai's Plan Zimbabwe International funded, 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages in Zimbabwe; 87 (60F;27M) Child Protection Committee members (CPCs) and 28 (15F; 13M) Youth Club members participated in an exchange meeting. The exchange meeting enabled sharing of activities, successes and challenges they faced in ending child marriages. CPCs and Youth Clubs got an opportunity to share progress made toWards ending child marriages and disseminating information on child marriages. CPCs conducted monitoring visits to child headed households vulnerable to child marriages and child-headed and further referred the survivors to access services from ZRP's Victim Friendly Unit, health institutions

Left Insert: Rujeko CRC members reciting their poems during an Advocacy platform

Right Insert: Best journey CRC members reciting child abuse poems during an advocacy platform



Manicaland Stakeholders sharing their views towards ending child marriages in Zimbabwe at Golden Peacock Hotel



Manicaland Junior Parliamentarians during a dialogue on Child Marriages held at Golden Peacock Hotel in Mutare District and child protection organizations.

Youth club members and Junior Parliamentarians from Mutare and Mutasa Districts shared their experiences in combating child marriages and teen pregnancies. They had the opportunity to learn skills on becoming effective community influencers. Young people came up with ways they could influence the end to child marriages and teen pregnancies via social media networks, in the context of COVID-19, which included publishing articles in newspapers, radio programs and social media influencing. Youth clubs were supported with COVID-19 protective equipment to encourage continuity of youth club meetings.

Simukai's **Hope for Tomorrow Project** funded by **WeSeeHope** was replicated in Ward 16 of Makoni District following wean off in Ruwombwe Ward 26 after implementing the project for 4 years in the Ward. The need for replication came after the realization that Ward 16 was fraught

with multiple child rights violations which ranged from sexual abuse to child abandonment. A total of 15 Child Rights Clubs (CRCs) with 623 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) living in the 6 clusters of Dzvairo, Muranda, Muziti, Gunda, Chiware and Muvhimwa were formed in the Ward. The CRCs met once a week to learn child rights, responsibilities and reporting of child violation cases in ways that excited them which included drama, poetry, songs, dance and quiz among others. Through knowledge gained from the CRCs, children became aware of their rights, were able to identify various forms of abuse such as sexual, physical, emotional and neglect.

Whenever they were exposed to or knew peers who were going through these forms of abuse, they were able to report to their Mentors or local Child Care Workers (CCWs) and depending on nature of the cases, some were resolved through community intervention whilst some required further referral to the Department of Social Development (DSD).

To wrap up the year, Simukai through the Hope for Tomorrow Project officially weaned off Ruwombwe Ward 26 community in Makoni through a CRC Graduation Ceremony where a total of 280 CRC members and 20 Mentors graduated. This was important as it left a mark in the community and strengthened continuity of community cohesiveness in child protection. The graduation reached 400 participants.

In Ward 16 of Makoni, a mega event in which all 15 CRCs got a chance to learn from each other and strengthen their advocacy efforts in

a competitive manner. The participants entailed 325 children from the 15 CRCs, 46 Hope for Tomorrow Caregivers, 8 community leaders who included Village Heads, Councillor, Child Care Workers and Village Health Workers, 20 Hope for tomorrow Mentors and 3 Project Staff. Child Protection issues were showcased through music, dance, poetry and drama among other strategies.

## 7. Soft Advocacy/ Dialogues

The 18+ Project conducted quarterly meetings with Traditional Leaders at District level to share experiences, challenges and good practices in ending child marriages. An Annual Conference was conducted where Traditional Leaders and Young People from Mutasa and Mutare Districts got a platform to discuss interventions and good practices. Meetings were held with Traditional Leaders and Young People to follow up on the implementation of commitments to end child marriages. In implementing the commitments, TLs increased awareness raising campaigns which were also being conducted in schools and community meetings by Youth Clubs.

Caregivers discussed the important roles of parents in preventing and responding to child marriages and teen pregnancies. A total of 85 (65F; 20M) participants attended the training. It was highlighted during the discussions that parents had an important role to play in creating a safe space for children in homes by being good role models and avoiding Gender-Based Violence. There were also duty bearers responsible for ensuring their children's rights were respected and fulfilled such as the rights to education, shelter and to be protected from sexual exploitation. Parents were therefore; encouraged to work hard to provide for their families and join the efforts of Traditional Leaders and Young People in ending child marriages. Parents realized the need to work closely with Community Child-Care Workers (CCWs) to give knowledge to children on both their rights and responsibilities. On the other hand, parents

were urged to acquire information on children's rights and their obligations as parents. Further, it was realized that there was need to empower households with income generating activities to fight child marriages and other abuses.

The Hope for Tomorrow project reached a total of 400 households with information on child rights, responsibilities and the need to report child abuse cases within 72 hours. This was done through dialogue sessions during parenting seminars which resulted in caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children learning and discussing in depth about positive parenting and improving their relationships with children under their care. The year ended with caregivers appreciating the project and its ability to educate both children and parents about child rights and the emphasis on responsibilities which every child had. One elderly caregiver was quoted saying;

***“mufunge pakatanga Chirongwa cheSimukai takambogunun’una tichifunga kuti zviringwa zvekodzero dzevana zvinoita kuti vana vaite misikanzwa vachipomera vabereki kuti muri kutishungurudza kana vachinge vadzorwa asi tazoona kuti, aiwa kusaziva musiyano pakati pekodzero nezvinotarisirwao kana mwana apihwa kodzero ndiyo honzeri yekusanzwisana pakati pevabereki nevana bedzi”.***

*(“when Simukai’s Hope for Tomorrow Project was implemented, we assumed child rights projects perpetuated immoral behaviour among children as they often accused caregivers of violating their rights whenever they tried to discipline them. However, through the project we have come to realize that lack of knowledge about child rights and corresponding responsibilities is what is causing misunderstandings between children and their caregivers”).*

Households in Ward 16 became aware of child rights and responsibilities and began shunning all forms of abuse and reporting cases of child rights violations to the local CRCs, Police and school authorities. Child protection concerns and strategies to better care for children were

discussed through dialogue sessions that were held with community members. Caregivers appreciated the Hope for Tomorrow Project and testified how the inception of the project in Makoni Ward 16 had resulted in positive behaviour change amongst most children participating in CRCs and that of caregivers who previously lacked child protection knowledge.

Through the 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages, Community Child-Care Workers (50) participated in a Child Protection Training. The CCWs were encouraged to use proper referral procedures in handling child marriages, including identifying cases of child marriages through several case identification platforms (self-observations, tip-offs, whistle blowing and reports from community members). CCWs were further encouraged to report cases of child abuse to the Police, referring abused children to health facilities for medical examination and keeping an accurate record of all child abuse cases for effective management of such cases.

## 8. Capacity Building

Zoe Empowers conducted trainings in March and October on child rights, equipping a total of 600 Zoe group members with knowledge on their rights and responsibilities as well as case reporting. The trainings helped them to know the procedures to follow whenever their rights were violated.

Through the 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project, refresher trainings were conducted at Ward level with 89 (33F/56M) traditional and religious leaders to strengthen their capacities to share information with community members. These enabled them to devise village and Ward level plans to combat child marriages. Together, they formulated action plans to end child marriages in their areas. The

action plans devised during the meeting included awareness campaigns especially in churches and schools. Traditional Leaders recommended that Religious Leaders continually engage congregants to reduce the acceptance of child marriages within churches.

After the trainings, Traditional Leaders reported that they successfully conducted awareness campaigns in collaboration with Youth Club Mentors, Child Care Workers (CCWs) and Village Health Workers (VHWs) during case response and maintained updated registers of their respective villages.

A total of 8 Chiefs from all Districts of Manicaland Province, Headmen and Village Heads, Young People and their Mentors from Mutare and Mutasa Districts participated in a provincial learning and sharing meeting where good practices were shared which included but were not limited to;

- » Traditional leaders working together with Youth Club Mentors and Community Child Care Workers in case response.
- » Requesting birth certificate or national ID cards by Village Heads upon marriages.
- » Advocating to parents in communities on the harmful effects of child marriages.
- » Continuous engagement of Religious Leaders in ending child marriage interventions so that they can raise awareness in their churches.
- » Intergenerational dialogues on sexual



Child rights awareness session with children from Mutiwegora Primary School

reproductive health to share the right information and improve access to services. Chief Chimombe from Buhera District reiterated that;

*“Let’s be at the forefront to raise awareness as TLs on issues of child marriage, so that we protect our children.”*

### 9. Birth Registration

Through Zoe Empowers project, awareness on birth registration was conducted where it was noted that children who lost both parents and had no death certificates faced challenges in securing birth certificates. Liaison with traditional leaders and family members assisted in securing birth certificates for **15** children. This strengthened the children’s participation in school activities such as sporting which most were previously deprived as they were not registered with the Civil Registry Department and could not participate in various activities to their full potential due to such existing barriers.

A family of three vulnerable children (1 boy and 2 girls) within the age range of 6 – 11years who were on the verge of living and working on the streets after their parents separated were successfully assisted with birth registration in April 2021. The children were taken into custody by their paternal grandmother in Masvingo.

Mobile birth registrations were conducted from the 24<sup>th</sup> of May to the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 in a total of six Wards, three in Mutasa District (Muparutsa, Samanga and Gondenyakujara) and three in Mutare District (Mafararikwa, Nyachityu and Mudzimundiringe). The mobile birth registration exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Civil Registry Department, the District Development Coordinator and the Rural District Councils. The total reach of participants assisted in Mutasa was 830 (465F; 365M). Those who received identity documents were 522; 270 (129F; 141 M) birth certificates and 252 (165F; 87M) national identity documents were issued. In Mutare the total reach was 805 (428F; 377M).

Those who received documentation were 517; total birth certificates issued were 288(161F; 127 M) and national identity cards issued were 299 (125F; 104M).

### 10. Civic Participation and Accountability

Through the Local Rights Program, Simukai conducted trainings on tax, tax justice and tax policy to increase awareness on taxes, development levies, budgets and budgeting processes for community structures and leadership as well as Community dialogue meetings between the community and local authority and other service providers. A total of 608 participants (155 males and 453 females) attended the trainings and dialogues. Local leaders, women and youths were capacitated on tax justice as part of community development administration. Participants acquired knowledge and came up with strategies to identify gaps in public service delivery and advocacy by youths to ensure tax justice, social accountability and pushing for improvement of key public service delivery through community leaders. Community leaders, women and youth were supported to participate in budget consultations held by Nyanga Rural District Council at community level where discussions on revenue collection and utilization were deliberated on.

A total of 87 participants (14 males and 73 females) were supported to be Community Gender Champions targeting Gender Responsive Public Services. Women were willing to take action in the advocacy action on the improvement of service delivery. Access to water was noted as the key challenge in service delivery in most villages in Nyautare Ward 8 in Nyanga. Challenges in accessing clean and safe water were also presented during the Annual Budget Consultation meetings with Nyanga Rural District Council and the issue was directed to the responsible authority, District Development Fund (DDF). The Villagers, Local Leaders, Gender Champion and the Ward Councillor drafted a position paper and a narrative of gaps

identified in service delivery with a participant list. The drafted documents were stamped with the Village Head's stamp supported with signatures of the leaders. The papers with letters were submitted to Nyanga Rural District Council, District Development Fund Department

## Change Story

### Child bride by accident

Ayana is a 13-year-old adolescent girl who lives in Mapfunde village, Marange, Zimbabwe. She stays with her mother (Grace) and 4 siblings, while her father (Paul) lives in another Province where he works. Ayana completed her grade 7 at Mapfunde Primary School but did not proceed with her education due to child marriage. The family belonged to an Apostolic Sect Church with a different perspective on marriage.

*"The sun was shining beyond the sky when my mother went to my grandmother's funeral in a nearby village", explained Ayana as she was trying to unveil her ordeal. Ayana was taken by her cousin sister (Bridget) to a village (Nharira) far from theirs with the claims that she was taking her for medication as the child had previously gone sick. Little did Ayana know that it was the beginning of a child marriage? "pandakasvika kumba kwasisi, she told me that ndakange ndatove pa bondwe", narrated the child with tears down her cheeks. Bondwe is an apostolic church culture that allows sisters to get married to one man. "I tried to run away but I was told to chill by my sister", said Ayana. To make matters worse, Ayana was geographically challenged and she did not know where she was.*

Ayana got lucky as she was quickly identified by a community Child Care Worker. Her case came to Simukai Child Protection Programme as a Child Marriage tip off. Simukai teamed up with Department of Social Development and ZRP's Victim Friendly Unit and responded to Ayana's case. The case response was not as easy as other responses as the child was brainwashed by her sister. Looking for Ayana using her birth name was like looking for someone who never existed.

and Member of Parliament. The community and leaders awaited the responses from the service providers and had an interface engagement to facilitate dialogue between service providers and village members.

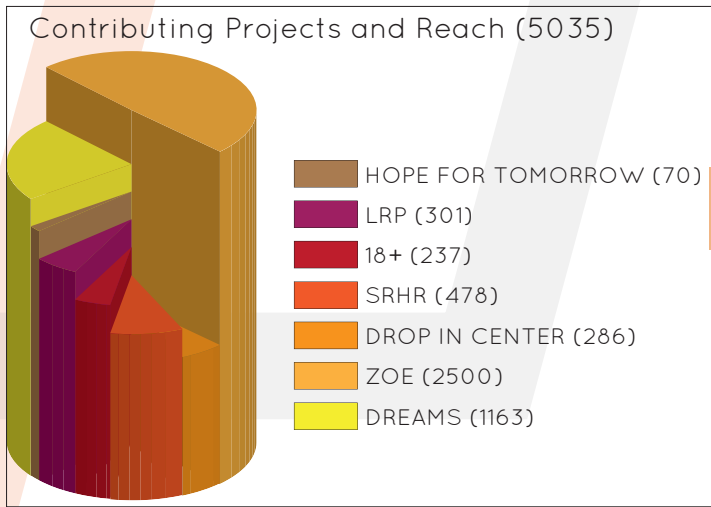
She had been forced to change her name to Lydia and searches for her were fruitless until Simukai sought Ayana's Date of birth from her mother who was very cooperative since she was against the child marriage. The child's search using birth dates was a success. It was at that moment that Simukai took the child to a safe shelter where she was able to calm down and began to open up.

Upon several engagements, Ayana revealed her child marriage story. She was taken for minimum clinical services at Family Support Trust. Simukai provided the child with continuous psychosocial support. Family tracings were done successfully and the mother (Grace) of the child was given custody of the child. Arrangements for reunification were made and the mother was speechless when she saw her daughter after nine months. Grace shed tears of joy on seeing her daughter. *"Handizive ndokutendai nei, dai ndine huku ndakupai hangu nekuti mandibatsira kudzosea mwana wangu",* said the mother as she was crying.

To date, Ayana is happily living with her mother waiting to start her form 1 in January 2022. She was very thankful for the help she received from Simukai. *"Handife futi ndakabvuma kuenda na sisi Bridget",* explained Ayana during her reunification. The perpetrator is in police custody waiting for judgement.

## 2. HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### Key achievements (activities, impact and reach)



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

- » The HPSS Department assisted orphans and vulnerable children in need of safe shelter, health related information, post-gender based violence services and health kits among others to enhance child protection. The Department achieved this through the provision of counselling, play therapy, rest and edutainment to abused, abandoned and neglected children who were housed in the Place of Safety and those in communities of operation to restore their complete emotional, physical and spiritual well-being.
- » Street Work was conducted to assist children living and working on the streets.

» The Health and Psychosocial Support Department also implemented projects aimed at promoting preventive measures against sexual and reproductive health diseases, malaria and COVID-19 among communities.

### Highlights of activities carried out in the year 2021

#### 1. Provision of Emergency Shelter and Post Gender Based Violence Services

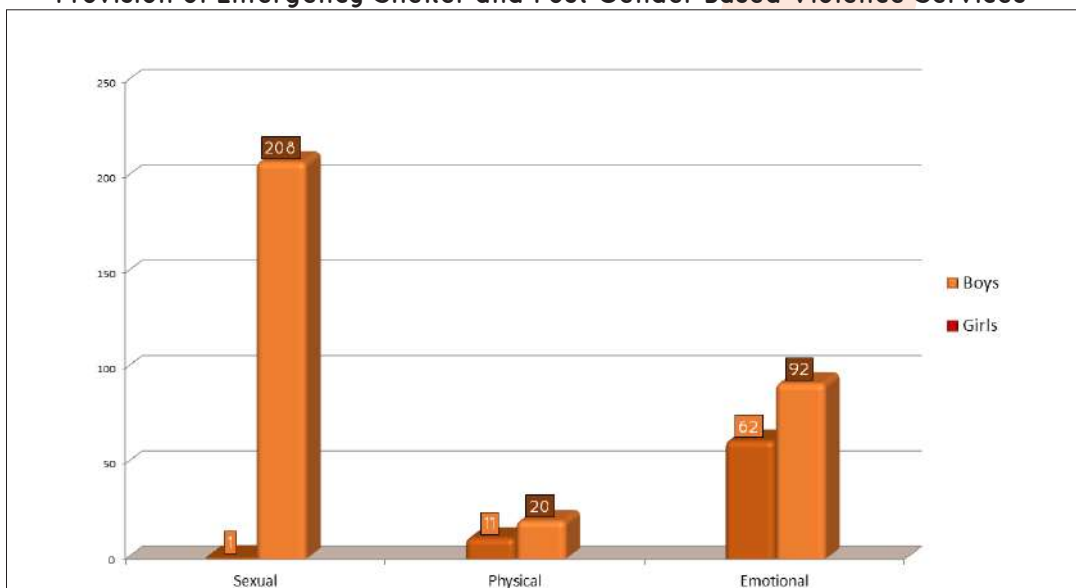
Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

A total of 394 children accessed emergency shelter at Mutare, Makoni and Chipinge Places of Safety. A total of 209 sexual abuse cases were recorded as especially triggered by COVID-19 lockdowns that caused survivors to be confined home with perpetrators and the girl child was affected most. Step parents were identified as major perpetrators of physical abuse from the 31 cases recorded and the 154 cases of emotional abuse.

#### 2. Reunifications

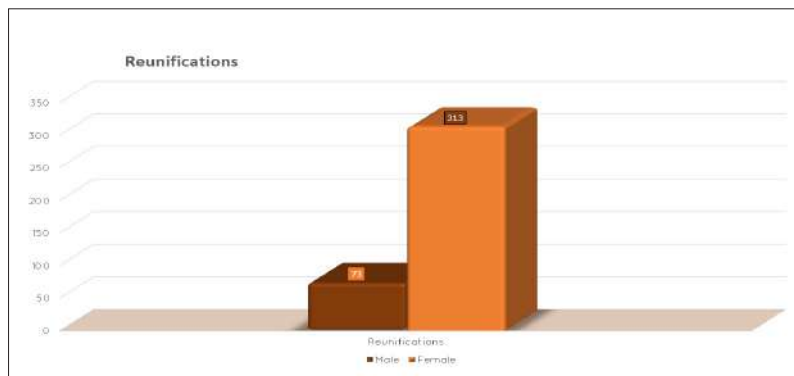
Reunifications were conducted and 386 children (313 girls and 73 boys) were reunified with their families in 2021.

Provision of Emergency Shelter and Post Gender Based Violence Services



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)



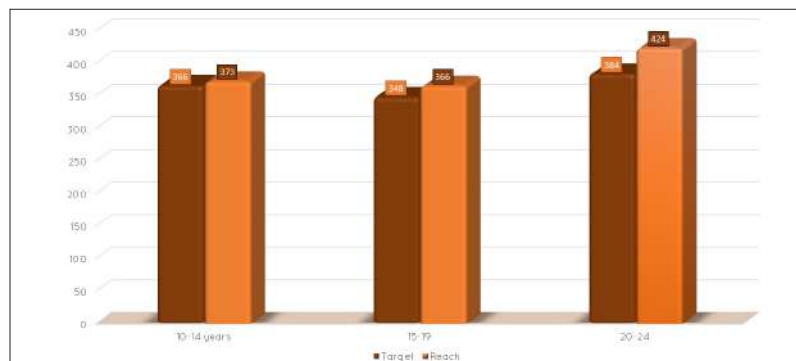


Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

### 3. DREAMS Project

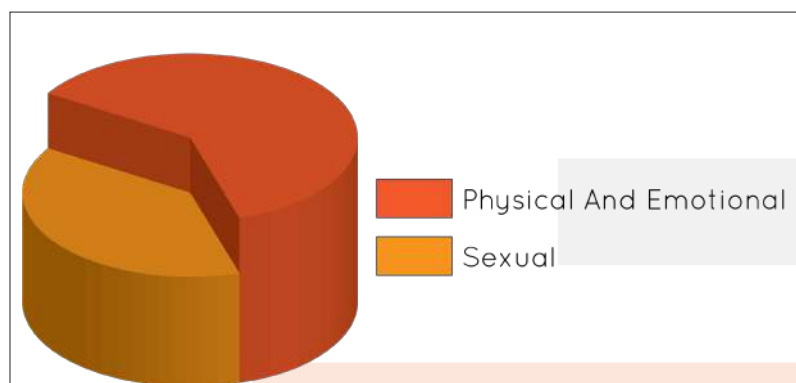
Through the DREAMS project; 1163 adolescent girls and young women accessed post gender-based violence including minimum clinical package and other referral services. In addition, 5 cases of sexual abuse for the age range 0 to 10 years were recorded, indicating that sexual abuse knows no age. While in the shelter, survivors of GBV also accessed basic literacy education and psychosocial support activities.

The target and reach for the DREAMS Project in 2021 were as follows;



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

Reach by type of violence was as follows;



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

Live video screening of graphic photo images of how Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) affected people proved to be very effective in delivering training content during Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) sessions. It brought closer to home the related dangers of being infected with STIs as a way of discouraging adolescents from engaging in unprotected sexual activities. Through networking with other DREAMS partners and Government Ministries, good relations were built which assisted in identifying cases of child abuse and led to an effective fight against GBV through layering of services. Participation in SGBV One Mobile clinic and 16 days of activism against women and girls helped in reaching the GBV targets. The need to continuously disseminate as much information on health issues as possible to beneficiaries so that they are well informed especially during this COVID 19 period was noted.

### 4. Health and Hygiene support

Through Zoe Empowers, Households were trained on health and hygiene matters including hand washing basics, disease prevention, nutrition, personal grooming, proper food handling, environmental hygiene and reproductive health. After these health trainings, Zoe supported each household with a hygiene kit which included wash soap, face towel, petroleum jelly, tooth paste, tooth brush and sanitary wear. Each group received a water tapped bucket, 5liters hand washing soap and 5 litres hand sanitizer to ensure adherence to COVID-19 regulations during meetings. 26 beneficiaries were assisted with funds for medical consultation and medication. Zoe supported the construction of 4 houses and 27 toilets for households that did not have toilets.



Dignity kits distributed to Chipinge women and girls.

health care services particularly sexual and reproductive health services for girls and young women in Manicaland Province. The project sought to achieve the goal by achieving the three project outcomes;

1. Adolescents and young people aged 10 – 24 years in their diversity report improved access to inclusive, youth friendly and gender responsive Sexual Reproductive Health Services (SRHR)



Participant showing off the dish drying rake that fellow Group members assisted her to construct



Participant showing toilet which was plastered using profits from Zoe Empowers IGAs



Young people in the Zoe Empowers Programme supported with health and hygiene materials



Picture of a girl from ward 3 of Chipinge who also received her hygiene kit

## 5. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights activities

With funding from Swedish Broadcasting Foundation and support from Plan International - Swedish National Office (SNO), Simukai Child Protection Programme in partnership with Plan International Zimbabwe implemented a new project (in 2021) on **Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services for Girls and Young Women in Manicaland Province (Mutare and Chipinge Districts)**. The overall goal of the project is to improve access to quality primary



Toilet constructed by building vocational skills at Mutiwegora

Zoe 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

and Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) information and services through disaster and risk resilient primary health care systems.

**2.** Families and communities support adolescents and young people, especially vulnerable girls and young women around their sexual and reproductive health and access to care, model respectful gender relationships and mobilize to change harmful beliefs and norms related to SRHR and SGBV.

**3.** Government implements gender responsive, risk-informed, resilient and inclusive policies and referral systems to respond to emergency SRHR and SGBV needs of adolescents and young people.

A total of 3 trainings were conducted under the SRHR project on sign language for stakeholders, youth friendly service provision for Health Service Providers and disaster risk reduction for Health Service Providers were conducted reaching 60 (F49/M11) participants. Intergenerational dialogues conducted amounted to 15 which reached 418 (318F/ 100M) participants in all Wards covering various topics in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. A total of 27 700 listeners were reached with SRHR information through 2 radio session and one infomercial broadcasted on Diamond FM. Owing to layering of services with the DREAMS project within Simukai and Government line ministries, 3 cases of sexual abuse were attended to including 1 referral case from MoHCC of a child who had an obstetric fistula emergency. Stakeholders sensitized about the project in Chipinge expressed hope for the extension of the project

to more Wards on the borderline of Mozambique as they were reports of rampant school dropouts as a result of early unintended pregnancies and child marriages. The risk factors of the reported Sexual Reproductive Health challenges faced by young people in Mutare and Chipinge seemed to be emanating from harmful cultural and religious norms. Cultural norms were reported to be easier to address and the traditional leaders were forthcoming and cooperative whilst religious leaders proved difficult as the leaders played the denial role that the issues were non-existent. Communities needed constant conscientization on child protection and prevention of abuse in children. They were well informed about the issues but seemed to ignore cases of neglect and emotional abuse. Mabee Ward in Chipinge kept reiterating that there was need for birth registration assistance as well as school fees assistance for children who were out of school.

Through the **18+ Strengthening Civil Society to End Child Marriages Project**, traditional leaders, Village Health Workers (VHWs) and Community Child-Care Workers (CCWs) met to exchange information on existing needs and appropriate responses with regards to child marriage and teenage pregnancies. In attendance were 22 (F13; 9M) participants in Mutasa District and 20 (9F; 11M) participants in Mutare District. Traditional Leaders were generally reluctant to accept that SRH services could be offered to children assuming it would encourage them to indulge in early sexual debut. Despite the differences, Traditional Leaders agreed to support Village Health Workers and other health service providers in raising awareness on SRHR

and providing services in their communities.

A Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) intergenerational dialogue was held for young people and caregivers where 135 (F90/M45) were reached. During the discussions, it was evident that young people and parents held different perceptions on allowing young people to access contraceptives. Parents were still against the access to contraceptives by young people as they expressed their disapproval. Emphasis was placed on the need for continuous dissemination of SRHR information for the prevention of STIs, teen pregnancies and child marriages so that young people made informed decisions about sex. Even though abstinence to sex was considered the safer option, the participants were encouraged to accept that young people must access services when needed because the alternative is health complications and even death due to teen pregnancy.

Access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) dialogues for young women and girls (F227) at community level were facilitated through the Local Rights Programme (LRP). Groups of young women and girls capacitated continued to meet at cluster level co-ordinated by community volunteers. The gap which had been created by COVID-19 national lockdown was bridged in some villages as young women and girls acquired knowledge on SRHR. They were also determined to engage Village Health Workers on SRHR issues within the community so as to overcome the knowledge gap and also access locally available knowledge and

assistance on issues affecting them in terms of Sexual Reproductive Health.

A total of 74 participants (11 males and 63 females) were reached through Sexual Gender Based Violence outreach clinics in Nyatate Ward 17, Mapako Ward 18 and Nyautare Ward 8. Women and girls were empowered to report and share any injustices that existed in their respective societies. They accessed different services offered by the different service providers (psychosocial support (PSS), counselling and legal services).

## 6. Water and Sanitation and Hygiene activities

Simukai through the Emergence Response Program (ERP) complemented Government efforts in the provision of clean and safe drinking water in Chimanimani urban. Four sites were identified and amongst them included one with Cyclone Idai survivors who were living in make-shift tents since the devastating incident occurred in March 2019. The provision of clean water to the households was essential for basic sanitation and good hygiene practices since improved access to water was a basic right important for the survival and development of humanity

A total of 4 communities which included Ngangu ZBS, Chimanimani Village Market place, Ngangu Garikai and Hlabiso Secondary School benefited from this initiative. Simukai managed to install a solarised water reticulation system at Chayamiti Resettlement area and a water supply



Left Insert: 2 x 5000 Litre Water Storage facilities successfully installed at Bungwe Primary School  
Right Insert: Borehole drilling at Runyararo resettlement area in Chimanimani to provide water to resettled Cyclone Idai survivors

system at the Chayamiti Internally Displaced Persons' relocation site in Chimanimani. (The system included 1 drilled and solarised borehole, 1 temporal 5000 litre water storage tank, 8 community taps and 4 kilometres worth of water pipes for water reticulation). ERP was able to facilitate the provision of water storage facilities in Chimanimani urban Ward 13 to ensure that communities had sustained provision of water. This went a long way in improving availability of water.

## 7. Drop-in Centre (activities with street children)

The activities of the Contact Department were guided by three major objectives which included:

1. Street visits where mutual relationships with the children living and working on the streets was built,
2. Psycho-social support through various activities which included counselling services, play therapy, bathing services, life skills activities and
3. Stakeholder engagement.

The Organization worked with Government stakeholders, churches and health service providers in morally supporting children living and working on the streets. The Department identified **286** (Girls 50/ Boys 236) children living and working on the streets of Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni.

### Street Visits

The Contact Department conducted 628 street visits in Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni Districts. These helped to identify both new and old cases of children living and working on the streets. During street visits, children were invited to Simukai's Drop in Centres for daily activities. Information on the trending activities on the streets as well as the challenges faced by the children were discussed. Drug abuse, car wash, sex work, theft, luggage carrying and begging were the most trending activities on the streets.

Drug abuse, harsh weather conditions, arrest by the police, harassment by the Municipality Police, bullying, hunger and STI were some of the challenges faced by children living and working on the streets. In the year 2021, crystal meth known as '**guka makafela**' was the most trending drug abused by children living and working on the streets of Mutare.



Reunification of a former street child (second from left) in Hwedza

### Profiling

Profiling was amongst the activities done by the Department during the course of the year. Profiling involves the documentation of information of a child for future records and family tracings. When the Organization identifies new children on the streets, they are invited to the Drop-in Centre for daily activities, bathing, laundry, counselling, PSS to mention. It is during this period when the Department interviewed the children and gathered their personal details and life stories. The Department profiled 32 children which comprised of 8 girls and 24 boys. Some children hardly disclose their stories making profiling difficult.

### Reunification

In the year 2021 the Department reunified 16

children with assistance from the Department of Social Development (DSD), Community Care Workers (CCWs) and Immigration Officers. Amongst the 16 children reunified, 2 were reunified in Bocha Mutsago area, 3 in Chipinge, 2 in Sakubva, 1 in Dora, 1 in Hwedza, 1 in 30 miles, 2 in Palmerstone, 1 in Mozambique, 1 in Buhera and 2 in Makoni. A total of 4 reunifications relapsed, the children continued visiting the streets but they went home during the night. 2 reunified children were enrolled back in school where they started grade 5 and 6.

### **Educational Support**

The Department assisted 9 school going children with school fees and stationery. Amongst the 7 children assisted, 2 were girls at Sakubva primary and 5 boys, 2 in primary school at Victory Academy, 2 at Chisamba primary and 1 doing motor mechanics at Mutare Vocational Training Centre. Consultations were done in schools to check the academic progress of the children. During the consultations, good feedback was given by teachers indicating that children were serious with their education. A total of 2 children were linked to the Basic Education Assistance Model (BEAM) and received BEAM acceptance letters in Chipinge District through the Department of Social Development.

### **Psycho-social support**

Psycho-social support was offered to children living and working on the streets of Mutare, Chipinge and Makoni Districts through counselling sessions, life skills activities, play therapy, spiritual sessions to mention but a few. Most counselling sessions in Chipinge were done with children through roadside and group counselling in adherence to COVID 19 regulation covering topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health, children's rights, life skills, road safety rules, hygiene, etiquette, remedial lessons and play therapy. Some children came to the Drop in Centres and engaged in life skills activities such as gardening, bathing, laundry, cleaning toilets, washing dishes. The children were entertained

through watching videos, playing soccer, volley ball, playing cards and playing snooker among other activities. Play therapy helped the children to refresh their minds from the stress associated with the harsh street environment. A total of 106 children (23 girls and 83 boys) came to Simukai's Centre in Mutare and Chipinge for daily activities in 2021.

### **Medical assistance**

In the year 2021, the Contact Department worked closely with different stakeholder in trying to maintain good health standards of the children. A total of 5 girls got screened for STIs, HIV, received Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) from Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research (CESSHAR). During the course of the year, the Department assisted 23 (Girls 5/Boys 18) children with medication. Of the 23, 21 children living and working on the streets got Assistance Medical Treatment Order (AMTO) from the Department of Social Development. Follow ups were done in Chipinge District to monitor the recovery rate of 6 children who received medical assistance, amongst them was a girl involved in a hit and run car accident who recovered from the injuries sustained.

### **Hygiene sessions**

Hygiene was promoted within the Drop-in Centres. Children did their laundry, bathed and cleaned their toilets and surroundings on a daily basis. They were encouraged to bath every day from Monday to Friday and once in 2 weeks they got haircuts

### **Sexual Reproductive Health sessions**

Sexual Reproductive Health sessions were done with the children living and working on the street. A total of 32 sessions were done during the course of the year. During sessions with children, it was observed that the children were aware of the use of condoms and other protective measures during sex. The girls demonstrated their knowledge on the use of PrEP and PEP and

how it worked to protect them from HIV and AIDS. The emphasis on SRH was seen important after dialogue sessions that revealed that most children living and working in the streets were indulging in unprotected sex and suffering from Sexually Transmitted Infections. Counselling sessions were conducted with them on side effects of having unprotected sex. They were encouraged to abstain from sex and to have continuous SRH sessions. A total number of 32 (Girls 8, Boys 24) children attended the SRH sessions.

### Substance and Drug Abuse sessions

35 sessions on drug abuse were conducted with 32 (Girls 8, Boys 24) children living and working on the streets. It was observed that use of drugs remained a serious issue as they pointed out that drugs helped to relieve stress and enhanced some form of excitement. Crystal meth (Gukamakafela) was the most trending drug in 2021 and almost every child on the streets of Mutare abused this drug at some point. An opportunity was taken to share information with the children on the effects of drug and substance abuse, highlighting the health complications associated with the use of drugs such as crystal meth.

### Child rights and responsibility Sessions

Sessions on child rights and responsibility were conducted with 32 children (Girls 8, Boys 24). The aim of the session was to enlighten children about their rights so that they are aware once their rights are violated. It was observed that, the majority of the children were aware of their rights. During a conversation with the children, it was observed that the majority of the children left home into the streets citing abuse as the major push factor.

### Stakeholder Engagement

Following the announcement of the COVID-19 lockdown announced in January 2021, Simukai worked closely with the Department of Social Development and 22 children were housed at

Simukai's Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre. DSD assisted the Organization in profiling, family tracing and reunifications of the 22 children. The Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre mainly used for Vocational Skills Training was converted into a quarantine facility for the street children.

In Mutare, Simukai worked with Presbyterian Church through using the church's premises to conduct its activities with the children living and working on the street. During the course of the year, the department conducted 128 sessions at Presbyterian. The churches continue to play a pivotal role in the rehabilitation of children living and working on the streets.

### 8. COVID-19 support

The Hope for Tomorrow Project continued raising awareness on COVID-19 infection, prevention and control with particular emphasis on child protection within Ward 16 of Makoni District. A total of 20 Mentors (F19/M1), 30 community cadres consisting VHW and Lead Mothers were reached with information on COVID-19 and child protection and formed a COVID-19 Taskforce. The trained taskforce continued to raise awareness on COVID-19 infection; prevention and control within their communities and at all project activities upholding COVID-19 preventive measures at all times.

A total of 20 Hope for Tomorrow participants in Ward 16 of Makoni District were trained on production of Personal Protective Equipment (sewing of face masks and making hand sanitisers) for use by children during project activities such as CRC meetings. The face masks were to ensure children's safety and protection during CRC meetings. Simukai through the Hope for tomorrow project encouraged project participant to be vaccinated and to take advantage of the Government's Vaccination Programme conducted in 2021 and still ongoing.

Of note was the Organization's thrust in promoting the protection of women and girls affected most by emergencies as part of the response to COVID-19 under the Emergency Response

Program (ERP). Sanitary wear was distributed to women and girls during the COVID-19 lockdown. This gave women and girls dignity in the face of the pandemic and reinforced the women-led and protection signature for Humanitarian Response work.

Young girls and women due to menstruation previously missed school and their daily businesses due to period pain and due to lack of sanitary wear and hence stayed home because of heavy flows during menstruation. The findings illustrated that menstrual related challenges faced by young females negatively impacted on their participation and performance in school and other economic and social spaces. It also robbed their dignity, self-confidence and esteem. Period poverty became a major contributor to girl school drop-outs and poor female learner performance.

Through the ERP, Simukai facilitated the distribution of reusable face masks and hand sanitizers to its beneficiaries and Government stakeholders in different Wards of Chipinge and Chimanimani. This was done to enhance levels of preparedness in line with World Health Organisation and Ministry of Health and Child Care COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

## Change Story

### **Promoting Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) in providing mother`s waiting shelter for expecting mothers**

Nyautare Ward 8 of Nyanga District is made up of 15 villages, all villagers including pregnant women rely on one clinic which is very far from most of the villages. The local clinic which is the local business centre (Dumba) has a Waiting Mother`s shelter with 2 rooms and one bed only. Pregnant women wait days ahead of delivering their babies housed in this facility under the supervision of qualified nurses to avoid complications during child birth that leads to mortality of both mother and new-borns.

Simukai trained 5 Gender Champions under Saunyama LRP and 2 from Nyautare Ward 8 to

vigorously pursue that Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) is a lived reality in Nyautare. These Gender Champions are community based or grassroots advocates for GRPS in their local community. The Gender Champions arranged a meeting with their locally elected Councillor Ezeria Masamvu, general community members and the Health Clinic Committee (HCC) to speed up the construction of a more spacious and standard Waiting Mother`s Home at Nyautare Clinic.

Construction of a Waiting Mother`s Home at Nyautare Clinic fulfils the pursuance of Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) so as to reduce maternal deaths through provision of sound primary health care facilities for healthier and safer women.

Julia (43) a gender champion in Nyautare Ward 8 mentioned that “Before I received the Gender Champions training by Simukai and ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) in 2021 on being grassroots agents to stimulate Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) that improve the standard of living and quality of life in my local community I took for granted the value to a community of a Waiting Mother`s Home as community-based midwives assisted me deliver all my 6 children at home. However, during the Gender Champion training I learnt that health complications during child birth can end tragically for both mother and her newly born child if professional help is delayed and faraway”

After training as a Gender Champion by Simukai, Julia is passionate to see the day when access to resources between men and women, especially public services for example water, health services, schools to name just but a few is equalized. So, Julia set about convincing her community that access to primary health services is a priority to preserve lives of women during child delivery through constructing a Waiting Mother`s Home.

Completion of the Waiting Mother`s Home at Nyautare Clinic will definitely reduce maternal mortality, curb complications during child birth. Some pregnant women from Nyautare Ward



walk from 9 through to even as much as 25 kilometres to access maternal health services. Nyautare Clinic personnel facilitates 8 deliveries per month. The nearest clinics to Nyautare Clinic for women to deliver their babies are Nyangombe and Mt. Melleray Clinics approximately 30 and 35 kilometres respectively for maternal health care services.

After the GRPS Gender Champion training by AAZ and the meeting with Ward councillor, a modern and spacious Waiting Mother`s Home is currently under construction, at the slab stage. The new facility is expected upon completion to improve from the current one that has 2 beds to one with 18 beds, each of the 6 rooms with 3 beds per room.

### 3. EDUCATION

The Education calendar for 2021 had 2 terms running for the year. March to June and September to December due to the persistent COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, Simukai made efforts to promote and fulfil the rights of children. A total of 1 350 learners were reached through the Education Department

#### Highlights of Activities for the year 2021

##### 1. Early Childhood Development (ECD) Education

Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre managed to have its ECD Centre open and offering lessons to **31** (20

The Gender Champion cascaded the knowledge that she acquired from the training by Simukai in partnership with ActionAid and arranged a meeting with the Ward councillor and the HCC. Builders are volunteers from the local community as well as their assistants. The local community contributed food for the builders, bricks, pit and river sand and concrete stones. Nyautare Clinic is run by the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). Funds used up to this slab stage have been from the Plough-Back Fund which is 30% from all annual Development Levy paid by villagers from Nyautare Ward to the local authority, that is the Nyanga Rural District Council (NRDC) and financing developmental projects in the Ward.

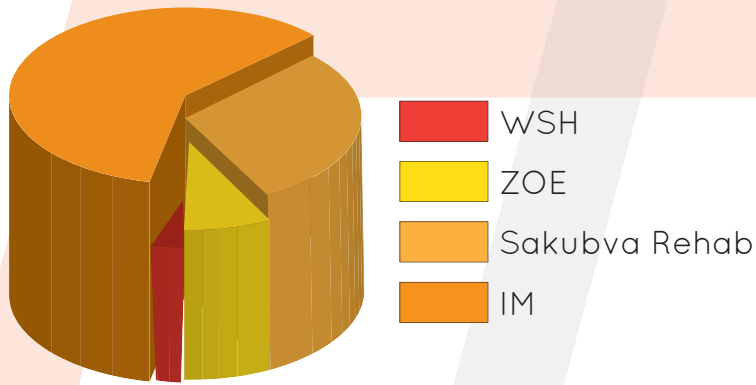
girls and 11 boys) children between the ages of 3 and 6 years. Amongst the activities conducted during the year, Simukai Rehabilitation Centre received support from Higherlife Foundation. In this regard the Pre- School received 34 Growing Tree Workbooks. The books contained tasks that the children needed to carry out. Higherlife Foundation also provided the ECD teacher with data bundles to enable adaptation to the new normal in education during the COVID-19 era which promoted online education.

On 3 December 2021 the ECD learners had an excursion at Mutare Lunar Park. The children had a chance to engage in different activities



Wayne, 10yrs old, first day at school learning the Alphabetical Order at Chirasika Primary School

## Projects contributing to the Education Department



such as riding play boats and play aeroplanes among others.

**Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, 3 children graduated from ECD and were ready to enrol for grade 1 in 2022. It was a happy moment as children showcased their talents.

The Hope for Tomorrow Project introduced an ECD Program in Ruwombwe Ward 26 of Makoni District. This was implemented following a needs assessment in which community raised the need for an ECD Centre since children of ECD going age were not going to school citing that children between 3 to 6 years had to walk long distances of 4 to 6km to nearest primary schools.

Failure to afford the ECD services and ignorance by caregivers on the importance of ECD were also cited as factors discouraging ECD enrolment in Ruwerimwe area. Through support from WeSeeHope, an ECD program was piloted and construction of the Centre began in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. A total of **36** learners enrolled for the ECD assisted by 2 Volunteer ECD teachers who received training from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE).

## 2. Catch-Up learning programme

The Catch-Up learning programme is designed to assist children who have dropped out of school to accelerate their learning and be able to join the mainstream or formal education system at the level appropriate for their ages. The Catch up class which is a non-formal program offering basic education to primary level (Grade 1 to 7) learners was assisted with remedial lessons for 54 learners. Home visits were conducted to each of the **54** learners to assess the environment in which they lived outside the school environment.



Ruwombwe ECD learners during a play session

### 3. Vocational Skills Training



Simukai Director **Mrs Matsanga** addressing Simukai VTC graduates

A 4th Vocational graduation ceremony was conducted at the Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre where a total of **250** graduates from the classes of 2019 and 2020 graduated with National Foundation Certificates in Food Preparation, Housekeeping and Bakery Studies. The Graduation theme was- **‘Thinking ForWard, Taking Action... beyond the pandemic;** reminded graduates of the new normal presented by COVID-19 urging learners to embrace change for economic growth.

### 4. Improving access to education



Elizabeth Ruzhi posing for a photo after receiving uniforms

Zoe Empowers ensured access to quality education by supporting **100** vulnerable learners

with school fees payment, scholastic material and uniforms. A total of 40 primary and 60 secondary school learners received stationery, uniforms, exercise books and tuition fees thereby increasing access to education. Those who dropped out of school due to lack of school fees were enrolled back to school and resumed their studies. Through funds generated from their projects, 80% of them were able to meet their school expenses. Through Simukai's education assistance, 6 children from First Class, (1) Sakubva 2 High school, (1) Chitora High School, and (5) Muradzikwa Primary School

(1) benefited.

### 5. Tertiary Education

Under Zoe Empowers Project, **10** tertiary students (4 females, 6 males) were assisted with tuition fees, accommodation and subsistence funds. Two of them graduated; 1 from Bindura University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor of Peace and Governance and the other at National University of Science and Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. A total of 3 students were enrolled for their first year Semester 2 at University of Zimbabwe and 1 at Africa University. Thirteen students who had just completed their Advanced Level were trained on Career guidance in their preparation to be enrolled for their First year Semester. The main aim was to **help individuals acquire the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to identify options, explore alternatives and succeed in society.**

Through the IM project, dialogue meetings were conducted with **643** (M257/F166) community stakeholders including children, out of school youths and caregivers from Mayo and Dora communities discussed issues on disability inclusion, second chance education and issues affecting children from their communities. Communities embraced the second chance

education policy as evidenced by 20 youth in Mayo who expressed willingness to register for second chance education during a dialogue session whilst 3 learners enrolled for second chance education in Dora during the year 2021. Previously students especially survivors of child marriages felt embarrassed to be re-enrolled in schools. Through the Education dialogues, communities shunned the culture of silence in cases of abuse. This was supported through a child marriage case in Dora which was reported to the police. The perpetrator was sentenced to 4 years in prison and the survivor managed to re-enrol for second chance education. It was, however noted that there still remained some traditional and religious attitudes that sought to reverse the gains of equality. Some husbands were still reluctant to allow their young wives to enrol for second chance education or vocational skills training. Hence the need for more dialogue was encouraged.

A total of **166** individuals i.e., 96 Males and 70 Females were reached through both virtual and physical meetings with like-minded Education Partners from Government Line Ministries and Civil Society Organizations in Mutare and Makoni Districts to meet and share their good practices and work plans within the COVID-19 period. National E-Learning strategy was discussed with the aim of advancing the education sector through the development of adequate technological capacity for both learners and educators regardless of geographical location

## Change Story

### From a Brick molder to a Hotel and Catering graduate

Bothwell Madaya lives with his mother, father and sibling. His father is blind. His mother is the one who takes care of the family. His father was a security guard for 20 years. Sleeping in the cold, walking long distances to work and long sleepless nights affected his health. He was diagnosed with high blood pressure, chest pains, migraine headaches and his eye sight started to deteriorate in 2009. At that point Bothwell was

or economic circumstances, this was a platform where the technological plight of the children from Mayo and Dora were addressed.

The meetings were a platform on which stakeholders presented their planned activities to reduce duplication. They also reinforced partnerships and complimented each other during activities. Where possible partners referred beneficiaries to each other based on their strengths and expertise.

## 6. Promoting conducive learning environments

The Emergence Response Program worked towards reducing risks in educational institutions whilst creating safe and conducive learning environments. This led to the completion and commissioning of the 1x2 classroom block at Tiya Secondary School in Chimanimani.

Geographically, Tiya Secondary School is located on hilly land where prospects of expansion are difficult to imagine. The school had an enrolment of about 150 children using only two blocks as both offices and classrooms. Thanks to the partnership between Simukai Child Protection Programme and ActionAid Zimbabwe under the support of ElectricAid resulted in expansion and development through the construction of a 1x2 classroom block which began in 2020 but was successfully completed and commissioned in 2021.

still very young. His father could not afford to pay for his school fees. His elder brothers used to do piece jobs in people's fields and pay for their school fees. Due to poverty his sister eloped at a young age and his brothers went away to look for jobs. Bothwell was forced to drop out of school at Form 2 in 2015 so that his young brother would go for Primary school since his parents could not afford to pay school fees for both of them. His

father could not secure a job due to old age and poor eyesight.

Bothwell received trainings from ZOE before they were given any type of materialistic support. He received training on Dream design, Food security, Health and hygiene, Entrepreneurship and Child rights and Responsibilities. On Food security they were taught about Conservation farming, Nutrition Garden and Animal Husbandry. On Health and hygiene they were taught about diseases prevention, personal and environmental hygiene by a local nurse. As of Entrepreneurship they were taught about how to start small businesses and record keeping.

Bothwell received \$150-00 to start his income generating activity (IGA). He started his IGA by buying a shovel, trowel, gumboots and cement. He started making bricks and selling them to community members. He sold 1 000 bricks at a costs of \$20usd. He managed to sell 7 000 bricks and made \$140usd. While he was making bricks he had also trained his brother entrepreneurship skills. His young brother was buying and selling eggs. He bought 10 crates of eggs at \$3usd and sold each crate at \$5usd making a profit of \$2usd per crate of eggs. From his profits he paid school fees for his brother. He also bought stationery for

him so that he could fit in among other students. He is also buying and selling doughnuts and drinks in the community. Her mother helps to sell the drinks and doughnuts.

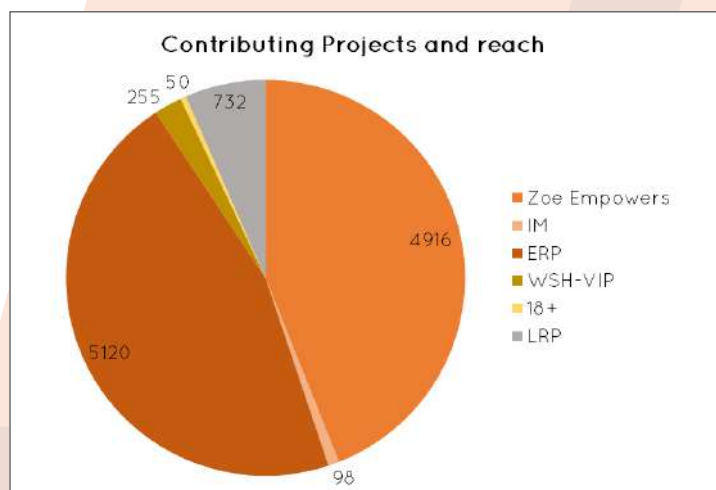
Bothwell is still making bricks and selling them to the local community. He makes at least an average of \$100usd per month which he uses to support the family with basic needs and food. He bought two goats from his savings. Each goat costed \$30usd.

Bothwell also enrolled into vocational skills training at Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation and Vocational Skills Centre in 2019. He was doing a certificate in Hotel and Catering. He graduated on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. He is now working towards building a community based bakery so that he can supply bread and confectionery to his community members. There has been a great improvement in terms of the food supplies in Bothwell's family which is helping them cope up with life now that his father is not able to do so. They no longer worry even if their relatives do not support them.



**Bothwell sorting his bricks which are ready for sale**

## 4. ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING



Source: Simukai Programme Reports (2021)

### Highlight of Activities carried out in the year 2021

#### 1. Income generating activities

Zoe Empowers' group members received trainings on entrepreneurship, proper book recording and book keeping, marketing, customer relations and the importance of ploughing back profits to diversify projects. Twelve (12) first year groups with a total of **360** beneficiaries received income generating funds to start individual businesses and 30 second year groups with a total of **900** beneficiaries received their group income generating activity fund. A total of **156** beneficiaries were supported with vocational skills training and start up kits and 87 youth started vocational skills trainings using their own funds.

Type of Course	Number of Beneficiaries who were enrolled
Carpentry and Joinery	30
House Keeping	40
Food Preparation	40
Block and Brick Laying	20
Mechanics	6
Hair dressing	10
Tailoring	10

**Beneficiaries supported with funds for vocational skills and courses they were enrolled into.**

Through vocational skills training, the livelihoods of youths gradually improved. They constructed houses and toilets; sent their siblings to school, and improved their diet. All beneficiaries had dependable sources of income which made it possible for them to adopt various saving approaches. They invested their funds in assets and livestock such as cows, goats, pigs and traditional poultry. The groups were also running Village Savings (table banking) and through the contributions they made, they met various household needs, to support their siblings in school or to construct houses and other family developments.

### Projects done

Individual projects included:

Types of projects	Number of beneficiaries
Piggery	35
Broiler keeping	253
Buying and selling groceries and clothes	57
Buying and selling potatoes	13
Traditional poultry	1032
Goat keeping	654
Rabbit keeping	673
Vocational skills	41
Boschveld keeping	84
Market gardening	1357
Fish farming	33
Bee keeping	17
<b>Total Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>4 249</b>

Through the **IM Project** in Dora and Mayo, 13 schools were supported with start-up kits for school income generating activities. The schools engaged in poultry, fishery and tuck shop income generating activities. A total of **47** OVC including children living with disabilities benefited from the school IGAs through the payment of school fees and provision of scholastic materials such as exercise-books, pens and rulers as a result of the profits realized from the school IGAs.



1. My brother helps me run my business

Schools' knowledge on how to run school IGAs increased for example the need for diversifying to viable projects upon realization that the current project was no-longer producing any results was strengthened.

## 2. Food Security

The 2020/2021 cropping season was favourable and all the **2300** supported households harvested enough for subsistence and for sale with an average of 15x50 kgs of maize. Trainings to preserve the harvested maize were done by Agriculture Extension officers and all 2300 households received crop preservation pesticides (Chirindamura dust). This made these families more food secure through preserving the crop that they had harvested.

However, the lockdown restrictions to other sources of income made these households rely on their harvest as a source of income, exchanging



Goats are a form of savings. Zoe Empowers Program beneficiary's goat project



Jessina from Nyamajura, Ward 1, Mutare District making a living out of buying and selling groceries



Blessed Maopa from Chimbudzi, Ward 1, Mutare District sorting packing his maize after a bumper harvest



I now have improved nutrition through my kitchen garden



Timothy Hapaori's tomatoe project. He was assisted by the group through mutual help to establish the Project



Humanitarian Programme implemented a once off cash transfer exercise in Chimanimani District. A total of **5 000 (F2 953 /M2 047)** beneficiaries from 682 households in Chimanimani and Chipinge benefited from the initiative. The cash transfer programme gave US\$130 to enlisted beneficiaries that were enlisted and verified by the Department of Social Development and the District Development Coordinators of Chipinge and Chimanimani Districts.

Cash transfer beneficiary signing for her consignment during the cash transfer exercise in Chipinge ward 13

grain with other basic needs and services. Faced with such a challenge where households started selling their harvest, Zoe Empowers swiftly reacted and provided garden seeds to all the households and groups for horticulture. Nutrition garden seeds distributed to households included onions, cabbages, beans, peas, cucumbers and carrots. Specialized trainings to grow the crops were conducted with households to maximize yields. At least every supported household had maize and vegetables in their nutrition garden which made them afford a minimum of 2 meals a day.

A total of **240** first year households received small animals like chickens, rabbits, guinea fowls, and turkeys that multiplied fast to breed for meat, eggs and selling. These were meant to improve their diet and generate income to meet other nutritional needs such as cooking oil. In a bid to prepare for 2021/2022 cropping season, newly recruited 12 working groups which comprised of **360** households were trained on *Pfumvudza* farming method (conservation farming technique) to maximize their harvest. Following the trainings and land preparation, all the **600**, 2021 C1 and C2 households received a variety of farming seeds that included maize, ground nuts, sorghum and beans. The variety was meant to improve their diet. **Food Security**

Through the Emergency Response Program (ERP) Simukai supported by ActionAid Zimbabwe

### 3. Village Investment Programme (VIP)-WeSeeHope

VIP groups continued saving in US dollars to beat inflation and unpredictable unofficial parallel rates. VIP groups embraced COVID- 19 as it soon became a new normal. Despite their propensity to save and pay back loans being affected by the volatile economic environment, the VIP Project posted significant successes which included improvement of water and sanitation hygiene, asset acquisition, expansion of income generation ventures and increased disposable income. The groups managed to support children with school fees payment and or stationery, from the OVC fund as well as boost household food security through the income generation activities. A total of **143** households were reached through the VIP.

### 4. Capacity Building

Through The IM project, a total of **51** children (40 girls and 11 boys) in Mayo and Dora were trained by local experts in building, sewing, catering, product making, hair dressing and poultry and began engaging in Income Generating Activities. Beneficiaries from vocational skills were empowered with technical skills with high market demand in their communities. This resulted in improvement of earnings through productive work and better living standards



Activities	Key findings/observation
Community mobilisation and formation of 11 new VIP groups	Communities were keen on the VIP as it offered a lifeline in times of need hence formation of new groups was made easy. VIP groups were resilient to changing economic environment and committed to continue their operations as they appreciated the benefits derived from it such as access to funds for immediate needs and small businesses, which kept them with an income through out.
Selection of 11 community group based VIP facilitators and training on VIP methodology and business skills.	11 group-based facilitators embraced VIP well and their groups were doing well after they cascaded the training to fellow members. 3 VIP groups consisted of parents and guardians of orphans and vulnerable children attending Early Childhood Development.
Selection of VIP groups' leadership and training on their roles and responsibilities,	VIP group members understood the concept and selected their leadership based on understanding their characters and experiences. Each of the 11 groups selected their Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Key keepers and money counters. Members with a history of untrustworthiness were avoided in leadership positions.
Support and monitoring visits to both new and existing VIP groups	<p>11 newly formed VIP groups were very enthusiastic and ready to start the Project after they agreed to save in US dollars and immediately started income generation activities. Their documentation was done well.</p> <p>5 groups formed in 2020 were supported through trainings and constant guidance. It was observed that support in record keeping especially loan ledger and cashbook were still needed.</p> <p>New groups were oriented in the key concepts of OVC pot and group IGAs which they received well, to which the latter was received well whilst OVC fund was a bit slow.</p> <p>18 groups exhibited readiness for wean off after a full 3 cycles of savings and lending, and good record keeping.</p>
Refresher trainings of community Facilitators,	Although 10 Facilitators were trained, they still needed support on recording in the Ledger book especially cashbook and loan ledger, hence support and monitoring visits were key.
Group Income Generation Activities (IGAs) support and monitoring.	Groups were engaged in selling rice, sugar, washing soap, salt, matches, spaghetti and cooking oil amongst group members and other community members to boost the nutrition status of the orphans and vulnerable children in their households. 1 group was engaged in broiler chicken rearing.
Procurement and distribution of VIP kits for the new groups	<p>New VIP groups appreciated the cashbox, passbooks, ledger books and other materials for their operation as they said that this symbolised being organised.</p> <p>Their group transactions were secure in the lockable cash box.</p>
Graduation	17 groups had embraced VIP to become their way of life as they endured COVID 19, economic changes and challenges to remain vibrant. The groups passed a wean off criteria and graduated.

amongst beneficiaries as they became able to meet their day-to-day basic needs for food, clothes and sanitary wear. A girl from Dora with physical disability managed to buy herself a beautiful dress and a pair of shoes from the profits realised from the catering group she was in.



Training on business management for youth in vocational skills training in Mayo

Change in social behaviour was noticed amongst previously idle beneficiaries who due to financial stresses, engaged in maladaptive behaviours such as gambling and alcohol abuse which put their lives at risk. Beneficiaries were now able to decide and choose between good and bad as a result of the economic empowerment initiatives by the IM Project.

Child marriage survivors testified that their husbands and families now respected them because they were also contributing to the family's income and basic needs such as food and this reduced conflicts and gender based violence within households. Students trained in building gained technical skills and were no longer idle, they were working with their teachers who had a strong client base whilst perfecting their acquired skills.

Under the 18+ Strengthening Civil Society to end Child Marriages, **50** Young People were selected to participate in the economic empowerment program to attack poverty as one of the root causes of child marriage. The selection criteria of the young people included giving priority

to survivors of child marriage, those at risk of child marriage, child headed families, children living with elderly caregivers or caregivers with disabilities and double orphans. Thereafter, the young people underwent community-based skills trainings; 30 were trained in poultry production, 1 in building, 1 catering, 12 garment-making, 4 in bakery, and 1 in craft basketry. After the trainings, each young person received a start-up kit to start their project. The projects were still ongoing and being regularly monitored by the local community leadership and The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development

The Local Rights Project capacitated women and small holder farmers to promote market linkages, packaging and record keeping. Small holder farmers were now knowledgeable on the various aspects on market linkages, food preparation, post-harvest, book keeping and food preparation. In terms of securing the market they made efforts to work in associations at community level and these were coordinated at the beginning of seasons to ensure that the different crops produced were in larger volumes to avoid failure to meet market demands. This activity reached out to **160** (36 males and 144 males) smallholder farmers.

Small holder farmers were trained on preservation of small grains which were drought resistant. The Project area (Nyanga) falls under natural ecological regions 5 and 4, characterized by dry and arid soil type and low annual rainfall totals. Capacity building sessions offered, complemented the practice of preserving small grains for the upcoming seasons. Through the seed house in their community, it became easy to preserve drought resistant crop seeds. During the sessions, the communities identified various small grains that were suitable for production in the community looking at the trend in rainfall patterns. A total of **122** participants (29 males and 93 females) were capacitated.

An Agro Ecology training was conducted at Fambidzanai Training Centre for 6 small holder

farmers under the Local Rights Program. Women small holder farmers and the AGRITEX officers were empowered with vast knowledge on Agro-ecology. Feedback meetings and trainings were rolled out to capacitate other small holder farmers in the community. Agro-ecology was implemented and monitored through an establishment of a demonstration plot. Training of trainers at community level reached a total of **135** (F119/M16) smallholder farmers.

## 5. Exhibitions and Awareness Raising

Small holder farmers got an opportunity to showcase and market their local produce in Nyatate Ward 17 and Nyautare Ward 8 through Field Days, Food Fairs and Agricultural Shows. They learnt and shared successes and viable farming practices, concepts and crops. Winners of the exhibitions were awarded with farming equipment at the event. Simukai in partnership with ActionAid successfully partnered with AGRITEX to support farmers in their local marketing and exhibition initiatives. Successful small holder farmers were awarded prizes in form of 2 ploughs, 1 cultivator, 5 knap sacks, 1 wheel barrow and 10 plough shares.

A total of **104** (34 males and 170 females) women and youth received awareness on climate change, mitigation and adaptation as

part of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Through this activity participants reflected on effects of climate change and how seasons were changing and bearing a negative effect on the harvest produced. Community nutritional gardens invested more in organic inputs in their gardens to reduce the costs of inputs and increase profitability while at the same time conserving the environment. Farmers committed to begin the process of taking steps to secure their harvest whilst reducing the risks of drought through various farming techniques such as agro-ecology.

Awareness on agro-ecology and smart agriculture reached out to a total of **211** (F192/M19) participants. The issue of land and natural resource rights in the Saunyama LRP encompassed challenges in mismanagement, exploitation and ownership resulting in men owning 98% of the arable land whilst women only owned 2%. These issues were redressed starting with awareness raising on land and natural resource rights. The intervention ensured that communities were aware of the laws at all levels in the management and ownership of land and natural resources. Women and youth had equal opportunities to own land and other resources to enhance their economic standing.



Field day in Nyautare Ward 8

## Change Story

### It never rained, but poured for Delce

“I survived the iron wheels of poverty that might have crushed me to dust before realising my dreams. I escaped the lions of hunger, diseases and homelessness that roared loudly in every city and village, looking for vulnerable youth to devour,” echoed Delce Mukunzana – a 21 year old girl from Prosperity Group.

Series of unfortunate circumstances did not rain, but poured for Delce who grew up in the rugged and semi-arid terrains of Dora villages in Mutare district. She experienced every kind of assault that life can offer. Growing up, Delce’s life was bordered between lack and luck, sorrow and sadness; empathy and sympathy, life and death.

Her parents divorced many years ago and the siblings were left in a single mother’s custody. While the whereabouts of her father are hitherto; not known, her mother succumbed to Covid-19 on 27 April 2020 following a long period of intensive hospitalisation. The feeling of growing up with a single parent who is often bedridden accorded her with traumatised experiences.

Delce survived the storms of difficult conditions throughout her childhood. Together with her three siblings, whom she resides with; (Nothando (16), Ronia, (12) and Thelma (9), they suffered from hunger, measles and mumps all the days of their lives. They would eat mal-nutritious foods once a day or even sleep involuntarily on absolutely empty stomachs.

“Our staple foods are the wild *matohwe* and *mazhanje* fruits, dried vegetables and okra only. We eat any of these meals once per day. For us corn and meat are as expensive as gold. Growing up, my stomach was never full. I don’t remember the last time I got satisfied with food,” Delce reported.

Anguished and hopeless, the young lady abandoned school prematurely (at Grade 7) due to lack of school fees. The distance between school and home was 7km; and she would walk that far barefooted, every day. Consequently,

her dream of pursuing a law career was jeopardised by the negative circumstances that characterised her upbringing.

Nevertheless, a glimpse of light and an aura of hope shone upon Delce’s life when she got recruited into the Zoe Empowers programme in June 2019. Zoe empowered her with Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and Vocational Skills Training to counter poverty and promote economic self-reliance. Though the trainings on health and hygiene Delce is planning to build a toilet. She also dug a composite pit for waste disposal.

After receiving entrepreneurial training, Delce ventured into traditional chicken project. She keeps and sells her chickens in batches. With the profits, she constructed a 10x10 metres poultry run and a mega loafing shed for the goats. She bought three goats which have thus far multiplied to 5. Her vision is to breed 300 goats and 3000 chickens per year.

Zoe has transformed her into becoming a resilient young woman who transcended the woes of patriarchalism that loomed large in her village. These values have long confined women to the kitchen and reserved livestock ownership for men. In her overjoyed sentiments, she echoed, “I am so proud that even I, Delce – a poor woman, can own many goats.”

Using the profits from chicken projects, she also started a small-scale floor polish making industry in which she was trained by one of the group members. She sells and delivers floor polish tins to the nearby town suburb. With the profits, Delce built a well garnished 2-roomed house which was designed in a modern fashion. The house is furnished with a double-door Wardrobe and a double bed; all bought out of livestock profits. Together with her pod members, she also ventured into market gardening in order to diversify her business. The pod members share produce and sell surplus. As a result, Delce and

her siblings are now able to consume three nutritious meals in a single day. They no longer beg and scavenge for food. She is happy to be part of the group as it provides her with authentic companionship.

Speaking about the benefits of pod members, Delce reports; “Group members are a perfect substitute of bloodline relatives. They provided me with the most needed consolation and companionship especially following my father’s disappearance and my mother’s death. We

tilled the land together, planted seeds together, harvested together and sold the produce together. I have got productive and authentic friends.” Delce has done so well in her projects and her zeal and passion has made him a very good change agent in Dora community. The anguished youth who joined ZOE Empowers Programme, under Simukai in 2020 has emerged a confident entrepreneur among youth in Dora villages.

## 5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Simukai through the Emergency Response Program (ERP) in partnership with Chimanimani and Chipinge District Civil Protection Committees (DPDC) assisted distressed communities to recover from calamity induced losses through capacitating them. Disaster Risk Management, Risk Communication Plans and Emergency Preparedness Plans were formulated. The trainings were cascaded down to Ward and Village level and committees were established and **120** members participated in the trainings. As a follow up to the work done, Simukai arranged a dialogue with DCPC members to determine how committees were implementing what they had highlighted in the crafted plans. The dialogue was anchored on ranked disasters which included Droughts, Cyclones, Veld fires, COVID-19 and Malaria

Chipinge successfully received training on risk communication. Under these trainings school children and school authorities were capacitated on the importance of schools when it came to information distribution in communities. For that reason schools received training on how to effectively and efficiently manage crucial information within the community.

A total of **8** (**120** participants) schools in



Footbridge handover ceremony



The process of community footbridge construction



Alternative make shift river crossing structure for children after the community foot bridge was swept away by floods

The Local Rights Program ensured capacity development of women movements through advocating for women leadership and promotion by strengthening of **RWA** structures through training on DRR and other protection issues was done through the Local Rights Programme. The effects of disasters on women were identified to be increasing displacement and migration of women and children resulting in a rise in Sexual Gender Based Violence against women and girls. A total of **212** (F154/M58) women movement members were capacitated. Women confidently spearheaded disaster response committee in Nyautare Ward 8. They had an opportunity to interact with other community development structures to deliberate on the disaster response project in their community. The activity increased capacity of women movements on women leadership in emergencies and disasters. Women in Nyautare Ward 8 assumed leadership duties in spearheading committees in disaster response.

Disaster Risk Reduction committees were strengthened and development of Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plans were produced. A component on risk communication was identified to be key as part of disaster management in all the disaster committees engaged. In summary the action plans needed to be revised and to develop a risk communication plan for the 3 Wards. The committees were committed to updating their disaster action plans setting new timelines, identifying and documenting new risks identified in the past year after experiencing the flooding of rivers and drowning of footbridges. A total of **267** participants (F190/M77) from the

committees were strengthened.

Humanitarian and Emergency Response to vulnerable communities in form of footbridge rehabilitation in Nyautare Ward 8 along Nyabombwe River was done under LRP. The footbridge was officially handed over to the community after completion as a community asset which was constructed by the community with technical support from Nyanga Rural District Council engineers' whilst Simukai in partnership with ActionAid procured the highly specialised structural steel and other material for the construction. The footbridge was completed before the beginning of the rains and children and the community were able to attend to their daily business without any inconveniences in crossing Nyabombwe River. The community mobilized locally available material such as concrete stones, river sand and labour expenses.

A total of **120** (F76/M44) Ward or Village members were trained on early warning signs and systems, emergency preparedness to coordinate on emergency and disasters. The trainings were important in the coordination of disaster management at local level in terms of preparedness and response where communities developed their own contextual mechanisms and solutions in cases of emergencies before external help was required. A total of 6 Villages in Nyatate Ward 17 identified and documented their early warning systems using indigenous knowledge systems. These identified risks by all villages were to be consolidated and would contribute in developing an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan at Ward level.

## 6. HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



Simukai staff participating at the 2021 Edition of the Cancer Power Walk

University, Great Zimbabwe State University, Chinhoyi State University, Midlands State University and Africa University. Students on attachment supported staff whilst training on the job and gaining work experience. Simukai had an Internship Compliment of 20 (F10/M10) across all Centers. The Organization significantly reduced its interns recruitment in adherence to COVID-19 regulations of decongesting the Offices.

### 1. Overview

Biannual performance assessments were held and the level of commitment and effort to drive the Simukai Vision by the employees, remained commendable considering the environmental setbacks and economic challenges being faced nationwide. Simukai continued to prioritize the need for Capacity Development of all its employees and a number of trainings were held during this final quarter.

The call for implementing strategic working arrangements and reviewing Organizational policies so that they remained relevant during the pandemic proved to be a key factor in Simukai's Strategic Human Resources Management. Simukai managed to maintain mutual relations with its existing Funding Partners through meeting their requirements. A new Plan International Funded Project (SRHR) Project was implemented creating a job vacancy for a Project Officer within the Organization which position was filled in.

### 2. Staff Compliment

Simukai had a staff compliment of 38 (F 21/ M17). The Organization continued to get support from students on attachment from universities such as University of Zimbabwe, Bindura State

### 3. Staff Performance Appraisals

The Human Resources Department steered a two-phase Performance Appraisal process. Midterm Appraisals were conducted in July and End of Year Appraisals was held in November 2021. This was meant to keep track of staff performance through identifying performance gaps that could deter effective Organizational performance. Through Appraisals, various HR issues were addressed.

### 4. Staff Members Capacity Building

The 2021 Staff Capacity Building Trainings were well informed from the 2020 Staff Performance Gaps identified through Performance Appraisal processes. As was the norm for the past years, these Trainings were meant to mitigate the effects of poor performance individually or at Organizational level. Below is a list of the trainings held, source of funds as well as the Facilitators engaged.

The M and E Training (SSP11 Midterm Review feedback presentation) provided Simukai a rare opportunity to strategically integrate Staff Development Practice with the overall Strategic Plan of the Organisation.

### 5. Organizational Development

Date	Training	Facilitator's Details	Funding Partner
23/09/2021	Psychosocial Support	Internal (Tarisai Musabayana)	OAK FOUNDATION
24/09/2021	Child Safeguarding	Internal (Wadzanai Munyama)	OAK FOUNDATION
01/11/2021	Workers Committee Training	National Employment Council Designated Agent	ADMINISTRATION
03/11/2021	Fundraising	Taurai Nyandoro	OAK FOUNDATION
04/11/2021			
13/11/2021	Wellness	Internal	ZOE
22/11/2021	Monitoring and Evaluation	Simukai Plan11 Midterm Review Consultant	OAK FOUNDATION
23/11/2021			
24/11/2021			
29/11/2021	Fundraising	Elias Pirikisi	PLAN INTERNATIONAL
30/11/2021	Disaster Management	Risk Ms Masengu	IM

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2021, Simukai Chipinge Outreach office relocated to a permanent location in Usanga. The new site had been under construction works funded by the Japanese Embassy. Below is a picture of the new site. *(to be added)*

During the course of the year 2021 the Organization managed to improve its fleet of vehicles by adding 3 vehicles to the fleet. A Honda Fit for Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre, a Nissan NP300 Double cab for Makoni Outreach Office and a Toyota Fortuner were purchased.

## 6. Staff Wellness

As part of Wellness Simukai Staff, Volunteers and Interns participated in some Calendar Events such as the Cancer Power Walk held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021. This enhanced health, wellness and reinvigorated the spirit of unity among

colleagues as they interacted outside the usual working space. Members of Staff appreciated the efforts by the Organization as they participated in the Zumba dance exercise and aerobics after the walk.

## 7. Staff Weddings

One staff member was joined in holy matrimony on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021 in Vumba, Mutare. Congratulations and Simukai wishes him a blessed union.

## 8. Simukai Policies Review

The Organization undertook a policies review exercise spearheaded by the HR Department. This was meant to realign existing Organizational Policies with modern trends. Staff members read and submitted their recommendations. Through integrated employee involvement in Policy reviewing Simukai's Staff owned the process giving them a sense of involvement in the Organization's decision-making processes



which was a key employee motivation factor. Rockstone Chartered Accountants and Eve Consultancy were also engaged to review these policies and they made recommendations and

amendments to some of the policies. These processes will ultimately lead to consideration of the reviewed Policies by the Board as Simukai operational Policies going forWard.

## 7. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

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

### 2. Economic Situation

Simukai Child Protection Programme managed

to implement its activities due to creativity and innovation, determination and teamwork. The financial year 2021 was characterized by the following shortcomings;

- » Sky rocketing fuel prices resulting to fluctuations in the prices of goods and services
- » Exchange Rate fluctuations resulting to goods and services priced differently thus for those paid in cash and through bank transfers.

However Simukai remained vigilant and managed to implement all the budgeted activities. The Organization remained informed of the changes in both monetary and fiscal Policies during the fiscal year.

**Fig 1. 2021 Grants Income**

Funding partner	2021 Grant Disbursements
WeSeeHope	US\$ 75,577.00
Plan International	US\$230,795.00
OAK Foundation	US\$48,108.00
ZOE Empowers	US\$ 653,947.00
Action Aid Zimbabwe	US\$122,753.00
Swedish Development Partner	US\$77,119.00
Dreams Initiative	US\$93,698.00
Bread & Water for Africa	US\$59,742.00
Save The Children	US\$14,967.00

**US\$1,376,706.00**

**Fig 2. Other Income**

Source/Project	Amount
Simukai Sakubva Rehabilitation Centre	US\$60.00
Simukai Youth Education Pack(YEP)and Catch Up	US\$21,661.00
Donations and Other Income	US\$64,317.00

**US\$86,038.00**

### 3. Compliance

Simukai Child Protection Programme remained informed of the changes in the economy in respect to both monetary and fiscal policies during the fiscal year 2021. The Organization ensured compliance with legal and regulatory requirements which governed Organizations in the same trade. The Organization has binding Memorandum of Understandings with the Local Councils of Mutare, Chipinge, Makoni, Nyanga, Mutasa and Chimanimani Districts. The Organization also adhered to Funding Partners financial guidelines and requirements for continued funding. Compliance with other statutory obligations and timely payments to Wards NSSA, Withholding Tax and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) were ensured.

### 4. 2021 Funding Situation

The Organization depended on funds from nine (9) Funding Partners that included WeSeeHope, ZOE Empowers, Action Aid Zimbabwe, IM Swedish Development Partner, Oak Foundation, Plan International Zimbabwe, USAID- Dreams Initiative, Save the Children and Bread and Water for Africa (BWA). The total 2021, annual income for Simukai Child Protection Programme

amounted to US\$1,462,744.00 (One Million Four Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Four United States Dollars Only) which represents a 4% decrease from 2020 total annual income of US\$1,509,770.00. Six (6) % of the funds were realized from Organizational Income Generating Projects and donations whilst 94% was from Funding Partners.

### 5. Simukai 2021 Grants and Expenditure and Financial Position Analysis

The Organization received grants from Funding Partners and these funds must be utilized in full according to the agreed work plans and budgets. Favourable expenditure levels shows the capacity of the Organization to implement all the activities. The level of spending and financial position are highlighted in Fig 4 and 5 respectively.

### 6. Vehicle Administration

Simukai Child Protection Programme maintains a fleet of 12 functional vehicles following a purchase of 3 vehicles registration numbers AFO8069 (Toyota Fortuner), AFO7910 (Honda Fit) and ACC5666 (Nissan Hardbody-D/Cab) and disposal of Nissan Hard body Single Cab ACU1097.

Fig 3. 2021 Grants Analysis

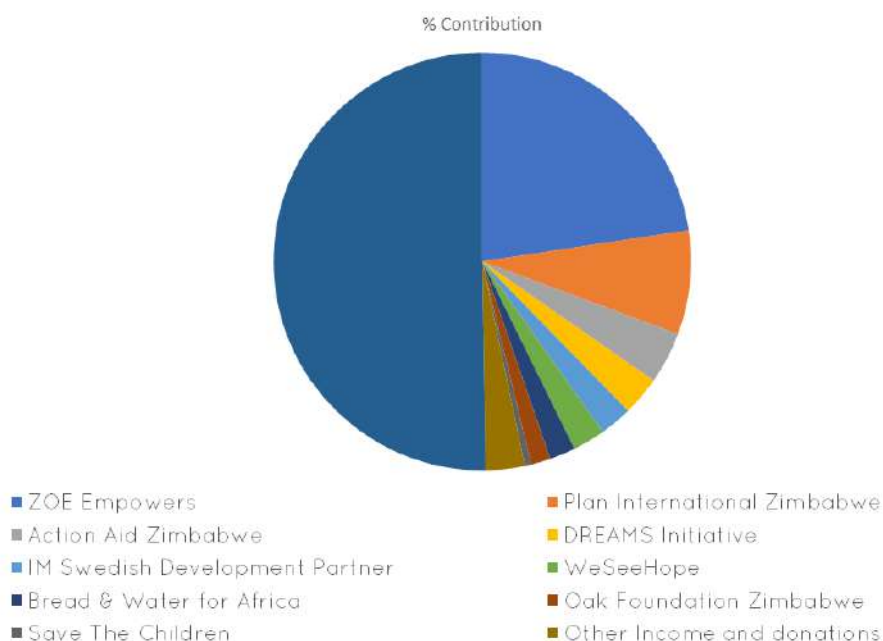


Fig 4. Income and expenditure Analysis

Year	Income(us\$)	Expenditure(us\$)
2020	1,509,770.00	1,624,713.00
2021	1,462,744.00	1,447,289.00
% Change	-4%	-11%

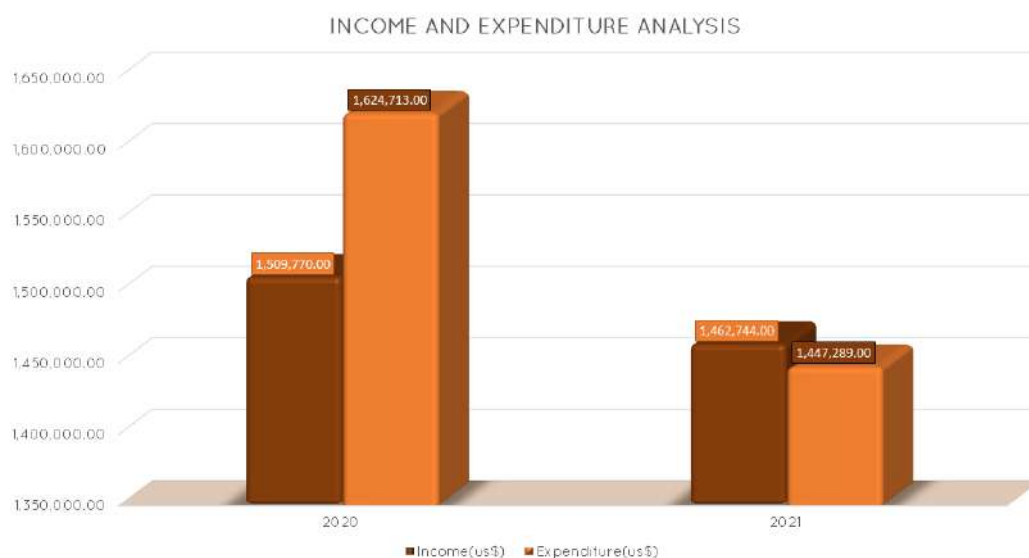
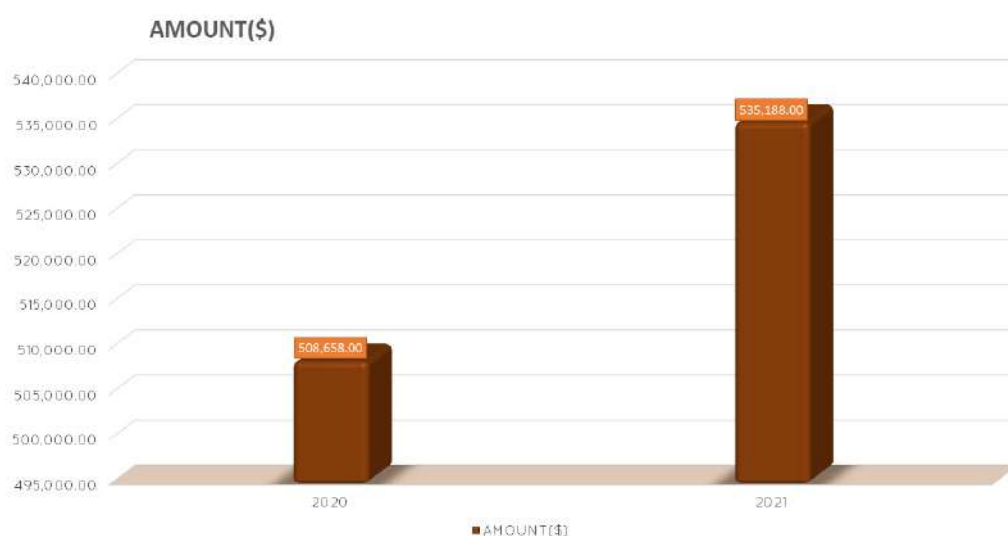


Fig 5. Simukai Statement of Financial Position

YEAR	AMOUNT(\$)
2020	508,658.00
2021	535,188.00
% Change	6%



## 7. AUDIT

The Organization received an unqualified Institutional External Audit Report for the 2021 fiscal year. The external audit was carried out by Rockstone Chartered Accountants Zimbabwe (a registered Firm with Public Accountants and Auditors Board).The report was sent to the intended recipients during the course of the year

## 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 2021.We remain grateful to Funding Partners and well-wishers who remembered us and our work in their times of surplus.



Nyahondo vocational skills beneficiaries receiving sewing start up materials

## List of well-wishers who donated to Simukai from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

- » Lydia Nsenga
- » Tinashe Manyarara
- » Knowledge Murigwa
- » Mrs Chonham
- » Yonnete Chingarande
- » Mrs Mandopera
- » Shirley Gwaku
- » Mrs Chakanyuka
- » Mai Mangezi
- » Hope In Christ Foundation
- » Stanley Madanhi
- » Mrs Makuwa
- » Lerato Children's Village
- » Magwaza
- » Mrs Chitungo
- » P Chirara
- » T Chiramba
- » Natasha
- » Gwaure Samuel
- » V Matomba
- » Mrs Mhlanga
- » Harvest House International
- » Anastasia A Chatukuta
- » Celebration life Tribe
- » Kimberly V Machipanda
- » Mrs Mushambi
- » Mr Mudombi
- » Mr Kapadia Kirit
- » Natasha Dadi
- » Jane Clegg
- » Tasara Gwenanguruwe
- » M Chitepo
- » Makaita Chandomba
- » OK MART
- » N Makedenge
- » Dr C Gutuza
- » ECG
- » Mr Gebe
- » Mrs Deda
- » Little Company sisters of Mary
- » Passion Group & Love Group Pafiwa (ZOE)
- » Rence Singh
- » Mrs Phiri



**SIMUKAI CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME**

