

HER JOURNEY 2018



IYWD

2018

Highlights

A message from our Team Leader

2018 has been a challenging and yet inspiring year for young women and girls from the farming, mining, urban and rural communities of Zimbabwe. While women have been part of local authority's processes of planning and budgeting, the inequality gap between men and women in economic and political participation has remained wide and the progress is painfully slow. At a time, we thought we were getting there, the democratic space started shrinking limiting the opportunities for young women and girls to effectively influence decision making processes and upholding of women's rights.

IYWD and her partners have risen to these challenges and have successfully implemented all planned initiatives during the year as outlined by this report.

I would like to thank our Board of Trustees for the unequivocal support throughout the year. They have demonstrated love and commitment to IYWD work in advancing and protecting the rights and opportunities of women and girls in Zimbabwe. We invite you to continue the journey with us to the next chapter of our life.

A big thank you to the amazing IYWD secretariat for their dedication and expertise through an extremely busy and challenging year, and to our partners. It has been a privilege working with such a diverse and wonderful group of people who are committed to mobilizing and strengthening the collective voice and power for young women and girls in Zimbabwe.

About us

We are a feminist grassroots based organization currently operating in Bindura, Mashonaland Central. Since inception in 2009, our membership has grown to over 3000 young women between the ages of 15 to 35. We believe that young women are denied their human rights, not through mere omission, forgetfulness or lack of effort, but due to unequal power relations, with the more powerful denying the human rights of the less powerful, on both an individual and structural level. We envision a society where every young woman and girl has HER RIGHT OF WAY. By focusing on improving livelihoods, enhancing financial literacy, increasing participation in development processes, encouraging self-care/wellbeing and strengthening feminist leadership we can activate political urgency and activism among young women in the province so that they live a life that they value. As Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen claimed, the economic, political, and social participation of women is the most important force for development today.

Vision

A society in which every young woman and girl has Her Right of Way

Mission

The organisation is committed to mobilising and strengthening the voice and power of young women in marginalised communities to transform the status quo.

How we work: Our pillars

- ❖ Strengthened political engagement: Strengthen our constituency's capacity to engage in strategic political spaces and processes in order to inform and influence.
- ❖ Strengthened entrepreneurship among young women: Provide a comprehensive list and explanation of the resources available in the province and if possible nationally, and strengthen the capacity of young women to engage in entrepreneurial activities.
- ❖ Increased attention to self-care and well being: Aim to ensure the state of being healthy, fulfilled and thriving at individual and organisational levels.
- ❖ Strengthened organisational development and stewardship: Aim to ensure that our organisation is run in a professional and sustainable manner.

Membership

IYWD is made up of 5000 registered active members who are between the ages of 15 to 35. 31 Ward Dariro Committees and a 5 committee member Dariro Executive. The active members are the delegates of the Annual General Meeting. The community structures are responsible for registering and mobilising the membership into an organised Movement.



Political Environment

In 2018 Zimbabwe experienced its first vote after a very peculiar coup in November 2017 that ousted Mugabe and made way for President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Mnangagwa's endless pledges of reform and economic recovery capped with a vow that in the break from the past the polls will be free and fair ensured that the pre-election period was generally calm and peaceful. The period saw an unprecedented number of young people registering to vote buoyed by a rejuvenated hope of a new dispensation. According to the Research and Advocacy Unit, in 2013 only 8,87% of the youth were on the voter's roll. Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) revealed that 60% of the 5,3 million people registered to vote in the 2018 Election were between the ages of 18 and 40, pointing to a massive demographic shift in the profile of eligible voters.

Despite the mounting tensions between the main opposition alliance and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), whose independence opposition and civil society leaders increasingly questioned, the conditions for elections had indeed improved. Most obviously, there was greater political space for opposition parties to operate in predominantly rural parts of the country where they were previously barred.

The results, however, confirmed the deep divisions in the country, with the opposition contesting the electoral commission's determination that Emmerson Mnangagwa won the presidency and losing at the constitutional court. Divisions deepened further after soldiers fired live ammunition upon protesters in the streets of Harare in what is now being referred to as red August.

Women were the biggest losers of the 2018 elections as the number who made it in parliament rapidly decreased. The election year saw women being dehumanised and their security compromised through the use of social media to threaten, humiliate and coercively deter Zimbabwean women from taking an active role in politics and civic life.

Socio-Economic Environment

As the year came to a close with the economy taking a nose dive it came became painfully obvious that Zimbabwe was going to find it difficult to find a place in the sun. Inflation and prices rose, there was shortage of foreign currency and supplies of fuel, food and pharmaceuticals were drying up. Under the circumstances many of the young women's economic ventures folded. The additional 2% tax rate imposed on every electronic transaction compounded the situation making life difficult for ordinary Zimbabweans let alone women. The country's protracted fiscal imbalances have constrained development expenditure and social service provision, undermining poverty reduction efforts. The year ended with a very restless population

2018 PROGRAMMES

STRENGTHENED ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS



During the year 2018, 10 young women implemented an organic fish project at Mucherengi Primary School in Guruve. IYWD supported them with training on organic fish farming, constructing a fish pond and also stocking the pond with the first batch of fingerlings. Having seen the benefits of the projects, two young women have gone on to establish their own fish ponds at their homes. One has already stocked the pond while the other is still constructing her pond. A story of the young woman who has established a fish pond at her homestead has been documented and shared with IYWD wider audiences on the link below:

<https://www.youngwomeninstitute.net/index.php/herstory/163-young-woman-aims-sustainable-livelihood-through-subsistence-organic-fish-farming>

Cumulatively, the organic fish farming project has seen more than 30 households having access to nutritious organic fish since 2015. Most of the young women have continued to work in groups, also using the fish ponds as sites for engagement on other issues of concern to them.

One of the major learnings have been the general acceptance of the projects in the wider communities which saw young women being recognised as champions of healthy eating. There were also requests from the young women and communities especially in Guruve district for the local authorities to grant young women permission to get local breeds of fish from local dams for preservation in their ponds. This was due to the contamination of the local dams by mining corporations in Guruve.

The other major learning is how IYWD members from across the provinces have expressed interest to learn about organic fish farming as a means towards guaranteeing sustainable livelihoods given the current economic uncertainties in the country. IYWD envisages to provide a central learning site for organic fish farming, at its intended Wellness and Resource Centre to be established in the near future

STRENGTHENED POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT (RECLAIMING DEMOCRATIC SPACES FOR YOUNG WOMEN)

Women continue to be underrepresented in national and local decision-making processes. A certain ratio of young women in decision-making positions is crucial, not just for equity reasons, but also for incorporating women's perspectives into policy and decision-making and achieving the positive changes we envisage. Meeting the demand to invest in women's political participation and decision making power is linked to the achievement of several SDGs and targets, including: SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Target 5.5), SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries (target 10.2 and 10.3, SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In this period IYWD assisted young women to respond to the democratic question of the day by encouraging young women to register to vote and to go out and vote, support those who want to stand as candidates, contribute to the creation of a conducive and peaceful election environment.

Dandemutande (Web) Champions recruitment and community mobilisation

Zimbabwe adopted the biometric voter registration (BVR) method launched early October 2017 in which voters' photographs and fingerprints are scanned into the voter roll. BVR was introduced to prevent duplication, multiple registrations, or identity theft, as well as to improve the accuracy of the voter roll. In response to the previous low voter registration by young people and in particular young women IYWD developed the Dandemutande model a peer to peer mobilisation strategy. Dandemutanmde is a shona word which means spider web. The model borrows from concept of network marketing and looks at how building constructive social change requires an invisible web of relationships.

A total of 906 young women Dandemutande Champions received training where 23% were hearing impaired women from Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East provinces of

Zimbabwe. Young women received awareness on the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) and how to address attitudes and behaviours of communities on political participation so as to encourage them to register to vote. The trainings focused on the importance young women's participation in the 2018 Harmonised elections and how the Dandemutande Model can be used to get more women register to vote. Young women were made to understand that change won't just happen; they have to make it happen and the first step was in using their right to vote. Trained women were able to mobilize their peers to register to vote with a detailed understanding and the importance of the election process.



The model proved to be a success as the young women mobilised 805 000 young women and men to register as voters as recorded in our Dandemutande database. Analysis



from ZEC statistics show that in comparison with previous elections, the year 2018 noted an increase in youth registering as voters.

Community Biras

The Bira is a shona culture ceremony where community members gather to solve a difficult problem. Using this model IYWD held community biras that was attended by 1102 young women and 228 stakeholders including traditional, religious and leaders, political leaders, to deliberate on political tolerance and peaceful participation of young women. The familiarity of the Bira idea enabled rural communities to relate and create a safe space for dialogue and engage in civil conversation over difficult topics. The biras managed to forge social cohesion and facilitated the creation of a peaceful environment that encouraged young women to participate not only as voters but as candidates.

Sports for Peace Tournaments

Pre-election and post-election sports for Peace Tournaments were conducted in Bindura, Guruve, Mazowe and Shamva districts and forged intergenerational dialogue on the building blocks of tolerant and peaceful. Dialogue spaces were created for young women to discuss personal issues and help each other strengthen their physical and psychological statuses. The result was tolerance and co-existence of people from different generations, different sexes and different political backgrounds prior the 2018 election.

#VoteRunLead

IYWD initiated the #VoteRunLead Programme that facilitated the mentorship of aspiring women candidates in the 2018 Harmonised elections. From 2009 IYWD has been developing capacities of young women on leadership and the majority of young women were keen to take leadership positions especially in politics but they lacked technical support. The #VoteRunLead was thus a response to this yearning desire by young women to take charge of their lives and occupy decision making spaces. The *Dariros* (spaces/forums) brought together young women who had expressed interest to run for office and senior



politicians to share ideas and experiences on their leadership journeys as they strategize for 2018 elections. Forty young women who were aspiring candidates from across political parties and independents underwent transformational leadership training at the Launch of the Vote Run Lead campaign. Out of the 40 that received training, 24 participated in the party primary elections, 13 made it through to nomination court and contested in the 2018 Harmonised Elections, 2 made it to Parliament through proportional representation and 1 won a council seat in Seke District. The backlash against the young women who dared to stand for office from their families and partners came harshly and swiftly.

Community Visioning Forums/Dariros/Andawo & Theatrical Performances



Prior the 2018 elections, the IYWD successfully conducted 16 Community Visioning Dariros in Guruve, Bindura, Shamva and Mazowe reaching out to over 1 500 young women, stakeholders from Ministry of Women Affairs & Youth, Local Government and 38 prospective parliamentary and local government candidates from different political parties. Through theatrical performances, young women shared their community visions of ideal communities with strategic political leaders who are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are well versed with current affairs. The Dariros facilitated peaceful dialogue among ZANU-PF, MDC Alliance, NPF, MDC-T, PRC, ZIPP and Independent candidates from the target districts. The Community Visioning Dariros successfully broke the political wall that was existent in Mashonaland Central Province, where communities and candidates from different political persuasions would not meet.

Feminist Leadership School

The complex threats to women's rights today, particularly in communities dealing with conflict, poverty, and inequality, require leadership that positions not just individuals but rather a critical mass of them to lead the way in shifting oppressive power dynamics that keep such harmful systems in place. Leadership to achieve women's rights is often complex, and sometimes, chaotic. Thus to build transformative capacity IYWD conducted the first ever Feminist Leadership School that was attended by 55 young women from the 10 Provinces of Zimbabwe. Aimed at enhancing the sense of collectivism among young women and develop feminist consciousness and capacities, this program was facilitated by renowned feminists such



Feminist School Class of 2018

as Bella Matambanadzo, Lucy Makaza and Winnet Shamuyarira. The knowledge and skills attained at the Feminist School will enhance social movement building and advocacy for young women issues in their communities.

The feminist school also equipped young women to make the basic request of feminism i.e right to be heard and included, freedom to be who they are in public and society with no exceptions or qualifiers and to stop being forced to defend their womanhood, their basic sense of self, and their humanity, against people who consider those things to be up for debate.

INCREASED ATTENTION TO SELF-CARE AND WELL BEING

During the period under review, IYWD acquired 3300square metres of land from Bindura Rural District Council, and some building materials. The land will be developed into an institutional Wellness and Resource centre in line with our strategic goals for Wellness and Environmental Care and a walk Learning Centre for young women.

The human centred design approach will be used to build a centre with the young women as end users at the centre of the design process.

STRENGTHENED ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STEWARDSHIP



2018 Strategic planning meeting

IYWD conducted her Strategic Planning meeting as an essential process for steering the organisation to new frontiers, and putting wind under its wings so that it navigates the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment. The 3 year strategic plan developed high-impact strategic options, focusing on the needed strategic choices, outlining requirements and articulating the goals for achieving long term success. The

organisation is also excited to have tirelessly worked towards the development of a Resource Mobilisation strategy which is key to increasing the funding base and ensure its growth and sustainability.

FINAL WORDS

The year 2018 has been one of the most challenging working calendars in IYWD's young journey, one full of learning curvatures. Although young

women's livelihoods are at the centre of our work, and given the increasing economic insecurities experienced in 2018, less funding was obtained for that particular programme. Nonetheless IYWD managed to push for inclusivity in young women's socio-political and economic livelihoods through extensive voter mobilization, education and election observation during the 2018 Harmonized Elections. The Vote Run Lead initiative saw young women participate as candidates in order to have a sit at the table of decision making. Our efforts in fostering participation saw a drastic increase in young women's numbers on the political front and presence in local council development processes so as to influence gender responsive social service delivery. We are mindful of the contradictions in our society that purports to support gender equality yet structurally discriminates and plays the troll against young women. The deteriorating economic situation continues to lay burdens against young women whose income levels are constantly depreciating daily compromising their food security. We remain resolute in building young women's resilience and transformative capacities.

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

Knowledge is political, and the power to create knowledge is critical and how ideas are created, used and disseminated represents a key issue for the social change community. IYWD has produced a number of publications to contribute to knowledge generation in the social change community.

- ❖ ***Political Participation by Young Women in the 2018 Elections: Pre-Election Report*** compiled by IYWD and the Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU)
- ❖ ***A Gender Audit of the 2018 Elections*** compiled by IYWD in collaboration with HIVOS and RAU
- ❖ ***Survey on Young Women's Political Participation: Her Right of Way, Give Way*** compiled by IYWD
- ❖ ***Free for All but not Free for 52%: A Feminist Analysis of Zimbabwe's 30 July Harmonized Elections*** compiled by IYWD and AfriKa Kontakt in collaboration with NED, AWDF and HIVOS. Accessed on <https://youngwomeninstitute.net/index.php/herstory/167-free-for-all-but-not-free-for-52-a-feminist-analysis-of-zimbabwe-s-30-july-2018-harmonized-election>
- ❖ ***Gender Responsive Social Service Delivery (GRSSD) End of Project Report:*** Prepared by Bella Matambanadzo & Tatenda Madziro (IYWD Team Member)
- ❖ ***IYWD Zimbabwe Election Day Observation Report: Highlights of the Institute for Young Women Development's findings from Observation of the Election Day*** compiled by IYWD
- ❖ ***A CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF LONG TERM LOCAL OBSERVATIONS OF 30 JULY HARMONISED ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE*** compiled by IYWD and the Alliance for Community Based Organizations (ACBOs) accessed on <https://youngwomeninstitute.net/index.php/herstory/157-acbos-long-term-election-observation-report>
- ❖ ***IYWD Advocacy Policy Paper on 50-50 % Quota Representation*** compiled by IYWD

Financial Highlights

IYWD 2018 Financial Highlights

Organisational Budget

The IYWD closed the year 2018 with annual budget of USD443 798. The budget represented secured funding which was used programmatic and administrative costs during the year. The budget exceeded by 147% the annual budget target of USD300 000 which was set at the beginning of the year. Although the set target was surpassed, only 27% of the annual budget was allocated for administrative funding while 73% went towards programmatic costs.

Institutional Audit

An institutional audit for the preceding year 2017 was conducted and concluded in 2018. The audit provided a clean report which was endorsed by the Board of Trustees (BOT).

A project report for one of the projects implemented in 2018 was also conducted during the year and again came out clean.

With 2018 institutional audit currently under way, IYWD's proven financial integrity provides a good basis for future resources mobilisation. It is our anticipation that funding partners will agree to contribute healthy budgets, of a long term nature that will also justly go towards administrative costs and institutional sustainability.

Renewed and New contracts

The table below shows contracts that were secured in 2018. Although covering the 2018 fiscal year, some of the contract go beyond 2018 with the longest contract going up to 2020.

Funding partner	Amount USD\$	Period	Status
Africa Kontact	140 762.00	2018-2020	Renewed
NED	100 000.00	2018-2019	Renewed
PACT	82 270.00	2018-2019	New contract
Thousand Currents	20 000.00	2018-2019	Renewed
AWDF	117 964.00	2017-2019	Renewed
Diakonia	270 000.00	2018-2020	New contract
IFES	42 500.00	2018-2019	New contract
OSISA	80 000.00	2018-2019	New contract
Hivos	17 000.00	2018	
Trust Africa	14 548.00	2018	