



Youth Development Initiative Trust

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST  
(YDIT)**

# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# **ACRONYMS**

**UNDP-UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**YDIT-TOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST**

**TFZT-TARIRI FOUNDATION OF ZIMBABWE TRUST**

**PWDS-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**SRHR—SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

**SAPST- SOUTHERN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TRUST SRH-**

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

**GEF- GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

**BBM-BETTER BRANDS MINING**

## Message from the Director

### Dear Stakeholders

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, I am filled with immense pride for the impactful work achieved by the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT). This year has been instrumental in advancing our mission to address critical social and environmental challenges in Zimbabwe.

Our focus on environmental justice in Penhalonga has highlighted the urgent need for community engagement and advocacy in the face of mining-related issues. Through our efforts, we have empowered local communities to understand their rights and advocate for accountability from mining companies. The successful completion of interviews and the inception meeting has laid a solid foundation for future actions to secure environmental justice.

In Arda Transau, our initiative to empower women through sustainable fish farming has seen significant progress. By providing resources and training, we have enhanced the economic independence of 50 women but also contributed to food security in the region. The distribution of fish and breeding stock marks a vital step toward fostering sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, our work on enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) has set the stage for meaningful participation in policy formulation. The inception meeting was a crucial milestone, bringing together stakeholders to discuss the barriers faced by PWDs and the importance of inclusive policies.

I want to thank our dedicated team, partners, and funders, whose unwavering support has driven our initiatives forward. Your commitment to our mission empowers us to continue making a difference in the lives of marginalized communities.

As we move into 2024, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable Zimbabwe. Together, we will continue to advocate for environmental justice, empower women, and enhance the rights of all individuals.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our work. Warm regards,

Nicholas Marange

Director

Youth Development Initiative Trust

## **Message from the Chairperson**

### **Dear Stakeholders,**

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the impactful work accomplished by the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT). This year has been pivotal as we endeavored to tackle the pressing social and environmental issues facing our communities in Zimbabwe.

Our commitment to environmental justice in Penhalonga has been a significant focus. The successful engagement with community members to raise awareness about their rights and the environmental challenges posed by mining operations has empowered them to advocate for their needs. This initiative exemplifies our dedication to ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and respected.

In Arda Transau, our project aimed at empowering women through sustainable fish farming has yielded promising results. By providing essential resources and training, we have not only enhanced the livelihoods of 25 women but also contributed to food security within their families. This initiative underscores our belief in the power of women as key drivers of change in their communities.

Furthermore, our work on enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity. The inception meeting held this year has laid a crucial foundation for future advocacy efforts that prioritize the unique challenges faced by PWDs. We are determined to ensure that their voices are central to policy discussions and reforms.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, partners, and funders. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in making our initiatives successful. Together, we are making strides toward a more equitable and just society for all in Zimbabwe.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering inclusive development and advocating for the rights of all marginalized communities. Thank you for your trust and partnership in this vital work.

Warm regards,

Farirai Mudiwa

YDIT Chairperson

# Our Staff

## Staff Members



**Nicholas Kudzai Marange**  
Director



**Juliet Mukudzei Muteera**  
Programs Officer



**Takudzwa C Hlatywayo**  
Communications & Advocacy Officer



**Winston S Mabambe**  
Disability Mainstreaming Officer

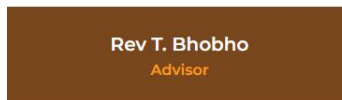


**Tinashe Moyo**  
Finance and Administration Officer

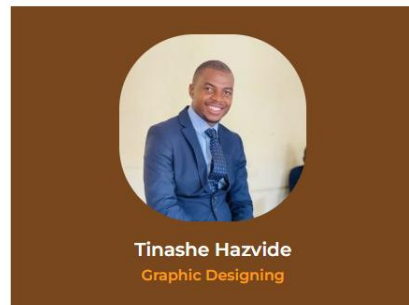


**Paida Makotore**  
Monitoring and Evaluation Intern

## Board Members



## Volunteers



# 1.0. Introduction

In 2023, Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) undertook three significant projects aimed at addressing pressing issues in Zimbabwe. These projects focused on environmental justice, women's empowerment in sustainable aquaculture, and enhancing sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) for persons with disabilities (PWDs). This report outlines the objectives, activities, and achievements of each project throughout the year.

## 2.0. Project 1: Environmental Justice in Penhalonga

### 2.1. Overview

The first project, funded by the Global Green Grants Fund, aimed to address environmental degradation and social injustices caused by mining activities in Penhalonga, particularly by Better Brands Mining (BBM). Following the suspension of BBM due to safety and environmental concerns, the project sought to empower affected communities through research and advocacy.

### 2.2. Objectives

- **Sensitize Affected Communities:** Raise awareness about their rights and opportunities for legal action and environmental justice.
- **Advocate for Environmental Justice:** Utilize research-based information to promote accountability among mining companies.
- **Demand Corporate Social Responsibility:** Ensure that affected communities receive fair compensation and support from mining operations.

### 2.3.0. Activities Conducted

#### 2.3.1. Inception Meeting

In addition to the above activities, an inception meeting was organized to kick off the project and introduce it to key stakeholders. This meeting outlined the project's objectives, discussed the roles of various partners, and established a collaborative framework for future actions. Stakeholders included community leaders, local government representatives, and environmental organizations. The meeting fostered a shared commitment to addressing the environmental challenges in Penhalonga and set the stage for coordinated advocacy efforts moving forward. The collaborative spirit generated during this meeting was instrumental in aligning the project's goals with the needs and aspirations of the affected communities.

### **2.3.2. One-on-One Field Interviews**

YDIT conducted one-on-one field interviews with community members affected by the mining operations of Better Brands Mining (BBM). These interviews were designed to gather detailed, firsthand accounts of the impacts of mining on their lives. Participants shared their experiences regarding environmental degradation, health issues, and safety concerns resulting from mining activities. The insights obtained highlighted the community's grievances, including water contamination and the dangers posed by abandoned mining pits. This qualitative data not only informed the project's advocacy strategies but also empowered community members by giving them a platform to voice their concerns.

## **3.0. Project 2: Empowering Women in Arda Transau**

### **3.1. Overview**

Funded by the UNDP, this project aimed to empower women in Arda Transau by promoting semi-intensive fish farming and conserving threatened ecosystems. Although the project was initiated in 2022, significant activities continued into 2023.

### **3.2. Specific Objectives**

- Train and Equip Women: Build the capacity of 50 women in fish farming by December 2022.
- Support Sustainable Fish Farms: Develop and sustain fish farms for women in the community.
- Rehabilitate Degraded Areas: Engage in gully reclamation, tree planting, and wetland protection.
- Forge Market Linkages: Create sustainable market connections for women's fish farming.

### **3.3. Activities Conducted**

In 2023, the primary activity involved the distribution of fish to support local women in Arda Transau in aquaculture. 1,000 fish were distributed per household to 25 women, and 100 breeding fish to 10 individuals to kick start breeding initiatives

### **3.4. Achievements**

The fish distribution initiative empowered women by providing them with the resources needed to engage in sustainable fish farming, contributing to economic independence and food security.

# FISH DISTRIBUTION



## 4.0. Project 3: Advancing SRHR for PWDs

### 4.1. Overview

The third project aimed to enhance SRHR for Persons with Disabilities in Zimbabwe. While the project officially started in 2024, an inception meeting was held in 2023 to lay the groundwork for future activities.

### 4.2. Main Objectives

- Investigate Policy Gaps: Identify weaknesses in existing SRHR policies for PWDs.
- Engage Civil Society and Duty Bearers: Use research-based practices to advocate for policy changes.
- Facilitate PWD Participation: Ensure meaningful involvement of PWDs in policy formulation and oversight.

### 4.3. Activities Conducted

Inception Meeting: Organized to introduce the project to stakeholders, outline objectives, and discuss the roles of various partners.



## 5.0. Conclusion

The year 2023 has been a landmark period for the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT), marked by significant achievements in our commitment to addressing pressing social and environmental challenges in Zimbabwe. Through our focused projects on environmental justice, women's empowerment, and the enhancement of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), we have made meaningful strides toward fostering a more equitable society.

Our environmental justice initiative in Penhalonga has successfully raised awareness among community members about their rights and the impacts of mining activities. By equipping them with knowledge and tools, we have empowered residents to advocate for their rights and seek accountability from companies operating in their vicinity.

In Arda Transau, our efforts to support women in sustainable fish farming have proven transformative. The distribution of fish and breeding stock has not only enhanced the livelihoods of 25 women but has also contributed to food security and economic independence in the community. This initiative highlights the vital role women play in driving sustainable development and community resilience.

Additionally, our work on enhancing SRHR for PWDs has established a foundation for future advocacy. By facilitating discussions and engaging stakeholders, we have ensured that the voices of PWDs are included in policy formulation, paving the way for more inclusive health services.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated partners and funders, including the Global Green grants Fund and UNDP. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in enabling us to achieve these objectives and in empowering communities across Zimbabwe. Together, we have made significant progress, and we remain committed to continuing this vital work.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited to build on these achievements and further our impact. With your continued support, we are confident that we can create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all communities in Zimbabwe. Thank you for being a vital partner in this journey.