

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST (YDIT)



ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

This report contains all activities carried out by YDIT in implementing community development projects in



CONTACT DETAILS

General Inquiries: +263773535110
Email: info@yditrust.org or yditrust@gmail.com
Address: 4 Bauhinia Avenue Mutare Zimbabwe

Social Media Handles

Website: <https://yditrust.org/#>
X- Yditrust
Facebook-Youth Development Initiative Trust
YouTube- Youth Development Initiative Trust
Instagram-Yditrust

PREPARED BY	Mukudzei Muteera	TITLE	Programs Officer	DATE	15/12/24
--------------------	------------------	--------------	------------------	-------------	----------

This report and all photographs are the intellectual property of Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT).

All photographs were taken with knowledge and consent of program participants by Youth Development Initiative Trust Communication Officer.

YDIT acknowledges the contributions of our funding partners, various stakeholders, as well as community members to the compilation of our projects report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST (YDIT)	1
CONTACT DETAILS	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	4
ACRONYMS	5
Message from Chairperson.....	6
Message from Director	7
OUR TEAM	8
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2024 AWARD	9
Research Initiatives in 2024	10
Project 1	11
1.1. Title	11
1.2. Introduction	11
1.3. Project Objectives.....	11
SRHR Activities Conducted in 2024	12
1.4 Focus Group Discussions	12
Focus group results	13
1.5. One-on-One Interviews.....	15
One on One Results.....	16
1.6. Strategic Storytelling	22
1.7. Mapping SRHR Organizations	22
1.8. Training for DPO Representatives.....	23
1.9. Developing a Disability Advocacy Plan Development.....	23
Road Map	24
1.10. Position Paper Development	25
1.11. Engagement with Duty Bearers.....	25
SAPST Desk Review Results	26
Project 2: Empowering Women in Arda Transau in sustainable fish farming	27
2.1. Overview	27
2.2. Objectives.....	27
2.3. Activities Conducted.....	27
Project 3: Environmental Justice in Penhalonga	29
3.1. Overview	29
3.2. Objectives.....	29
Activities Conducted.	29
3.3. Inception Meeting	29
3.4. One-on-One Field Interviews	30
3.5. Focus Group Data Mining	30
CONCLUSION	31

ACRONYMS

UNDP- UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

YDIT-TOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST

TFZT-TARIRI FOUNDATION OF ZIMBABWE TRUST

ZERA-ZIMBABWE ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PWDS-PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SRHR- SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

SAPST- SOUTHERN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TRUST

DPOS- DISABLED PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS

FDGS- FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION

NDS1- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 1

NDS2- NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2

AMTO- ASSISTED MEDICAL TREATMENT ORDER

MOHCC- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE

SRH- SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

GEF- GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

BBM-BETTER BRANDS MINING

Message from Chairperson

Dear Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the achievements of 2024, I am inspired by the remarkable progress the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) has made in addressing critical issues in Zimbabwe. This year has been pivotal as we focused on three key projects: environmental justice, women's empowerment in sustainable aquaculture, and enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Our project on environmental justice in Penhalonga, funded by the Global Green grants Fund, has empowered communities to understand their rights amid the challenges posed by mining activities. By sensitizing community members and facilitating discussions, we have raised awareness about their rights and mobilized them to advocate for environmental accountability. The insights gathered from our fieldwork will serve as a strong foundation for future advocacy efforts.

In Arda Transau, our initiative aimed at empowering women through sustainable fish farming has continued to flourish. The training and resources provided have not only enhanced economic independence for women but also contributed to food security within the community. The positive feedback received during donor visits underscores the impact of our efforts.

The project focused on advancing SRHR for PWDs has been a significant milestone in our advocacy journey. Through extensive research and engagement with PWDs and stakeholders, we have identified critical gaps in policies and developed actionable recommendations. The storytelling sessions have powerfully highlighted the experiences of PWDs, fostering empathy and understanding among decision-makers.

As we look to the future, YDIT remains committed to ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are not only heard but also acted upon. In 2025, we aim to expand our efforts in mapping SRHR organizations, engage PWDs in national decision-making platforms, and produce media content to amplify their voices.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and community members for their unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable Zimbabwe.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in our mission.

Warm regards,

Farirai Mudiwa
Chairperson
YDIT



Message from Director

Dear Stakeholders,

As we conclude 2024, I am filled with pride reflecting on the impactful work accomplished by the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT). This year has been pivotal in advancing our mission to address critical social issues in Zimbabwe, particularly through our focused efforts in environmental justice, women's empowerment, and the enhancement of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Our project addressing environmental justice in Penhalonga, funded by the Global Greengrants Fund, has empowered communities to understand their rights and advocate for environmental accountability. The successful engagement with community members through interviews and focus groups has provided us with invaluable insights that will inform our future advocacy initiatives. The awareness raised among residents about their rights marks a significant step towards fostering a more just and equitable environment.

In Arda Transau, our efforts to empower women through sustainable fish farming have continued to yield positive outcomes. Despite the challenges faced, the training and resources provided to women in the community have enhanced their economic independence and contributed to food security. The positive feedback from donor visits, including those from GEF and ZERA, reinforces our commitment to supporting sustainable practices that benefit marginalized communities.

Our third project, which focuses on advancing SRHR for PWDs, has made substantial progress in identifying policy gaps and promoting the meaningful participation of PWDs in decision-making processes. The comprehensive position paper developed this year, alongside the establishment of a shared goal for dedicated funding for the Assisted Medical Treatment Order, signifies our collective commitment to advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities. The storytelling sessions have not only elevated the voices of PWDs but have also fostered empathy and understanding among stakeholders.

As we look to the future, YDIT remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and that their rights are upheld. In 2025, we plan to expand our mapping efforts for SRHR organizations, engage PWDs in national decision-making platforms, and utilize media to further amplify their voices.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and community members for their unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable Zimbabwe.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Warm regards,

Nicholas Marange

YDIT Director

OUR TEAM

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

Mrs Farira Mudiwa
Chairperson

Mr James Matsito
Vice Chairperson

Mrs Elizabeth Nyatanga
Treasurer

Mr Bothwell Piason
Advisor

Rev T. Bhobho
Advisor

Volunteers



Samantha Majo
Sign Language interpreter



Tinashe Hazvide
Graphic Designing

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2024 AWARD

In 2024, we proudly recognized Mukudzei Muteera as the Employee of the Year for 2024, a testament to her exceptional dedication and outstanding performance at the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT). Mukudzei, our Programs Officer, has consistently demonstrated a remarkable commitment to our mission and the communities we serve.

Mukudzei's contributions to our projects, have been invaluable. Her ability to engage with stakeholders, facilitate community discussions, and implement effective strategies has significantly advanced our goals. Her exemplary leadership and initiative in the Advancing SRHR for PWDs project were particularly noteworthy.

In recognition of her efforts, dedication, and the positive impact she has made on both our organization and the communities we work with, YDIT Director Mr. Marange awarded Mukudzei Muteera the Employee of the Year accolade. This recognition not only highlights Mukudzei's hard work but also serves as an inspiration to all staff members, encouraging a culture of excellence and commitment to our shared mission.

Research Initiatives in 2024

In 2024, the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) engaged in comprehensive research initiatives aimed at informing our advocacy efforts and enhancing the impact of our projects. A key focus was on the environmental justice project in Penhalonga, where we conducted one-on-one field interviews with community members to collect firsthand accounts of the adverse effects of mining activities, particularly concerning health and environmental degradation. Additionally, we organized focus group discussions with affected communities and relevant stakeholders to gather diverse perspectives on environmental concerns and corporate accountability. In the realm of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), YDIT completed one hundred interviews with PWDs, yielding qualitative data that highlighted their experiences and challenges in accessing SRHR services. This research not only identified critical gaps in existing policies but also informed the development of a comprehensive position paper advocating for necessary reforms. Overall, the research conducted in 2024 has been instrumental in shaping our strategic advocacy, empowering communities, and fostering informed dialogue around pressing social issues in Zimbabwe.

■ SUMMARY OF CONDUCTED RESEARCH

YDIT and Tariro Foundation of Zimbabwe Trust, conducted comprehensive research activities to gather evidence and insights that will inform the subsequent phases of the project. The Southern African Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST), played a consultant role in undertaking desk research and reviews of critical existing documents, national plans, policies, legislation, and key programs that are currently implemented and evaluated to what extent they mainstream SRHR for PWDs in Zimbabwe.

The research team conducted in-depth, one-on-one interviews with a diverse range of PWDs from different backgrounds and with different types of disabilities. These interviews aimed to gather first-hand perspectives, experiences, and narratives from PWDs regarding the current state of SRHR policies, laws, and frameworks in Zimbabwe, as well as the challenges, gaps, and potential areas for improvement they have encountered.

The research team also facilitated a series of focus group discussions with PWDs and representatives from Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). These discussions provided a platform for collective exploration and analysis of the SRHR landscape, allowing for deeper dialogue, shared understanding, and the identification of common themes and concerns from the disability community.

Furthermore, the research process also incorporated strategic storytelling, where PWDs were allowed to share their narratives and lived experiences related to SRHR. These stories served to humanize the research findings, highlighting the real-world impact of the current SRHR landscape on the lives of PWDs.

More so, alongside the primary data collection methods, SAPST's role aimed to establish a thorough understanding of the current policy and regulatory environment, as well as identify any potential gaps or areas for improvement.

The findings and insights gathered through this multifaceted research approach laid the groundwork for the subsequent phases of the project, which will focus on leveraging the evidence to enhance PWDs, duty bearers, and civic engagement in advancing SRHR for all PWDs in Zimbabwe.

Project 1

1.1. Title

Using Research-Based Advocacy in Enhancing PWDs, Duty Bearers, and Civic Engagement in Advancing SRHR for All PWDs in Zimbabwe by 2025

1.2. Introduction

In 2023, the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT), in partnership with the Tariro Foundation of Zimbabwe Trust (TFZT), launched a pivotal project aimed at advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Zimbabwe. This report outlines the activities undertaken throughout the year 2024, highlighting our achievements and progress towards our objectives.

1.3. Project Objectives

1. Investigate Gaps and Weaknesses: Identify shortcomings in existing SRHR policies, laws, and frameworks for PWDs in Zimbabwe.
2. Engage Civil Society and Duty Bearers: Utilize research-based practices to influence policy and legislative changes regarding SRHR and disability.
3. Facilitate Meaningful Participation of PWDs: Ensure that PWDs are actively involved in the formulation and oversight of SRH policies and frameworks related to disability.

SRHR Activities Conducted in 2024

1.4 Focus Group Discussions

In 2024, we conducted three focus group discussions that included PWDs with various disabilities from diverse backgrounds, alongside representatives from Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs). The primary aim of these discussions was to gather valuable insights regarding the challenges faced by PWDs in accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). Each session provided a safe space for participants to share their experiences and express their concerns about existing policies. Through facilitated dialogue, we identified significant gaps in current SRHR frameworks, particularly around accessibility, awareness, and the specific needs of different disability groups. The discussions were instrumental in highlighting the urgent need for reform and set a collaborative tone for future advocacy efforts.



Figure 1: Focus Group Discussion

Focus group results

6. PROBLEMS FACING PWDS AROUND SRH IN MUTARE, ZIMBABWE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS: CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY PWDS

Focus Group Discussion 01: Contributions made by PWDS Problems facing PWDS around SRH in Mutare, Zimbabwe

Problems faced by PWDS around SRH: Focus Group 1



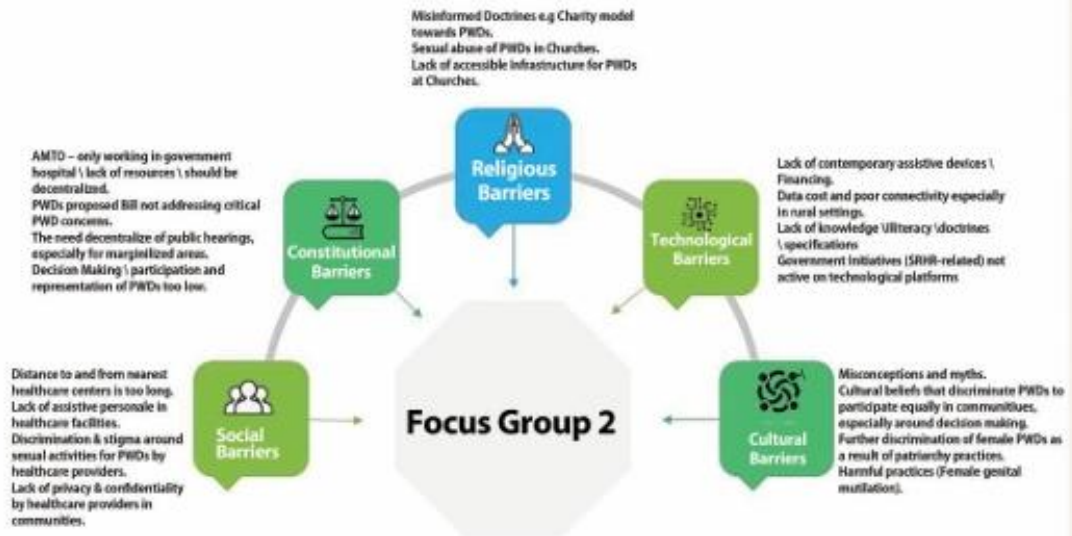
- Stigma, and low self-esteem among PWDS.
- Lack of privacy and confidentiality in healthcare centers.
- Limited availability of SRH products and information.
- Lack of parental involvement & support.
- Lack of accessible infrastructure for PWDS in healthcare facilities.
- Distance of health facilities is too far.
- Low engagement of PWDS around issues of SRH.

- Lack of information on guiding policies (frameworks) in Zimbabwe.
- Adjusted Medical Treatment Order (AMT/O) not effectively working.
- Issue of taxation on assistive devices.
- Lack of special consideration for PWDS in the informal sector e.g. vendors.
- Need for capacity building to Parliamentarians & relevant private and public officials on disability inclusion.
- Employment (quota) having a specific percentage of people with disability employment.
- Lack of a stand alone ministry for PWDS.

- High religious persecution as PWDS are not socially active, stigma and discrimination.
- Lack of accessible infrastructure of the churches.
- Church business leader congregation not to access SRH, hardly planning e.g. most Apostolic denominations.
- Sexual abuse of PWDS by religious leaders.

- Lack of exposure to assistive technology e.g. My Cam, Levit, Voice command, Siri, Lookout, Talk Back, Embroidell, Jaws, etc.
- Lack of android phones and availability of cheap data.

Problems faced by PWDs around SRH:



Problems faced by PWDs around SRH: focus Group 3



1.5. One-on-One Interviews

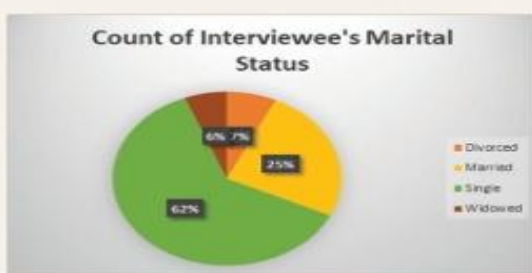
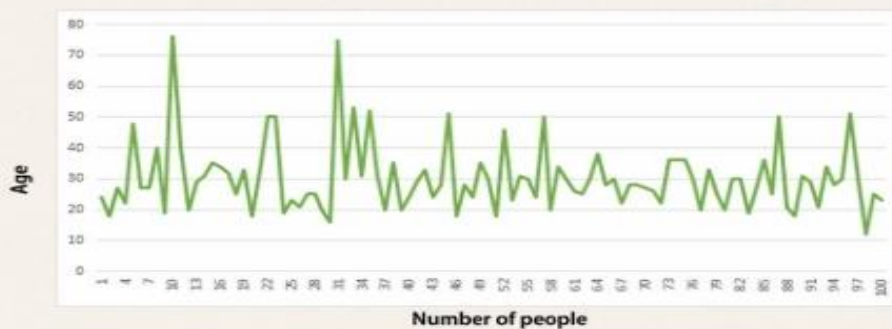
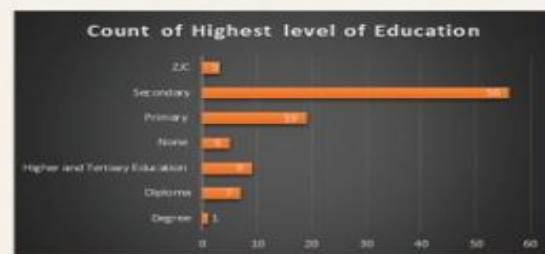
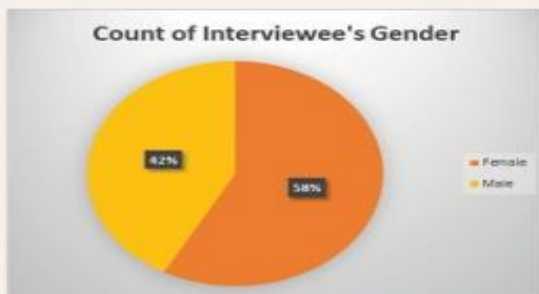


To complement the focus group discussions, we completed one hundred one-on-one interviews with PWDs representing a wide spectrum of disabilities and backgrounds. This qualitative data collection aimed to delve deeper into individual experiences and challenges related to SRHR. Each interview was conducted in a supportive environment, allowing participants to freely express their thoughts and feelings. Key

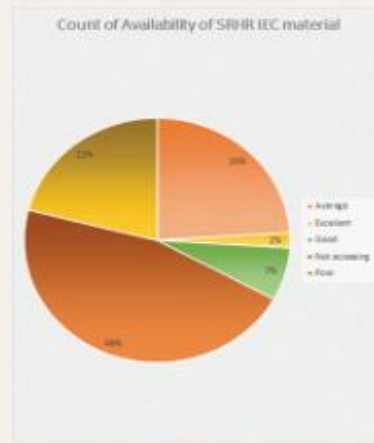
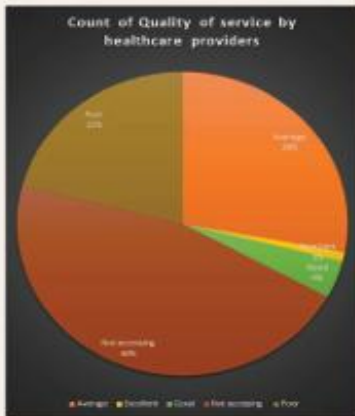
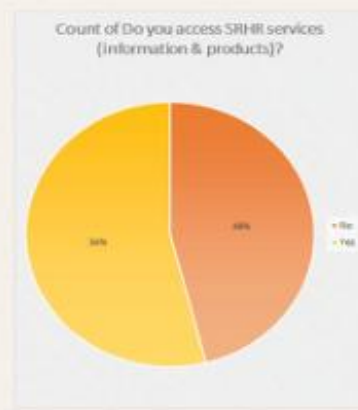
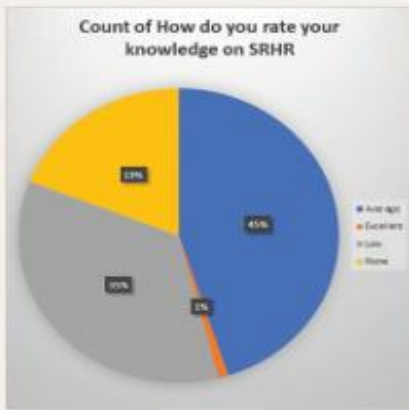
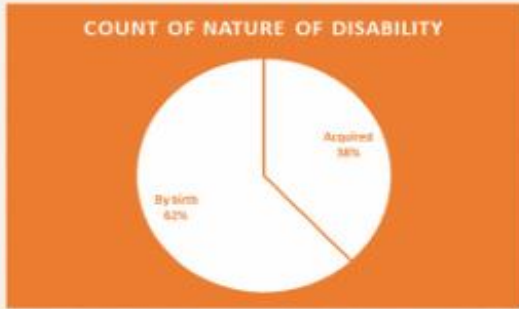
themes emerged, including barriers to accessing healthcare services, lack of awareness about rights, and inadequate support systems. The insights gained from these interviews were invaluable in shaping our understanding of the specific needs of PWDs and directly informed our advocacy strategies moving forward.

4. ONE-ON-ONE: RESEARCH OUTPUTS

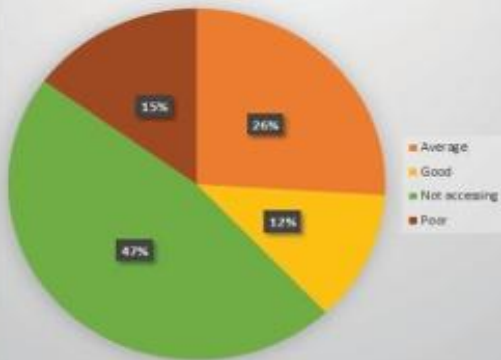
4.1. Graphical representation of research outputs



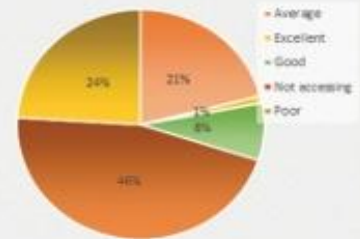
One on One Results



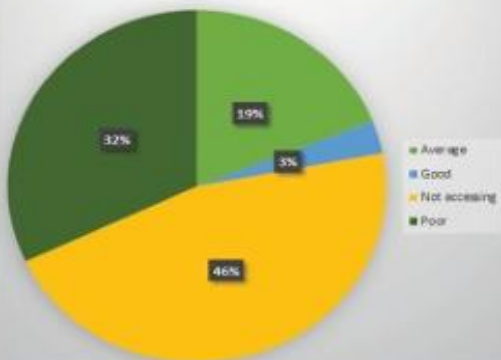
Count of Availability of SRHR products



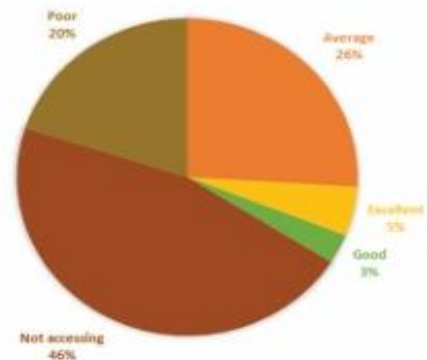
Count of Infrastructure accessibility

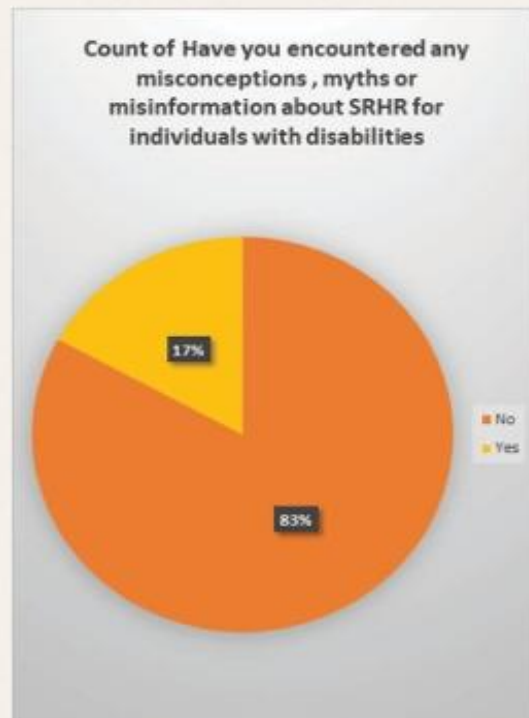
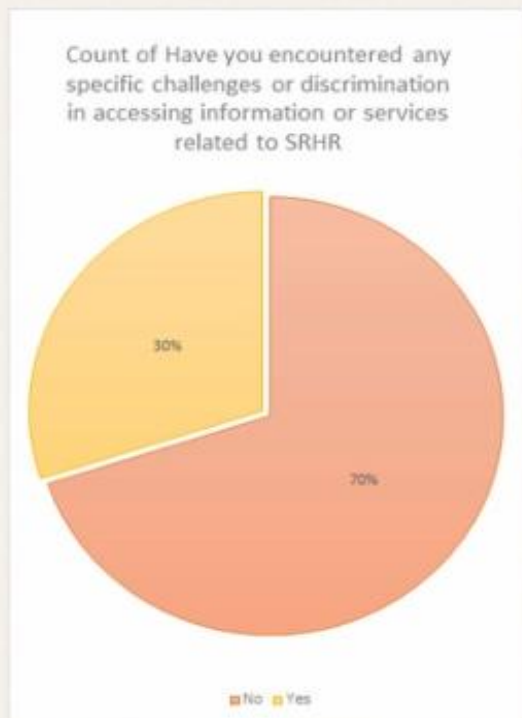
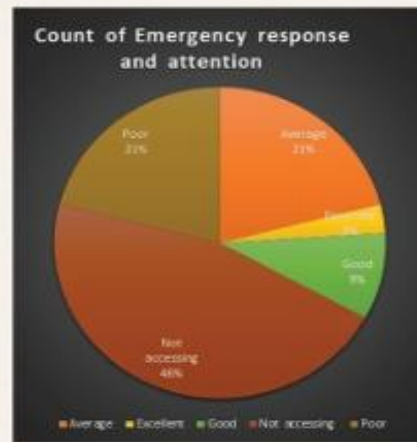


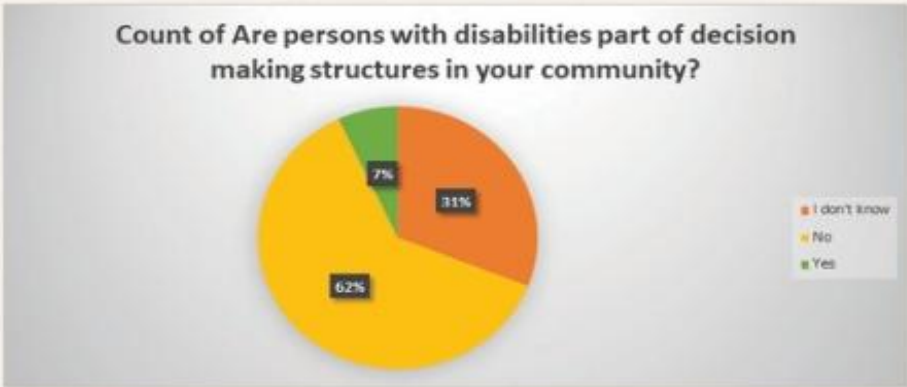
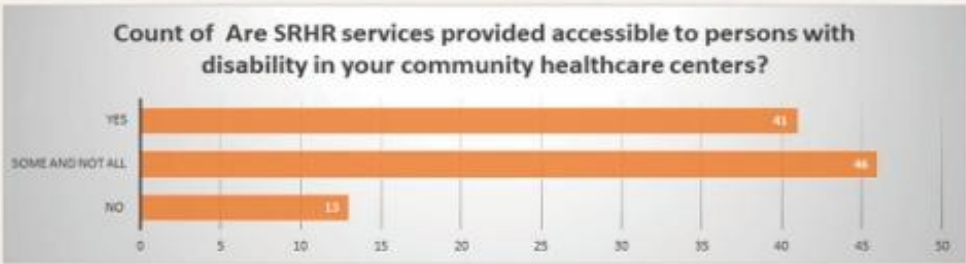
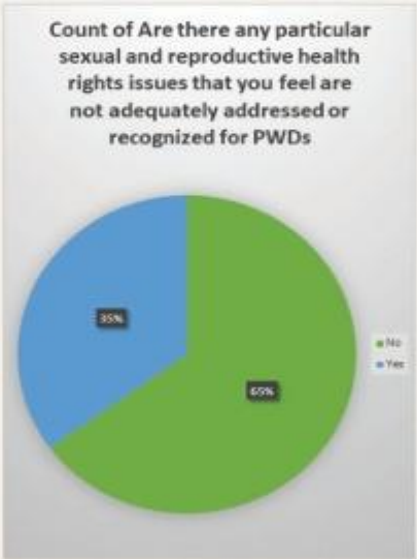
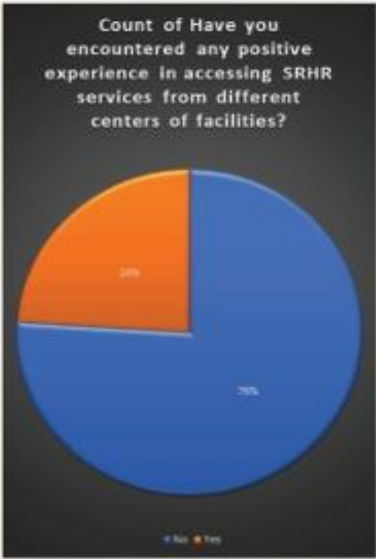
Count of Availability of assistive devices & personnel



COUNT OF AVAILABILITY OF REFERRAL MECHANISMS'

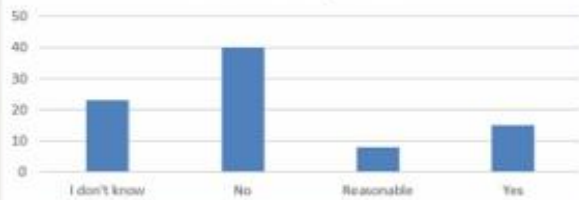






Count of Are SRHR services costs in healthcare facilities friendly to PWDs?

Count of Are SRHR services costs in healthcare facilities friendly to PWDs?

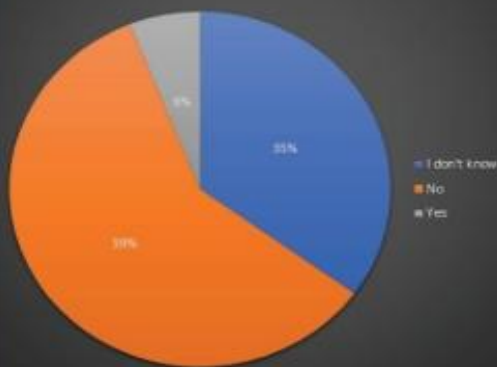


Are SRHR services costs in healthcare facilities friendly to PWDs?

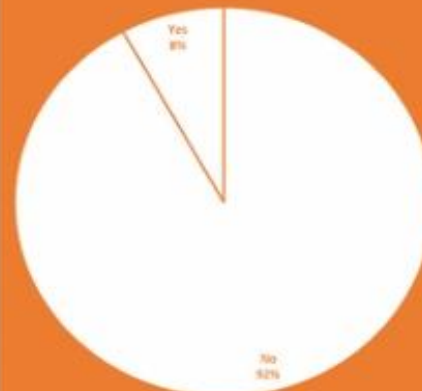
Count of Are there any provisions for reduced fees at healthcare facilities for PWDs in Zimbabwe or where you access your SRHR services?



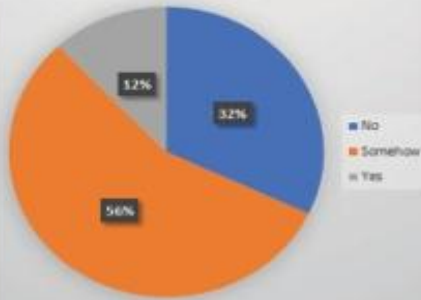
Count of Are SRHR services provided accessible to persons with disability in your community healthcare centers?



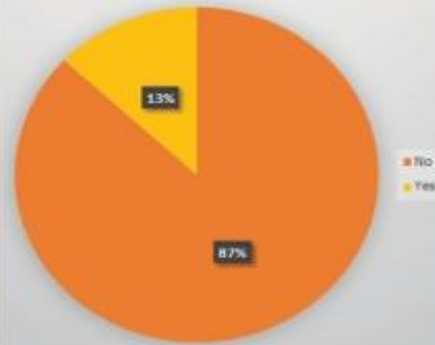
COUNT OF HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED ANY POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OR SUCCESS STORIES WHERE PWDs HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS



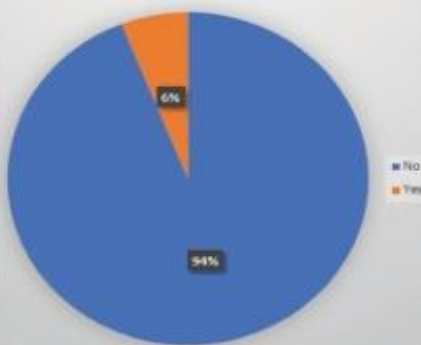
Count of Are SRHR service providers disability sensitive?



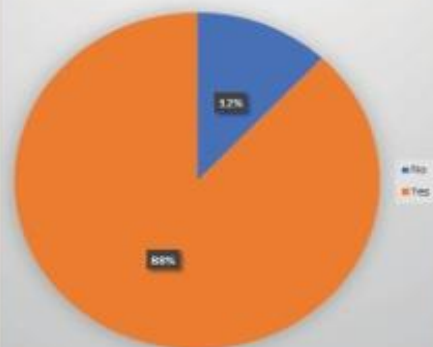
Count of Do you know of any legal frameworks that promote access to SRHR services by persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe?



Count of Have you ever attended a National Consultative platform



Count of Would you attend & participate if given the chance to represent PWD's in National Consultative Platforms



1.6. Strategic Storytelling



Figure 2: Strategic Story telling

To further amplify the voices of PWDs, we conducted twelve strategic storytelling sessions, showcasing personal experiences from individuals with different disabilities. These sessions aimed to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by PWDs in accessing SRHR. By sharing their stories, participants not only highlighted systemic barriers but also illustrated the importance of inclusive healthcare

policies. The storytelling sessions served as powerful advocacy tools, fostering empathy and understanding among stakeholders and the broader public. The narratives collected will be utilized in future campaigns to influence policy change.

1.7. Mapping SRHR Organizations

To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, we conducted five mapping activities to identify other SRHR organizations operating in the Manicaland province. These mapping efforts involved setting up meetings with various organizations to exchange best practices and discuss potential partnerships. By building a network of SRHR advocates, we aim to enhance collective efforts in promoting the rights of PWDs and ensure that their voices are included in broader advocacy campaigns. This collaborative approach is essential for amplifying our impact and driving systemic change in SRHR policies.



Figure 3: Mapping Other Organizations.

1.8. Training for DPO Representatives



Recognizing the importance of capacity building, we provided training sessions for DPO representatives and PWDs focused on effective advocacy strategies. This training session equipped participants with essential skills, including how to engage with policymakers, communicate effectively, and mobilize community support. By empowering DPO

representatives and PWDs, we aimed to strengthen their capacity to advocate for the rights and needs of PWDs within their respective organizations and communities. The training not only enhanced their advocacy efforts but also promoted a unified approach to addressing SRHR issues.

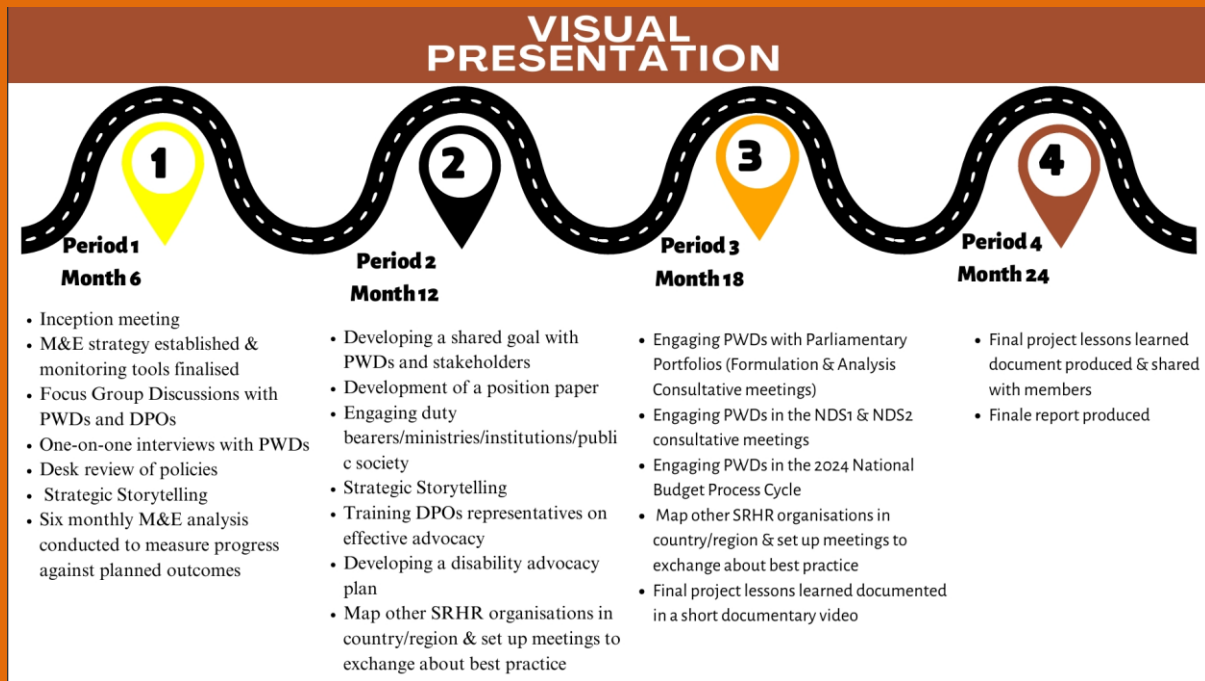
1.9. Developing a Disability Advocacy Plan Development



In alignment with our advocacy efforts, we had a workshop to develop a comprehensive disability advocacy plan to guide ongoing initiatives. This plan outlines specific objectives, strategies, and activities aimed at ensuring sustained engagement with PWDs and their inclusion in policy formulation

processes. The advocacy plan serves as a roadmap for future actions, emphasizing the need for collaboration among stakeholders and continuous monitoring of progress. By establishing clear goals and timelines, we aim to maintain momentum and drive meaningful change in SRHR policies for PWDs.

Road Map



1.10. Position Paper Development



Figure 4: Developing a Position Paper

Building on our shared goal, we developed a comprehensive position paper that articulates the need for a separate national budget line for the AMTO. This document synthesizes the insights gained from our focus groups and interviews, presenting compelling evidence to support our advocacy. The position paper

outlines the challenges faced by PWDs in accessing medical treatments, highlights the inadequacies of current funding mechanisms, and provides clear recommendations for policymakers. It serves as a foundational document for our engagement with duty bearers, ensuring that our advocacy is grounded in solid research and real-life experiences.

1.11. Engagement with Duty Bearers



Figure 5: Engagement with the Duty Bearers workshop

In 2024, we actively engaged with the Duty bearers to present our position paper advocating for a separate national budget line for the AMTO. This engagement involved organizing meeting, presentation, and discussions aimed at raising awareness among decision-makers about the urgent needs of PWDs. By advocating for this specific

funding, we sought to facilitate discussions on necessary reforms that would enhance healthcare access for PWDs. Our efforts were well-received, with several duty bearers expressing commitment to consider our recommendations in their upcoming policy reviews.

SAPST Desk Review Results

7. SAPST DESK REVIEW RESULTS: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF POLICIES / FRAMEWORKS / LAWS GOVERNING SRHR FOR PWDS IN ZIMBABWE

Conclusion and Possible Recommendations Policy Recommendations:

1. Adequately address disability in national sexual and reproductive health policy, laws, and budgets. While national policies and legislation do acknowledge rights for all, policies need to be intentionally and thoughtfully developed with the specific needs of persons with disabilities in mind.
2. Improve Participation of PWDS in policy-making processes, including legislative processes as well as the national budget process Inclusion and involvement of PWDS in policy-making processes is key to ensuring that the SRH needs of PWDS are adequately provided for or addressed in national policies and legislation.
3. Adequately budget for inclusion: It is important to note that the costs of not including persons with disabilities far outweigh the costs of inclusion; therefore, government policies and programs must be adequately and realistically budgeted for. Budgets should account for the inclusion of PWDS in all programs, not only disability-specific programs. Budget elements related to SRH should ensure that PWDS are equally included as other groups of society.
4. Increase transparency and information sharing: The government, through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health, should provide more information on the allocation of resources towards SRH services, including how much of the donor funding is budgeted for in the national budget. This will help assess the extent to which SRH services are prioritized in national planning and resource allocation.
5. Address Inequities and Expand Effective Coverage: To reduce reliance on user fees, particularly in impoverished areas, the national health budget should be distributed using a system that gives the poorest districts higher amounts. At the very least, indices for remoteness, population size, the number of children under five, the number of adolescents and young adults, newborn and maternal mortality, and the total burden of disease should be considered in the resource allocation method. The Ministry of Health should conduct equity surveys to gather information on the socioeconomic profiles of those using health care services (and in this case, SRH services) to determine whether the poorest quintiles are falling through the
6. Draft Sustainability Plans For interventions, such as the provision of SRH services, that rely on donor funding, the Ministry of Health must create phase-out plans. The annual national budget is the sole indicated resource plan for health finance maintained by the MOHCC. There are national stakeholder consultations on the budget that include the private sector, external partners, and other potential sources of funding, although these gatherings hardly ever go over the Ministry of Health's plans for resource mobilization and spending. Planning for sustainability should be based on an examination of project expenses, funding requirements, and financial returns on government investments.
7. Responding to Emerging Trends in SRHR: Zimbabwe needs to critically consider the impact of emerging trends on the provision of SRH services. These trends include the growing climate crisis, an increase in gender-based violence, slashed financing for life-saving sexual and reproductive health, and a rise in youth-led activism and grassroots campaigns promoting urgent reform.

Project 2: Empowering Women in Arda Transau in sustainable fish farming

2.1. Overview

This project, funded by the UNDP, focused on empowering women in Arda Transau by promoting semi-intensive fish farming and conserving threatened ecosystems. Although initiated in 2022, significant activities continued into 2024.

2.2. Objectives

- Train and equip women in fish farming to enhance economic independence.
- Support sustainable fish farms and rehabilitate degraded areas.
- Facilitate market linkages for women's fish farming initiatives.

2.3. Activities Conducted

- Conducted fish harvesting events and facilitated donor visits from GEF and ZERA to showcase project outcomes and gather feedback.



Project 3: Environmental Justice in Penhalonga

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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.

Activities Conducted.

3.3. 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.

3.4. One-on-One Field Interviews

Over the course of ten days, 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.

3.5. Focus Group Data Mining

Two focus group discussions were organized with affected community members, along with an additional focus group involving relevant stakeholders. These sessions fostered open dialogue and collective reflection on the environmental challenges stemming from mining activities. Participants discussed common issues, such as pollution and inadequate responses from authorities, and brainstormed potential solutions. The insights gained from these focus groups were instrumental in shaping YDIT's advocacy strategies, as they highlighted the community's priorities and the urgent need for action.

CONCLUSION

The year 2024 has been a pivotal moment for the Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) as we made significant strides in our commitment to promoting environmental justice, empowering women, and enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Zimbabwe. Our projects have not only addressed critical social issues but have also fostered community engagement and advocacy, leading to meaningful change in the lives of those we serve.

Through our environmental justice initiative in Penhalonga, we have empowered communities to understand and advocate for their rights, raising awareness about the detrimental impacts of mining activities. The focus on women's empowerment in Arda Transau has provided vital resources and training, contributing to economic independence and food security for many families. Additionally, our work on SRHR for PWDs has laid the groundwork for policy reforms that enhance accessibility and inclusivity in health services.

We are immensely grateful to our donors and partners, including the Global Green grants Fund and UNDP, for their unwavering support and belief in our mission. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward and ensuring that marginalized voices are amplified in the pursuit of justice and equality.

As we look to 2025, we remain committed to expanding our efforts, fostering collaboration, and advocating for the rights of all communities in Zimbabwe. Together, we can continue to create a more inclusive and equitable future for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

