



Youth Development Initiative Trust



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST (YDIT) NEWSLETTER

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PHYSICAL MAPPING OF OTHER SRHR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) and Tariro Foundation of Zimbabwe Trust (TFZT) conducted a physical mapping of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) organizations at the National AIDS Council (NAC). This pivotal activity was designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and strategies regarding SRHR, particularly focusing on the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

NAC plays a crucial role in coordinating the national multi-sectoral response to HIV and managing the National AIDS Trust Fund, while also promoting prevention, treatment, and care initiatives. Their commitment to research and monitoring ensures that the nation's response is effective and impactful.

Representatives from YDIT and TFZT engaged in dynamic discussions, exchanging valuable experiences and insights. The positive interactions foster a promising outlook for future collaborations, setting the stage for enhanced advocacy and support for SRHR initiatives in our region. Together, we can continue to make strides towards inclusive and equitable health solutions for all.



ENGAGING PWDS WITH PARLIAMENTARY PORTFOLIOS

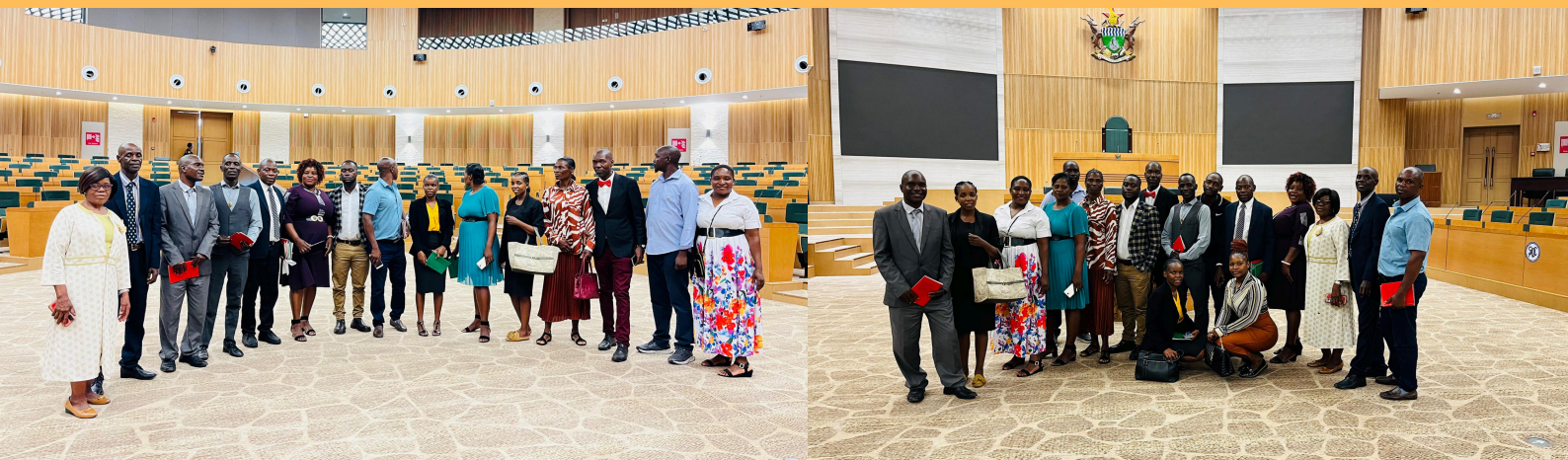
In a significant step towards enhancing civic engagement among PWDS, YDIT and TFZT facilitated a trip to the Parliament of Zimbabwe to attend a live parliamentary session.

The event brought together two YDIT and TFZT staff members and diverse participants with disabilities, ensuring a rich exchange of experiences.

The day began with a guided tour of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, where participants explored the Senate and National Assembly Chambers, learning about committee functions, followed by observing a live parliamentary session.

After a live parliamentary session, PWDS seized a valuable opportunity to engage directly with duty bearers, promoting dialogue and advancing crucial issues for their community.

The engagement fostered a productive dialogue, with lawmakers committed to advocating for PWDS within the legislative framework. The discussions are expected to influence future policies, promoting the rights of PWDS and enhancing access to essential health services.



ENGAGING PWDS IN THE MUTARE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

In a significant stride towards inclusivity, PWDs participated in the recent Mutare Full Council Meeting, which served as a vital platform for civic engagement. The gathering witnessed the presence of several local government council members, highlighting the importance of PWD representation in governance.

YDIT and TFZT took a proactive approach by sending PWD delegates to amplify their voices in national decision-making processes at both local and national levels. The meeting facilitated fruitful discussions on crucial topics, including strategies for increased participation in decision-making platforms and addressing pressing issues affecting PWDs.

Key areas of focus included budgeting, policy implementation, and planning at the local level, where PWDs can contribute their unique perspectives to shape an inclusive future. As we endeavor to strengthen civic engagement among PWDs, these discussions mark a significant step towards ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in all aspects. Together, we can foster a more inclusive society that values the contributions of all its members.

KEY OUTCOMES INCLUDED

- PWDs left out in decision-making platforms.
- Lack of resources to support programs for PWDs
- Lack of proper infrastructure eg ramps



ENGAGING PWDS IN NATIONAL DECISION MAKING PLATFORMS

YDIT, in collaboration with TFZT, conducted a transformative workshop aimed at enhancing the engagement of PWDS in national decision-making platforms.

This initiative aims to empower PWDS with the tools, knowledge, and confidence needed to actively participate in local and national governance, focusing on the National Development Strategy (NDS) and parliamentary processes. Seventeen participants, including PWDS, stakeholders, and local government representatives, fostered a collaborative environment for learning and discussion.

The facilitator provided valuable insights into the legislative framework, including the Zimbabwe Disability Act, which highlights the rights of PWDS in governance. The workshop featured three key sessions: an introduction to the NDS and its implications for PWDS, strategies for engaging with parliamentary committees, and the development of individualized action plans for decision-making engagement.



Feedback indicated high satisfaction, with participants appreciating the practical skills gained and expressing interest in future workshops on advocacy issues.

This workshop marked a significant step toward empowering PWDS in Zimbabwe, fostering a more inclusive society where they can actively engage in governance and decision-making processes.



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PODCAST SESSIONS



We are thrilled to announce that YDIT, in collaboration with TFZT, had an impactful series of three podcast sessions dedicated to the SRHR of PWDs.

Each session featured six participants who engaged in candid discussions about the unique challenges and barriers faced by PWDs in accessing essential health services.

These podcasts cover a range of critical topics, including the importance of inclusive healthcare policies, access to education on sexual health, and the need for community awareness. By sharing personal experiences and expert perspectives, participants aim to empower listeners and advocate for the rights of PWDs.

Our mission is to foster awareness and encourage dialogue around these vital issues, ensuring that PWDs have the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health.

The recorded sessions will soon be available on our social media platforms, and we invite everyone to tune in and participate in these essential conversations.

Join us in advocating for an inclusive society where the sexual and reproductive health rights of all individuals are recognized and respected.

Stay tuned for release dates and links to the podcast episodes!



TOOLS WITH A MISSION (TWAM) DONATION



YDIT received an invaluable shipment of tools from TWAM, a Christian charity dedicated to refurbishing and sending usable tools to the developing world. We covered the shipping costs, and the tools we received included a mechanic kit, carpentry kit, electrician kit, and a desktop computer.

So far we have already made a difference by donating the mechanic kit to Taurai, a dedicated student at Mutare Polytechnic, who aspires to advance his career in motor mechanics. Additionally, we donated the carpentry kit to Tawanda, an enthusiastic carpenter eager to enhance his skills.

These donations are a testament to our commitment to empowering local youths, women, and PWDs through entrepreneurship and creativity among the younger generation.

Together, we are making a difference and empowering youth to build a brighter future.

COLLABORATION WITH THE ABILITY OF DISABILITIES TRUST

Recently, Youth Development Initiative Trust (YDIT) welcomed representatives from The Ability of Disabilities Trust (TAD) to discuss best practices and lessons learned in programming for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

This visit culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a collaborative partnership.

This partnership aims to empower PWDs, ensuring inclusive and impactful initiatives in our communities.





SUPPORT FOR JUNIOR PARLIAMENT HANDOVER CEREMONY

On March 19, 2025, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) hosted a significant handover ceremony, where they donated tablets to the Junior Parliament aimed at empowering young leaders. This initiative aims to enhance the capacity of these emerging leaders by providing them with essential tools for research, improving communication, and encouraging active participation in national discussions.

The event was attended by representatives from various sectors, underscoring the importance of technology in developing leadership among young people. YDIT played a vital role in supporting the event by providing refreshments.

This initiative, carried out by the Ministry of ICT highlights a commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders, equipping them with the resources necessary to engage meaningfully in the democratic process. This donation of tablets not only represents a step towards digital inclusion but also underscores the belief in the potential of young voices to influence the future of the nation.



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

YDIT hosted Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) focus group discussion focusing on youth collective action for social transformation in Zimbabwe.

The focus group had 15 participants from YDIT, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) and Perfect Tree.

The discussions were dynamic and insightful, centred on the critical role that young people play in driving social change.

Participants shared their experiences, challenges, and innovative ideas for fostering collaboration among youth groups to address pressing community issues.

This gathering emphasized the power of collective action and the importance of empowering youth voices in the ongoing transformation of Zimbabwe.

We are excited to leverage the insights gained to inspire further engagement and initiatives.





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END OF PERIOD 3 M&E ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

We are pleased to announce that YDIT, in collaboration with TFZF, successfully held the third six-month Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) analysis workshop.

This event brought together 20 diverse stakeholder organizations and PWDs, fostering meaningful engagement and collaboration for shared project ownership. Participants reflected on the progress made over the last period during the workshop.

Detailed presentations showcased key milestones and provided valuable insights into the project's achievements.

The discussions underscored the importance of ongoing collaboration and highlighted the need for sustained advocacy efforts to enhance SRHR for PWDs in Zimbabwe.

The workshop offered a vital platform for stakeholders to identify lessons learned, ensuring that our collective efforts continue to drive positive change.

Additionally, YDIT and TFZT shared exciting activities planned for the upcoming fourth period, reinforcing our commitment to empowering PWDs and enhancing their participation in societal processes.



WHAT'S NEXT

- Engaging PWDs with Parliamentary Portfolios
- Engaging PWDs in the 2025 National Budget Process Cycle
- Engaging PWDs in National Decision-Making Platforms
- Podcast Sessions
- Radio Sessions
- Final Project Documentary





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DISABILITY DESK

LOCATION

Chikanga	Yeovil	Dangamvura	Fern Valley
Murambi	Gombakomba	Hobhouse	Mountain Rise
Westlea	Sakubva	Greenside	Federation Chikanga
Dreamhouse	Zimunya	Zimta	Destiny
Mutare Central	Penhalonga	Dora	

Disability	Count
Female	24
Male	23
Total	47

Youth Development Initiative Trust, in partnership with Tariro Foundation of Zimbabwe Trust, engaged 47 Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and 10 Disabled people organizations (DPO) in 6 months, through M & E workshop, Engaging PWDs with Parliamentary Portfolios (Formulation and Analysis Consultative Meetings), Engaging PWDs in the Mutare Full Council Meeting, Engaging PWDs in the 2025 National Budget Process Cycle and Engaging PWDs in National Decision-Making Platforms (National Development Strategy (NDS), Parliament Portfolios, and town council meetings in Zimbabwe).

TYPES OF DISABILITIES

Visual impairments	Crippled	Albinism	Motor impairments
Physical hand	Clubfoot	Physical leg	Audio impairments
Chipmunk cheeks	Epilepsy	Dwarfism	Autism
Chronic condition	Cerebral palsy	ADHD	Mental illness
Rickets	Deformed hands	Autism	Stroke
Epilepsy	Multiple sclerosis	Neurological disorder	

These engagements were aimed at fostering inclusion, promoting policy dialogue, and amplifying the voices of PWDs in decision-making processes. PWDs' representation included individuals with various disabilities, including autism, dwarfism, motor impairments, deformed hands, albinism, and audio impairments. Special effort was made to ensure balanced participation across gender, age, and geographical background.

All engagement activities were held in disability-friendly venues, equipped with ramps, accessible toilets, and sign-language interpreters.

