

Women *Women in Touch*

♀ *for change*

NEWSLETTER



Table of Contents

Page 3	Table of contents
Page 4	Vision, Values, Mission Statement & Strategic Objectives
Page 5	Chairperson's Remarks
Page 6	Editorial
Page 7-8	Pass on a Gift: Rufunsa
Page 9-10	Community Scorecards
Page 11-12	Rural Women's Summit
Page 13-14	Rural Youth Exposure
Page 15	The Story of Grace Mwanza
Page 16	Community Mobilization and Awareness Meetings
Page 17-18	Exposure Visit to Chiyota Youth Resource Centre
Page 19	Empowering Women in Leadership

Vision

A society that upholds gender equity and equality

Mission

Women for Change is a Gender focused NGO that builds the capacities of rural communities especially women and girls

Values

Transparently and Accountability

Social Justice and Human Dignity

Women's Rights and Solidarity

Mutual Respect

Participatory

Non Partisan

Gender sensitivity

Rural Focus

Strategic Objectives

1. Engender community resilience to climate change for improved livelihoods

2. Communities where the rights of children, especially girls, are guaranteed

3. Women and girls have increased participation in decision making and leadership

4. Strengthen community action against Gender Based Violence

Chairperson's Remarks

I am delighted to share with you our 2019 first edition of the *Women in Touch* newsletter. The newsletter shares with you highlights from 2018 and the lives of people touched by the support received from our partners. The journey towards sustainable development is not an easy one especially for rural communities grappling with the many challenges faced by living far from government support.

Continued to be guided by the vision - *A society that upholds gender equity and equality*; and driven by its mission of *a gender focused NGO that builds capacities of rural communities, especially women and girls to achieve sustainable development* - we committed our focus and work on ensuring the realisation of our goal.

Our deep appreciation to all the cooperating partners who have always enabled us to implement our programmes as well as gallant members of CSOs who have engaged with us over the years. Your support underscores the strong belief in, and the importance you attach to work that we are doing. While we share with you the successes, it is important not to forget the challenges people living in rural areas are facing.

In keeping with the Seventh National Development Plan we tried to walk the talk of not leaving anyone behind. This was made possible by the Popular Education Methodology approach that passes-on skills to communities. In this way, it was possible spread the benefits of the support which in part helped address the high poverty levels among the targeted communities. However, high poverty levels in the country especially among our rural communities remain worrying. The need to address the basic human rights are still a priority which include:



- i) access to safe drinking water;
- ii) access to quality education;
- iii) universal health services (including reproductive health);
- iv) quality housing; and
- v) food security for all.

The stories we share celebrate the resilience of women living in rural communities and demonstrate that with a little push, rural communities can drive the development process on their own.

Women for Change stands committed to continue reaching out to these communities to increase resilience; participation in decision making and leadership roles.

Dr Rose Fumpa- Makano, PhD
Board Chairperson

Editorial

This edition of the *Women's in Touch* newsletter marks the first highlight of Women for Change's focus on the recently defined thematic areas for the strategic period 2018 to 2022. It marks the organisation's first step as she heads towards her golden jubilee having recently celebrated her silver jubilee on 6th October 2017.

The stories shared express successes scored as a result of interventions implemented by Women for Change in her operation areas. In as much as we take pride in the progress made in promoting Gender and Development in country, we are aware that challenges are still there and are resolved to build on what has been achieved and continue to learn from experiences of the past and present as we continue to score more successes in the coming years.

The contribution that Women for Change is making towards achieving gender equity and equality cannot be over emphasized as supported by the organisational strengths which include the rural focus. As can be seen by the stories of rural women leaders shared, our approach reinforced by gender mainstreaming helps us deal with the challenge of gender-differentiated poverty and climate change. The approach is complemented by the rights based approach and strong advocacy implemented at all levels of programming as well as the creation of community-based structures for promoting and sustaining dialogue and experience sharing on issues of concern using participatory tools that allow for community members to be part of the analysis process in the programme cycle.

Women for Change's expertise to pass on skills to community members has resulted in strong advocacy and policy analysis in the rural areas where we work which has seen communities speaking and acting on their own behalf. Emphasis on social inclusion characterises this strategic period which is ensuring that no one is left behind for example disability is mainstreamed as a gender,



human rights and development issue. Gender inequality is a serious obstacle to sustainable poverty eradication and socio-economic development also through its impact on the socially excluded.

We are excited to have welcomed a new board that will help Women for Change in effective and efficient management of programmes. The organisation has experienced the support that comes from these experienced minds drawn from different fields of specialisation aligned to her thematic focus. As we enter the new year, we are expectant that they will provide the oversight required to drive the organisation's vision and ensuring appropriate governance.

As the stories we share with you will show, stakeholders who include government, cooperating partners, traditional leaders and the rural communities were on hand to support our work.

We remain committed to deliver on our mission of working with rural communities especially women and girls.

Lumba Siyanga
Executive Director

Pass On A Gift



On September 14th 2018, Women for Change and NGOCC staff attended the “Pass on a Gift” ceremony in Machishi area, Rufunsa. This ceremony, chaired by community members, is the passing on of skills, knowledge, resources, and animals from Machishi and Mwansa community members to others in order to expand a network of hope and self-reliance in their communities.

The project, which has been running since 2017, aims to empower both male and female youth with trainings on improved animal management and vegetable gardening, while increasing understanding of human rights and

gender. The communities have proven to be very committed to the project and this created a great sense of ownership among the community members who passed the goats that they had cared for one another.



Rufunsa



which is a great achievement. Memory Zulu (pictured middle) said that she will be able to send her three children to school and have a better life with the knowledge that she has acquired from Women for Change.

Annie (pictured top left), a youth from the Machishi area that dropped out of school in grade 9 and got married, gave a moving speech about her experience with Women for Change.

The “Passing on a Gift” concept mandates that each farming family who received an animal gift passes on the first female offspring to another in need. During the ceremony, 46 kids were passed on to different families. There were many testimonies from the beneficiaries who stated that the project has greatly opened their minds, especially on the gender aspect.



A few woman spoke about depending on their husbands economically but are now able to grow vegetables and keep goats,



She said she was grateful to be involved with the Women for Change trainings conducted in her area and that these trainings have given her a more dignified life. Since joining, she has realized the importance of education and this project has given her the courage and confidence to sponsor herself to complete her education. She has been able to generate an income by selling vegetables from the small garden at her home.

Community Scorecards

From September 24th to 28th, Women for Change, in partnership with Counterpart, facilitated the community scorecard process in Petauke. Similar to school teachers grading their students, the score card process allows service providers (government workers) and service providers (community members) to assess pre-determined indicators concerning government services.



A few examples of the assessed indicators are community participation in natural resource management, level of knowledge about forestry and wildlife management, and availability of extension services. The process provides a space for the service providers and the service users to engage in a meaningful dialogue about how to improve the existing services while allowing the two to collaborate, guide and correct each other. This year's program was different than previous years because it required training community members

(CBNRMBs) so that they get accustomed to the process and be able to run the process independently in their individual communities.

The first day of the scorecard process was training 27 selected CBNRMB members in the scorecard process in Makale village. Community members took kindly to the revised program and they stated that this training can be helpful in other areas like health (where there is no NGO to help improve their services)



The following day, the 27 trained CBNRMB's held meetings within their respective communities and recorded a score for each indicator. In Petauke, Women for Change facilitated a meeting with the service providers to gather a score for each indicator. The service providers identified effective communication and collaboration amongst themselves to be an issue so they resolved to create a WhatsApp forum in order to improve this issue.

Petauke



On the third day, the CBNRMB members came back to Makale village to present their scores. By the end of this meeting, the CBNRMB members came to a consensus on each indicators score. Moreover, they agreed for each area to come up with a community forest, start the process of registering their board and make a board office space, all before December of 2018.

On the final day of the scorecard process, known as the interface meeting, the service providers met with the service users in Makale village. A total of 183 people attended the meeting (109 males and 74 females). Many issues were identified and action plans were put into place to combat the issues.

Confrontation between the service users and service providers has decreased because people now understand the operation of the officers in question and the challenges they undergo. This has resulted in an increase in collaboration and communication between the two.



Rural Women's Summit



Increasingly, women have been carrying the burden of providing for their families despite the social barriers that have denied them opportunities to participate equally in the society. In rural communities that are already disadvantaged in resource distribution, women are disproportionately affected.

October 15th is the designated date set for the International Day of Rural Women (IDRW) that recognizes the roles rural women play in en-

hancing agricultural and rural development, which leads to improved food security and fights to eradicate poverty. This year, rural women from all over



“Her Voice, Her Strength, Her Security”

Zambia joined the summit. There was representation from Petauke, Rufunsa/Chongwe, Shibuyunji, Kapiri Mposhi, Mumbwa, Kaomo and Nkeyema. The summit took place from October 15th to 16th, with a welcoming cocktail party on the 14th. The theme of this year's summit was “Her Voice, Her Strength, Her Security”. There were three key objectives for the 2018 summit.



international agencies, the media, and the corporate world to interact with rural women and engage on economic development issues that affect them. Lastly, an objective was to create a critical mass of informed delegates ready to contribute to lasting solutions that will change the development scape of rural communities.

The first was to ensure the inclusion of rural women by providing an opportunity for these leaders to engage in a participatory dialogue to facilitate knowledge sharing on issues affecting their economic development.

The second key objective was to bring an array of development actors from government, CSOs, in-

The objectives were achieved, for the summit hosted a multitude of presentations from government workers, CSOs, and international agencies. The topics varied from personal financial skills to climate change. At the end of the presentation, rural women and men were given the opportunity to ask questions and engage in a participatory discourse.

Rural Youth Exposure



The annual rural youth exposure conference was held on 21st and 22nd August 2018 with support from VIDEA and the United Church of Canada. It was attended by 45 youth, 37 youth and 8 youth mentors on VIDEA support. The youths were from 5 districts namely; Lundazi, Petauke, Rufunsa, Mumbwa and Kapiri mposhi. The conference was hosted at University of Zambia graduate school of business.

Over the two days, the youth enjoyed visiting various sites around Lusaka like the parliament building, Manda Hill mall and ZNBC. Moreover, the youth heard motivational stories from VIDEA mentors and presenters, who discussed topics like self-esteem, career options, early marriage

and the importance of finishing school. The youth took away many valuable lessons over the course of the conference. A few examples of what they learned are to believe in themselves and to never give up. They were informed of the detrimental impacts that early marriages and pregnancy can have on their lives and to say no to early marriages.



“My Strength Within Aspire For Greatness”



on sharing the knowledge they have gained with other community members. Some plan on holding community meetings where they can teach others what they learned while others plan on simply having conversations with their friends and family.

Messages to the sponsors:

“Thank you. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the things I didn’t know in life. I encourage you to keep sponsoring me for I will not let you down”

“The support inspires many in the community and other areas”

“Thank you for giving me such an opportunity to learn. I was inspired by the motivational speakers”

At the end of the exposure, the rural youth felt inspired. They were motivated to finish school and then pursue a career, whether that be agroforestry, entrepreneurship or law enforcement. They understand that there will be challenges to achieving their dreams, but every challenge is an opportunity to grow as an individual. Upon returning to their community, the youth plan



Success Stories: *Grace Mwanza*



of Zambia is facing is poaching; poaching continues to be one of the main causes of death for wild animals. Grace emphasizes the importance of not killing these wild animals or else future generations will not have the opportunity to experience them.

Mwanza said, “I teach people not to kill wild animals or else our children’s children will not know what elephants look like”.

Grace Mwanza is from Menyani village, which is a small settlement located near Petauke and the South Luangwa National Park. She has been involved with Women for Change for three years now and she is the chairperson of her group.

When asked about both personal and community development since joining Women for Change, she commented on the importance of not killing wild animals and how she has seen a decrease in the amount of wild animals killed. Some of the wild animals that Menyani community members experience are warthogs, monkeys and antelopes. There are many reasons why the community kills wild animals; a few examples being food, medicine, ceremonial accessories, or income through selling the meat. Sometimes the animal is killed because it is a threat to the community or destructive to the crops. Another problem that all

Moreover, Grace stated that Women for Change taught her to discourage others from cutting down trees. In her community, trees are cut down to produce charcoal, firewood, and construct buildings. However, there are many consequences to cutting down trees. For example, soil erosion is common in places that lack trees and this creates



Community Mobilization and Awareness Meetings: *Petauke & Rufunsa*



munities are aware of the community based natural resource management boards (CBNRMBs) that have been formed in the area to spearhead community based natural resource.

From June to September, 24 meetings were conducted in the Sandwe Chiefdom of Petauke district, reaching a total number of 869 people (394 male and 475 female). The sensitization

Just as there are consequences to cutting down trees, there are benefits to not cutting down trees.

The tree leaves provide manure for farmers. Moreover, trees provide shade and help filter the air by reducing the overall dust in an area. She learned this from the Women for Change meetings and workshops and is now passing the knowledge on to other community members.

From June to September, 24 meetings were conducted in the Sandwe Chiefdom of Pe-

tetauke district, reaching a total number of 869 people (394 male and 475 female). The sensitization meetings were conducted to ensure that the com-

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ral resource management boards (CBNRMBs) that have been formed in the area to spearhead community based natural resource.

Exposure visit



On June 13th 2018, 60 Rufunsa rural youth participated in a variety of activities conducted at the Chiyota Youth Resource Centre, which is a government institution funded by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development. The centre's mission is to reduce youth unemployment among the rural youths by creating alternative of self-employment

through training in life skills and entrepreneurship development.



This visit provided an opportunity for the Rufunsa youth to experience new technologies and agricultural practices carried out by the youth attending the institution.

Chiyota Youth Resource Centre

They came out of the day with in-depth knowledge on a range of agricultural services that can provide information on weather, pests and pest control, seeds, inputs, soil testing and other issues which will result in good yields. Or-

The youth stated that they felt very honoured to participate in this visit and to visit an institution that provides different skills of which they can learn from. Some students even voiced an interest in applying to the school.



ganic farming was decided to be the best practise for farming; as exemplified by the centre, all the gardens used droppings from goats as manure, which is applicable to the Rufunsa youth since they keep goats.

At the end of the day, the students reflected on the benefits and drawbacks of the various technologies and experiments that they observed.

Not only did they learn different skills from the institution, they learned from each other. Coming from many different rural villages in the Rufunsa area, the youth engaged each other and shared information that will help them improve their production and marketing performance; the youth shared their experiences, challenges and solutions to different agricultural issue they had in their communities.

Empowering Women in Leadership



In August, Women for Change (WfC) hosted the Coady International Institute Women's Leadership in Community Development course in Zambia. The two-week course was attended by 13 women leaders from Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia with funding support from the EMPOWER project.

Lombe Nambaya, the Project Coordinator of the Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL) in Zambia was among the women leaders that participated in the training. Asked about what stood out for her from the training, Lombe stated that the most significant topics were the leadership roles and styles. In relating this to her work at ZNWL where she coordinates women from different political parties, she saw the need to instil transformational leadership in the women serving in the political space, "Even if they are not able to stand as candidates," observed Lombe, "they can still identify with the aspirations for their political party; since they have the proper skills and knowledge gained from our trainings."

Lombe was happy to have been part of the Coady training in Zambia and shared on how her perspective on her work changed. She has now come to appreciate that every person is unique in their own way. It was important to get everyone's view as each person played a vital role in the system. For

this reason, she is now passionate about sharing the skills learnt from the course with other people beyond her work environment, for example, in her local Church community she was able to organise a leadership training and received positive feedback consequently, she was tasked to lead the inception class for new congregants.

When asked about what she hopes to accomplish with the knowledge she has gained from the course, Lombe said, "Leadership is a process. What I hope to accomplish is to become a good leader. When I am given the opportunity to lead a workshops or meeting, I want to make it a participatory process and hear other people's views and opinions. If a leader thinks they know it all, it is difficult to incorporate new ideas or to help others realize that they also have innovative ideas".



In conclusion, Lombe called for the need to embrace one another regardless of different personality traits, "We can carry different characteristics and still become good leaders," she said.

Women ♀ for change

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