



# **CHILD PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTITUTION MAKING PROCESS**

## **Children's consultations**



**JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN TRUST**

**HARARE 2010**

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This report is a result of the dedication of our committed staff who include Caleb Mutandwa, Shepherd Matsika, Chinga Govhati, Sithuthukile Sibanda, Admire Mandizvidza and Musa Kika. These spend days which turned into weeks and then into months in the field organising consultations. They also compiled the individual reports which make up this report.

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Global Political Agreement (GPA) provided for a constitution making process which is people driven. The GPA specifically provides that “it is the fundamental right and duty of the Zimbabwean people to make a constitution by themselves and for themselves.” Following the GPA, an inclusive government was formed in February 2009. The government then initiated the constitution making process through the Constitution Select Committee (Copac). Copac was tasked to consult the people of Zimbabwe on their views to be considered in the new constitution. Unfortunately child participation was lacking in the process Copac set out to pursue as evidenced by the absence of children at the First All Stakeholders Conference held in 2009.

Child participation is one of the key principles underpinning children's human rights. The principle requires the participation of children in all matters affecting them and that their views be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. There should be information sharing and dialogue between children and adults on the development of policies, programmes and measures related to children's lives in order to fulfill this principle. There is a danger of misrepresenting children's concerns, opinions and views if only adults are left to speak on behalf of children. Children are best able to give first hand information on what they need. Involving children in processes that affect or will affect them in future is the best way of ensuring compliance with and ownership of the end product by children. It will also ensure that the future generations are not only responsible but also accountable for fulfilling children's rights.

Given this background, the MOCPA, JCT, ACPD, Childline and UNICEF partnered in “the Child Participation in the Constitution Making Process Project” that was aimed at ensuring meaningful participation by children in the constitution making process. The objectives of the Project were;

- To give the children a chance to participate in the constitution making process through gathering their views in a child-friendly environment,

- To provide basic information on the constitution and the constitution-making process,
- To facilitate the identification of one child to represent his or her district at the National Summit to be held after the district consultations, and
- To increase the visibility of children's issues in communities prior to the entry of the Copac consultation teams.

## 1.2 PROJECT COVERAGE

Twenty two district summits were held across Zimbabwe starting from the 7th of June and ending on the 7th of October 2010. Two districts were sampled per each of the ten provinces. Although the consultations had initially been planned to last for three months only, the Kariba summit was postponed from the scheduled date, 15th of July 2010, due to administrative reasons. The summit was then held on the 7th of October following continued negotiations with government officials. The delay in holding the Kariba summit became a blessing in disguise since the project implementing team managed to secure the attendance of a Copac outreach team at the summit. 3791 children participated at the summits. Of this number 2074 were girls while 1671 were boys. The majority of these children were from schools.

The pinnacle of the Project was the National Summit which held on the 22nd and 23rd September 2010. The summit which was attended by Copac was named “Copac National Consultative Outreach for Children.” It was attended by 90 Junior Senators, the 22 child representatives who had been elected during the districts summits and 68 children who were brought by other non-governmental organisations that attended the national summit. The last group of children included children with disabilities and children living in the streets.

## 1.3 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The districts summits used the “What About Us?” tool kit that was developed by ACPD.

Article VI of the Global Political Agreement Harare 15 September 2008.

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, Entry into force 2 September 1990, and Articles 4 and 7 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 11 July 1990, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49 (1990).

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, “The General Measures of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Process in Europe and Central Asia”, Florence: Innocenti Publications, 2006 p 2

The full details of the districts will appear in the section on consolidated district reports. It suffices to mention here that there were two Summits that were held in Lupane and Nkayi due to the long distances between schools instead of one per district as had been planned at the onset of the project.

The list of schools is attached at the end of this report as an appendix.

A booklet has been produced on this toolkit. See What About Us? Children's Participation in the Constitution-Making Process Comp Printers Harare June 2010.

Upon arrival, the children and their accompanying adults completed registration forms. They then received name tags on which they visibly and creatively wrote their names. This enabled easy identification and made children comfortable as they were called by their names during the consultation. Child facilitators were chosen at the start of each summit and oriented on the activities of the day. These, with the aid of the project team, then facilitated the group discussions. The children were divided into groups where they discussed the issues affecting them in their communities which they would want considered during the constitution making process. Visuals and games were used to stimulate discussions.



### 1.3.1 The Egg And The Nest

This game was used as the introduction and ice breaker to the group activities. Children formed a circle surrounding an egg that was in a nest. They then compared their own lives to that of an egg. Children realized the need to have a protective environment which shields them from abuse.

### 1.3.2 The Exclusion Game

In this game, children formed a circle holding hands, with two members remaining outside the circle and then trying to enter the circle. The children took turns to attempt to enter the circle while those who were forming the circle were denying them entry. The discussion that followed revealed situations where children are discriminated against, excluded from participating and denied the right to be heard.



### 1.3.3. The Puppet Game

Children got into pairs where one became the puppet master and the other the puppet. The master then moved the puppet at his will and dictated what he wanted the puppet to do at any given time. The children then exchanged roles, the master becoming the puppet and vice versa.







This was followed by a discussion in which children managed to relate their experiences in the game to their daily experiences where what they do is almost always prescribed by their parents, guardians, teachers and other older people around them. This denies them their right of freedom of choice.

*Children in Mutoko discussing their challenges in a relaxed atmosphere*

### 1.3.4. The Rights Posters Discussion

The children, in groups discussed the violations of children's rights prevalent in their communities using illustrative posters. The discussion managed to capture the issues of those children who had been quiet in their groups.



*Children in Bindura and Warren Park discussing challenges that children in difficult circumstances face using posters*

### 1.3.5. The Body Map Exercise

Children summarized the problems they face and the possible solutions using body maps



*A child lying down, ready to provide the necessary outline for a body map*

### 1.3.6. Election of Child Representatives

Each group chose one of its members to participate on behalf of the whole group in an impromptu speech contest on children's rights. After the contest, children then voted for the best speaker who became the child representative for that district who later participated in the national consultation. A list of all the district representatives is attached at the end of this report as Appendix 1.

*There were two child representatives for Lupane and Nkayi districts because in each of these districts two summits instead of one were held. Warren Park and Bindura districts also had two representatives because of a tie in the votes and the need to accommodate an out of school representative respectively.*

### 1.4 CHALLENGES

- The preparatory time was inadequate for the project team to make all arrangements. The team had to rely on other supporting institutions like the DSS and MoESAC which sometimes resulted in challenges such as the non attendance of out-school children.
- Child facilitators were not sufficiently trained to lead the group discussions hence the adults ended up assisting in the process.
- The summits were attended by children from grade 4 to those below the age of 17 years which resulted in groups having children of these different ages. These children have different levels of appreciation.

### 1.5 LESSONS LEARNT

- There is need for adequate time during the preparation phase. This should allow the project team to engage other stakeholders like civic society organisations (CSO) working in the districts and train the child facilitators before the summits. Where other CSO were involved, a number of out of school children attended the summits.
- The summits should involve children of the same age group.

### 1.6 REPORT STRUCTURE

This report contains the findings of the districts summits and the national summits. It focuses on the challenges children are facing and the solutions they suggested to solve those problems. The reports reveal common problems which are faced by children and the need for constitutional protection of children's rights, particularly their social, economic and protection rights.

2.1.	DISTRICT:	WARREN PARK
	PROVINCE:	HARARE
	VENUE:	WARREN PARK 5 PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE :	7 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	146 CHILDREN (76 GIRLS AND 70 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- A number of children, including those in urban areas, are not registered as a result of poverty, ignorance, divorce and death of parents. These unregistered children face a number of challenges which include failure to participate in processes that benefit them such as sports, attending school and acquiring an ID (Identity Document).

“To tell the truth in our communities a lot of children are not going to school because of birth certificates...”

##### Recommendations

- The relevant government department should ensure that all children are given birth certificates at the same time they are given birth records.
- The law should remove restrictive requirements of obtaining a birth certificate.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Orphans and vulnerable children are more prone to violations of their rights. Such children lack the necessary care, love and protection that promote their life, survival and development.

##### Recommendations

- Orphans and vulnerable children should be treated with care and respect. The government in particular and the community in general should be responsible for their upkeep.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Most vulnerable children such as those living with disability suffer discrimination in one form or another.

“Some children are left out because they are orphans, poor and disabled or HIV positive.”

- Some of these children are intelligent but circumstances fail them.

##### Recommendations

- Non-discrimination should be a principle that all structures in society observe as all children are equal.
- There should be no discrimination on basis of gender, race or HIV status as excluding other children from processes that may be beneficial to them does not promote inclusivity.




### WATER, SANITATION AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

#### Challenges

- Most areas in Harare go without water for long periods.
- The toilets are always blocked which causes diseases like cholera which unnecessarily killed thousands of people, including children, in 2008.

#### Recommendations

- City council should be accountable to residents. The residents must also make the council accountable.



“Council is responsible for the sewer tanks but the community people must complain.”

- Authorities must ensure that their area is clean so that children's right to live in a health hazard-free environment is upheld. The city council must ensure that sewer pipe bursts are attended to in time before they become a health hazard.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- Some parents fail to immunize their children because of religious beliefs.

#### Recommendations

- Parents must be held accountable for declining to vaccinate their children on religious grounds.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Schools are charging high school and examination fees, levies and incentives which affect mostly the orphans and vulnerable children.
- Children do not like being taught in languages that they do not understand.
- Teachers always go on strike because of low salary and other unbearable working conditions.
- Schools are not well equipped, which prejudice the disabled as well. Learning resources such as books are also in short supply.

#### Recommendations

- Primary education should be free so that every child benefits. Where fees are charged they should be affordable to everyone or BEAM (Basic Education Assistance Module) should then help all children who cannot afford them.
- Students should be allowed to be taught in languages of their choice and local languages such as Shona, Ndebele and Tonga should be taught across the country.
- The government should adequately remunerate teachers to avoid strikes which disrupt children's education.
- Schools should be well-equipped



“every school should have a library...”

- The government should ensure that all children to access their right to education.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are being beaten up for minor mistakes.

#### Recommendations

- Corporal punishment “does not serve any purpose.”
- Schools should be places enjoyed by children hence teachers should teach children instead of beating them.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children work in order to get school fees while others who are not staying with their parents are made to work.

#### Recommendations

- The law should punish all adults who subject children to child labour.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Most children, especially girls are subjected to sexual abuse.
- Children are being sexually abused for religious reasons. Rape and early child marriages are tolerated and even encouraged by some churches.

#### Recommendations

- Parents and the government should protect children from sexual abuse.
- Religious sects that force children into marriages should be banned.
- Perpetrators of child abuse must be given long sentences which are prohibitive to other potential abusers.

“Everybody who rapes a child should be sentenced to life in jail because a carjacker is being sentenced to 20-30 years in jail but the one who rapes gets only less. A car can be restored but we cannot repair the damage of rape!”

### CHILD PARTICIPATION

#### Challenges

- Adults organize things for children without consulting the latter.

#### Recommendations

- There is need to consult children on issues that affect them since they are the ones better placed to talk about what affects them.

“All child rights that are in the UNCRC and their responsibilities should be included in the new constitution.”

2.2. DISTRICT: CHITUNGWIZA  
PROVINCE: HARARE  
VENUE: SEKE 1 HIGH SCHOOL  
DATE: 8 JUNE 2010  
PARTICIPANTS: 189 CHILDREN (98 GIRLS AND 91 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Most children are failing to access birth certificates and national IDs.

##### Recommendations

- All children must be released from hospital after birth only if they have acquired birth certificates and the fees charged for registration should be reduced so that the poor can afford.
- Registration centers should be decentralized for easy registration.

### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

#### Challenges

- Child headed families are on the rise nowadays due to the HIV (Human Immune Virus) and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) pandemic and the migration of most parents to other countries in search of jobs.

#### Recommendations

- Parents should stop leaving children without an adult attending to them. The government should take steps to protect children living alone so that they get basic needs such as shelter and food for survival.
- Schools and hospitals should provide them with free services. The DSS and Non- Governmental Organisations must prioritise them.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- The bright students play together and exclude the slow learners at school. Those who are disabled are also discriminated against whilst children who have all they need feel superior over the other children.
- In communities children are excluded from activities on the grounds that they are immature and cannot contribute anything meaningful

#### Recommendations

- Local structures should include children where possible and also listen to their views especially on issues that affect them.
- Parents must love their children equally regardless of sex and ability.
- Full participation of children in the constitution making process must be recognized as important.
- All children should have equal opportunities.

### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

#### Challenges

- Food shortages affect children's health and proper growth.

#### Recommendations

- School feeding schemes should also be introduced in urban areas as the children are also affected by food shortages.
- Parents and guardians should ensure that children get balanced diets.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- Chitungwiza is popular for burst sewer pipes and a dirty environment which is a health hazard.
- Some religions deny children access to immunization and medication.

#### Recommendations

- Government should force churches to allow children to get medication.
- The environment that children live in must be clean.
- Local clinics and hospitals must have special units with all facilities to treat children. OVCs and children below 16 years must be treated for free.
- Boreholes should be sunk in all schools and at community centers.

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- Children living in the streets have no shelter and some children are living in overpopulated areas with dilapidated houses.

#### Recommendations

- The government and NGOs should build children's homes for children in the streets, those without parents and guardians and those who are abused.

## DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS REPORTS

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- There is a shortage of teachers which is sometimes addressed by having too many unqualified teachers.
- The examination fees are high.
- There is also a shortage of learning materials and furniture which has contributed to hot sitting.
- There is poor career guidance.
- Children are being sent away from school for failure to pay school fees.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not be victims of their parent's poverty and the government should ensure free primary education whilst secondary schools are made affordable. National examinations must be free.
- Students should not be taught by untrained teachers. All schools must have qualified teachers who must be adequately paid in time to avoid strikes.
- Students should have the right to be taught in a language of their choice. There must be proper career guidance in schools.
- All schools should have libraries and computers.
- Hot sitting should be abolished as it is not conducive for learning.
- All secondary schools must have Advanced Level classes and the government should provide loans after A' Level so that students receive tertiary education.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Teachers are using weapons not recommended for beating children.

#### Recommendations

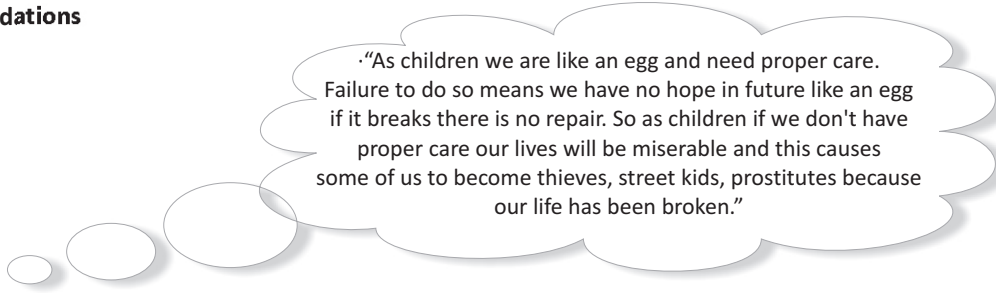
- Children must have the right not to be beaten by teachers. Beating of children in schools should be banned in the new constitution.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Early child marriages, forced marriages and sexual abuse by parents are common.

#### Recommendations



“As children we are like an egg and need proper care. Failure to do so means we have no hope in future like an egg if it breaks there is no repair. So as children if we don't have proper care our lives will be miserable and this causes some of us to become thieves, street kids, prostitutes because our life has been broken.”

- Children should be protected from traditional practices such as child pledging.
- Children abusing other children e.g. bullying in schools should not be tolerated.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- During times of high political activity children cannot freely walk in the streets to and from school.
- Lack of democracy in the country.

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### Recommendations

- Government must protect children from being dragged into political activities. Politics should also not be a source of unrests and violence.
- Term of office for the president should be five years and Members of Parliament (MPs) should represent the interests of their constituency fully: “We want democracy in our country.”
- Racism by the government must be shunned.
- Children should be fully involved in the selection of child leaders such as Junior MPs and Junior Councilors.

<b>2.3. DISTRICT:</b>	<b>MUTOKO DISTRICT</b>
<b>PROVINCE:</b>	<b>MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>CHIPFIKO PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>09 JUNE 2010</b>
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>187 CHILDREN (114 GIRLS AND 73 BOYS)</b>

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- A high number of children in Mutoko do not have birth certificates. With some children this has been due to total negligence on the part of the parents. Orphans are mostly affected as they are without parents to acquire the documents for them.
- Those children living with parents who do not have identity particulars are also not being registered. Children are therefore inheriting the problems of their parents.

##### Recommendations

- Registration of children should be decentralized to hospitals, clinics and community centres so that people will not have to travel long distances to get registration. A child born at a clinic or hospital should be registered as soon as he is born.
- Parents not registering their children should be accountable for breaking the law.
- The MoESAC must be empowered to assist and facilitate the acquisition of birth certificates for unregistered children in schools.
- Acquiring birth certificates should be made free. If this cannot be done nationally, let there be special exceptions for rural communities where getting money is a problem.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Children are being treated differently based on gender and the girl child is not being adequately empowered.

##### Recommendations

- The government and all who protect children's rights should ensure that all children equally enjoy their entitlements without selective application based on gender.
- Gender balance should be considered in schools and all community activities where children take part.

#### FOOD

##### Challenges

- Some children experience severe food shortages and end up suffering from diseases caused by malnutrition.

##### Recommendations

- The government should initiate child feeding programmes and distribute food to children facing food shortages. Food aid must prioritise children and the community must ensure that all the children have something to eat.



## DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS REPORTS

**HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION****Challenges**

- Most children are failing to get medical attention due to the high fees being charged by hospitals.
- The apostolic sect believers are denying children medical attention.
- There is shortage of clean water sources and proper toilets. People are getting water from contaminated streams and this is causing the spread of diseases such as cholera.

**Recommendations**

- The government should build toilets in all areas in order to curb cholera outbreaks.
- Responsible authorities must make medication free for children especially the underprivileged.
- Immunization should be compulsory and health officers should ensure that all children are immunized and educate people on good health practices.
- Drill boreholes in schools in all areas.

**SHELTER****Challenges**

- Poor housing is affecting children and some living environments are unhealthy.

**Recommendations**

- Children should live in properly built houses.
- Children must live in an environment conducive for their physical, mental and spiritual health.

**EDUCATION****Challenges**

- Unaffordable school fees are a major hindrance to the achievement of universal primary education and secondary education.
- There are many school dropouts whilst the majority is being turned back from school due to non-payment of fees.
- Many children are failing to meet payment deadlines and the required amounts for national examinations.

**Recommendations**

- The MoESAC should reduce school fees especially in the rural areas.
- The government must help schools to properly furnish all their classrooms so that children may have somewhere to sit and write on.
- The DSS must ensure that BEAM prioritises out-of-school children to be in school.
- More schools should be built so that children will not have to walk long distances to their nearest schools.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT****Challenges**

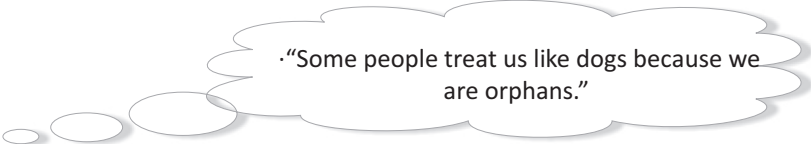
- Beating of students in schools is very rampant.

**Recommendations**

- Corporal punishment should be abolished and made an offence in the new constitution.

**CHILD ABUSE****Challenges**

Rape, other forms of sexual abuse, neglect and emotional abuse are common in the district.



“Some people treat us like dogs because we are orphans.”

### Recommendations

- A more effective legal and judiciary system that descend heavily on child abusers must be in place. Transparency and efficiency in the system must be guaranteed so that it can act as a deterrent to perpetrators.
- The UNCRC and the ACRWC ratified by the country must be fully recognized as applicable law locally. There should be a section specifically dealing with children's rights in the constitution so that they are respected.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are being forced by parents and guardians to be economically productive to supplement the family's income. Some are given domestic tasks that are not proportional to their ages and capabilities.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not carry out "very hard jobs."
- Community leaders and village heads should be on the watch for any such things happening in their community and take legal action against those overworking children.

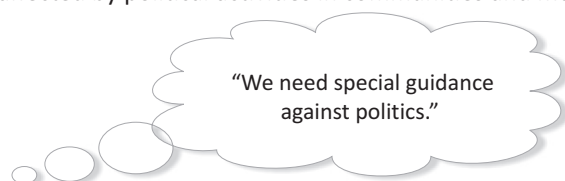
### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Children are becoming victims of fights by political parties in the area.

#### Recommendations

- Children must not be affected by political activities in communities and must not be recruited to participate in politics



### RELIGION

#### Challenges

- Children are being denied religious freedom.

#### Recommendations

- Children must be able to choose the religions they want to follow and the denominations and not adults imposing on them. This would save them from being victims of some religious practices such as denying children medical attention.

2.4.	DISTRICT:	MUDZI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE
	VENUE:	NYAMAKUYO PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	10 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	156 CHILDREN (77 GIRLS AND 79 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children with parents who do not have identity documents are facing challenges as they cannot be registered. Orphans on the other hand have no one to represent them to get birth certificates. Children raised by single mothers also face challenges in acquiring birth certificates since their fathers usually do not cooperate with the mothers who are also reluctant due to cultural reasons to obtain the documents using their maiden surname.
- Children without birth certificates fail to participate in sports.

### **Recommendations**

- Schools must be authorised to register children.
- Those without parents must be allowed to get assistance from community leaders to acquire national documents.

### **CHILD HEADED FAMILIES**

#### **Challenges**

- Many children are living alone and are facing starvation and malnutrition. Shelter is also a problem with them as they have no adult to build for them.

#### **Recommendations**

- The community should take full responsibility of its children as orphans and vulnerable children look up to the community for protection, guidance and provision.
- Problems affecting them should first be addressed by local home-grown solutions before going out to call for government or NGOs for support.
- Community leaders such as village heads and chiefs should shoulder the responsibility of spearheading child protection for the benefit of the children.

### **DISCRIMINATION**

#### **Challenges**

- There is preferential treatment of children by parents.
- Children are discriminating against each other.

#### **Recommendations**

- At school teachers should ensure that children are not discriminated against as this amounts to emotional abuse.
- In communities parents and elders must also encourage children to accept one another. Parents must be educated on the negative effects of discrimination on children.

### **FOOD**

#### **Challenges**

- Shortage of food especially when there has been poor harvests.

#### **Recommendations**

- In times of drought and disasters such as cyclones and floods the government should help children by giving them food.

### **HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION**

#### **Challenges**

- Local clinics are not well stocked and equipped and are incapacitated to give children the medication they require. There is also shortage of qualified staff.
- Some parents have not immunized their children because of various reasons including religious beliefs. Consequently some children die of measles and other preventable illnesses.
- Most girls cannot afford sanitary wear and some end up using unhygienic things and material as sanitary wear.
- There is shortage of clean water sources and people resort to fetching unsafe water from rivers and dams.

#### **Recommendations**

- The government must come up with constitutional measures to ensure that immunisation is made compulsory and parents who do not comply are arrested.
- The Ministry of Health should ensure that clinics in communities are well equipped and staffed so that children in rural areas are not disadvantaged. Most people in the rural areas cannot afford private hospitals.
- Sanitary wear for girls should be made cheaper so that all can afford. It should be even distributed for free.
- NGOs and the government should spread their initiative of drilling boreholes to more parts of the district so that the right of children to safe and clean water is upheld.

## DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS REPORTS

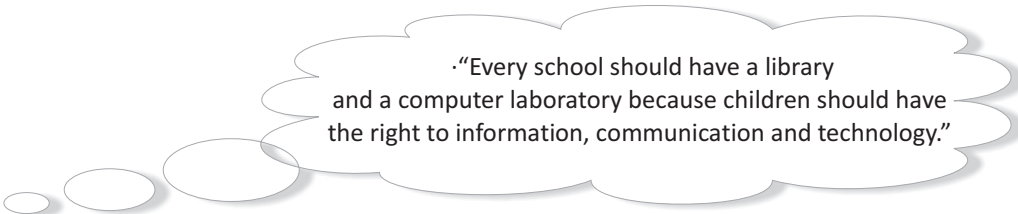
### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- It is very difficult for parents to raise school fees as economic activity is not very pronounced in the area save for subsistence farming. This has resulted in a high number of school dropouts. For those who remain in school the authorities do not allow them to enter classrooms without producing receipts of school fees payment.
- The BEAM is not benefitting the orphans and vulnerable children in this area.
- Only unqualified and relief teachers are allocated to schools in this rural district.

#### Recommendations

- Learning conditions in schools should be enhanced in the areas of infrastructure, textbooks, school fees reviews and the presence of qualified teachers.
- The constitution must protect children by stating that only qualified teachers should be allowed to teach children. For the qualified, the government should ensure that they are well taken care of to avoid unnecessary and disruptive strikes.
- Current affairs and children's rights should be taught in schools. The government has the obligation to ensure that the schools provide such information to the children as it is the children's right.



“Every school should have a library and a computer laboratory because children should have the right to information, communication and technology.”

- Parents with disabled children should send them to school and those who cannot afford should be assisted by government to pay school fees so that the children are not burdened with both disability and illiteracy.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Despite the fact that teachers are aware of the negative effects of this act, they continue to beat children inflicting physical pain on them. This is inhuman and degrading.

#### Recommendations

- This should be abolished and the constitution should criminalise beating in schools.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Adults are abusing children with impunity.
- Child trafficking is high in the area.

#### Recommendations

- The judiciary must be more effective in delivering justice in child abuse cases.
- There is need to increase security measures at national borders so that child trafficking is curbed.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are being used to work in farms. Some are forced by their families to work and supplement the family's income and girls end up in commercial sex work.

### Recommendations

- Community leaders should monitor their areas and ensure that no child is being made to work. Those found employing children or forcing children to be employed should be arrested.
- Parents and guardians should be sensitised on the laws protecting children from child labour. The new constitution should provide for protection from child labour.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Children are falling victims to political unrests.

#### Recommendations

- The government should ensure that platforms such as the Junior Parliament are more functional, effective and accessible to the children in all provinces.
- The constitution must state that children are not to participate in politics and those making children to participate must be arrested.

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2.5.	<b>DISTRICT:</b>	<b>BINDURA DISTRICT</b>
	<b>PROVINCE:</b>	<b>MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE</b>
	<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>NYAVA HIGH SCHOOL</b>
	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11 JUNE 2010</b>
	<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>170 CHILDREN (97 GIRLS AND 73 BOYS)</b>

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Most orphans do not have birth certificates because they have no one to get the documents for them.
- Unregistered children cannot play sports and write examinations at school.

##### Recommendations

- Registration should be free to allow every child to access a birth certificate.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- There are many child headed families without any financial resources. The children in these families fail to perform well in school because of their responsibilities.
- They also live without any parental guidance.

##### Recommendations

- The community must take up the responsibility of looking after the children and be their guardians. The village head and other community leaders must ensure that every child is provided for.
- Education and medication should be provided for free to these children.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Children are being treated differently because of gender.
- Children are also discriminating against each other at school and when playing in communities.



### Recommendations

- All children must be treated equally regardless of gender and disability.
- Children should be discouraged from discriminating against one another.

### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

#### Challenges

- Children sometimes suffer malnutrition in times of food shortages.

#### Recommendations

- When families fail to provide for their children, government must spearhead efforts to mitigate the problem.
- Government and the civil society must prioritize food provision to children especially orphans and vulnerable children.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- Poor access to health care and treatment due to unavailability of resources at the clinics and lack of money to buy the services.
- Children are not being treated due to religious beliefs.

#### Recommendations

- Treatment should be free or at least affordable to children, especially those living alone.
- All parents should immunize their children and there must be a law making immunization compulsory. Parents and guardians not immunising children should be arrested for violating children's right to health.

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- Children are living in dilapidated houses and some children have nowhere to live.

#### Recommendations

- The government should construct children's homes for those with nowhere to live especially for orphans and child headed families.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children are being turned away from school for non-payment of school fees and levies. These children are victims of their parents' poverty and the government's failure to pay its teachers adequately.

"Vana vakasadzidza hurumende inoshaya  
vashandi vemangwana."  
(if children do not get educated, the government  
will not get future employees)

- There is an acute shortage of learning infrastructure and where such infrastructure exists, it is in dire need of refurbishment. The classrooms are also not properly furnished and many schools are still to benefit from the rural electrification scheme.

#### Recommendations

- Programmes such as BEAM must be revived to benefit children in need.
- Government should take its responsibility of paying teachers in time and adequately so that strikes are avoided. Unlike some urban children, most children here are incapacitated to raise and pay incentives for the teachers to come to work.
- Children must be taught by qualified teachers and not temporary/relief teachers.
- Teachers should not be intimidated during periods of high political activity so that they can continue teaching.
- The government and local authorities must provide children with proper learning infrastructure which is safe and conducive for them to use.
- MoESAC should enforce its policies that children should not be sent away for not paying school fees.
- Civic education must be included in schools as it is a platform to inform children of current affairs such as the current constitution making process.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Physical abuse is being perpetrated in schools by teachers who are using beating as a way of disciplining students. This is cultivating a culture of violence in the children in as much as it is causing physical deformations.

#### Recommendations

- Beatings in school must be completely made illegal.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Girls are being married at a young age.
- Children are being denied their rights to leisure and protection by the law.

#### Recommendations

- Children must be able to communicate with parents freely without fear and parents should protect their children from potential abusers.
- There should be a law that protects children from child marriages. All those who marry girls below 16 years must be arrested. Young girls should be adequately taught the effects of being married early.
- The police must ensure that abusers are removed from the community and that no one employs a child and that children go to school instead of labouring in the fields.
- The right to leisure and rest must be respected. Sport development should also be taken seriously.
- Children's rights must be in the constitution so that abusers are dealt with by the law.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Children are forced to join adults in political meetings and are made to act as adults in supporting political parties and groups.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not be forced to participate and should be protected from those who force them to participate during election campaigns.
- The new constitution should criminalize forcing children to participate in politics.

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2.6.	DISTRICT:	RUSHINGA DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE
	VENUE:	MARYMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	16 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	258 CHILDREN (197 GIRLS AND 61 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Some officers at the Registrar General's offices treat children's parents unfairly by asking for bribes.
- Some children without birth certificates fail to get Form 1 places and participate in sporting activities.

##### Recommendations

- There must be justice and transparency at registration offices. All corrupt officers should be arrested as OVCs do not have money to bribe them.
- The government should reintroduce mobile registration where OVCs should be allowed to register themselves.
- Children's right to identity must be enshrined in the constitution.

### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

#### Challenges

- Some children in these families are not going to school because they have no school fees and birth certificates.
- Others are being abused as they fend for themselves.
- No one is concerned with their plight.

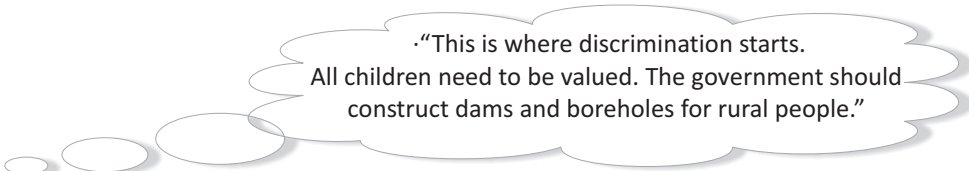
#### Recommendations

- All children should enjoy their childhood without being forced to take up the responsibility to head a house.
- OVCs should be allowed to obtain birth certificates on their own.
- The government should play its role of providing for such children.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- The government is not prioritizing water and sanitation for the rural child.



“This is where discrimination starts.  
All children need to be valued. The government should  
construct dams and boreholes for rural people.”

### FOOD

#### Challenges

- Rushinga is one of the dry districts of Mashonaland Central hence it is prone to droughts. Children suffer the most during these droughts. They have to look for food on their own or with their parents, which compromises their right to education.

#### Recommendations

- Mitigating measures should include provision of food by GMB during droughts, provision of drought resistant seeds by the government and use of new farming methods.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There is limited access to clean and safe water.
- There are no adequate toilets especially in rural areas which affect the children's rights to health and a clean environment.

#### Recommendations

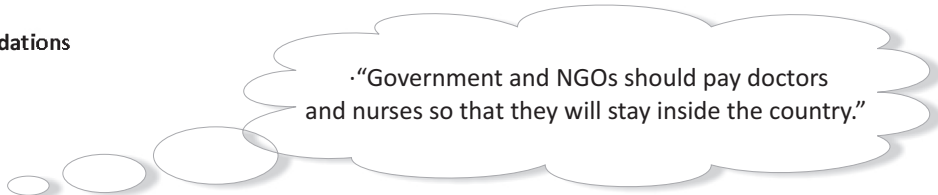
- The government must improve the standards of rural toilets, sources of water as well as shelter.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- Children are bearing the brunt of the brain drain currently affecting the country. Nurses and doctors shun remote areas causing many children to die from mostly AIDS related illnesses.
- Some children are dying from treatable diseases.

#### Recommendations



“Government and NGOs should pay doctors  
and nurses so that they will stay inside the country.”

- Immunisation should be compulsory.
- The right to health must be included in the Constitution.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children can not afford the fees that schools demand.
- Schools do not have adequate teaching and learning resources.
- Teachers are always on strike hence no quality teaching and learning goes on.

#### Recommendations

- There must be free primary education.
- Where school fees are charged they must be reduced to make them affordable to the OVCs.
- The government should provide stationery in schools.
- Teachers must be paid in order to avoid strikes.
- Children's right to education must be enshrined in the constitution.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Teachers are beating children to the extent that they get hurt.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers should be aware that beating up a child does not produce results.
- Children should be encouraged to obey school rules.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Children are usually abused by people they know and trust such as parents, teachers and very close relatives.
- Some ill people have a wacky belief that raping children can cleanse them of HIV.
- Some parents who go outside the country to look for greener pastures leave their children in the custody of abusive relatives.

#### Recommendations

- Stiffer laws and punishment should be introduced to deter potential abusers.
- Children should report abuse.
- The Constitution must contain the right of children to be protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Some step parents do not consider the capacity of a child to do a task; instead they only want it accomplished.
- Teachers give children a lot of hard work.

#### Recommendations

- Adults should be educated on the effects of child labour on a child.
- The government should assist orphans so that they stay in school.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### Challenges

- Children in rural areas are being left out of discussions on issues that affect them because they do not have ready access to the media.

#### Recommendations

- Children need access to televisions, radios, computers and newspapers on a daily basis for them to be involved in issues of national policy.
- There should be a deliberate move to put children in rural areas at par with their urban counterparts.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Children are oppressed and exploited by political figures.

#### Recommendations

- The constitution must protect children from political exploitation.

2.7.	DISTRICT:	KHAMI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	BULAWAYO PROVINCE
	VENUE:	MAZWI PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	21 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	132 CHILDREN (63 GIRLS AND 69 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATION

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children without birth certificates are failing to enroll at schools of their choice and participate in sporting activities.

##### Recommendations

- The government should financially assist every child to acquire a birth certificate so that they will not fail to go to school and participate in sporting activities.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Children in child headed families are affected by lack of shelter since they have no one to provide for them.

##### Recommendations

- The government and the Ministry of Social Services should provide orphans and children living in the streets with housing.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Children are discriminated against during sporting activities at school. The physically challenged and the poor are usually left out.

##### Recommendations

- Every child should be given an opportunity to participate in any activity regardless of their status in society.

#### HEALTH

##### Challenges

- High fees are being charged for medical treatment.
- There is a shortage of medical staff in the hospitals and clinics.

##### Recommendations

- The government should pay the nurses so that they will always be available to attend to the sick.
- Medical drugs should be for free.
- There is need for provision of more health workers.
- Every child should be immunized.

#### EDUCATION

##### Challenges

- Children are forced to study either Shona or Ndebele depending on the location of the school. For instance, schools in Matebeleland region insists on students learning Ndebele and those in Mashonaland region teach Shona.
- The strike by teachers due to poor working conditions has affected children in their studies.
- Most parents cannot afford the high fees and requirements for school uniforms and books.

##### Recommendations

- Children must be taught in languages they understand at any school. Minority languages should be considered in the education sector.
- Teachers should be paid well so that they will not strike.
- Education should be free such that every child will be in school or at least the government should finance for the education of orphans.
- The government should provide textbooks and writing books in schools.



### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are beaten at school and at home.
- Children appreciate that their parents may have to discipline them but this should be within the stipulated limits to avoid abuse.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not be beaten by teachers at school. The headmaster should be the only one allowed to beat children.
- Parents should not beat their children too much.
- Mothers only should be allowed to beat children.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Children are subjected to both physical and sexual abuse at home and at school.
- Teachers are beating children unnecessarily.

#### Recommendations

- Those who abuse children should be given life sentences.
- Those who abuse children sexually should be castrated.
- Parents should not beat children unnecessarily.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are forced to work extra hard before going to and after school. This affects children in their studies as they will be tired to concentrate. It also affects their right to leisure, rest and play.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not be forced to work by their parents and teachers.
- Children must not work too much in the fields as they will not be able to study at night.
- They should be afforded time to play and rest.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There are continuous water cuts which lead to people resorting to unprotected sources of water. Children will then drink the water and get sick.

#### Recommendations

- The government should make sure people have clean and safe water sources such as boreholes close to them to avoid diseases.
- The government must build good toilets in schools.



“I need a safe environment to mature in.”

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

- Children are being forced to participate at political events.

#### Recommendations

- Children must not be involved in political activities.

2.8.	DISTRICT:	MZILIKAZI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	BULAWAYO PROVINCE
	VENUE:	SIGOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	21 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	187 CHILDREN (98 GIRLS AND 89 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Corruption at the Registrar General's (RG) offices hinders the progress of children in getting birth certificates.
- Requirements at the RG's office prevent orphans in accessing birth certificates as some relatives are discouraged with these requirements.
- The RG's offices are far which poses the problems of traveling expenses to the people.

..“It is my right to have a birth certificate .”

##### Recommendations

- Those corrupt officers should be arrested.
- Registration offices should be localized.
- Orphans must get birth certificates on their own if relatives are not cooperating.
- Parents should be encouraged to get birth certificates for their children soon after birth.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- These children are young to manage a home and are prone to abuse.
- The communities do not assist these children hence they become destitute and move to the streets.

##### Recommendations

- The government must build orphanage homes where these children can be cared for.
- The community must take care of the orphans.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Boys are treated differently from girls and vice versa.
- Albino children are discriminated against and neglected.
- Taking physically challenged children to separate schools is discriminatory.

“disability is not inability.”

##### Recommendations

- Children, including albinos, should be treated fairly, equally and as human beings.
- There should not be separate schools for the physically challenged children. Every school should accommodate them.

#### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

##### Challenges

- The cost of food is high in the shops.
- Children are getting hungry at school as they spend the day doing sports.

### Recommendations

- Food should be cheap so that everyone can afford it.
- The government must provide food in schools.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- There is shortage of health workers and it takes too much time for one to access medical care.
- Medical fees are exorbitant and beyond the reach of the parents.
- There are few toilets in schools which are not cleaned as often due to water problems. This poses the risk of children suffering from diseases.

#### Recommendations

- The government should pay the doctors and nurses well.
- Immunizations should be compulsory.
- More toilets should be built to improve the hygiene of children in schools.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- The examination and school fees are too high. Children are being expelled for nonpayment of fees while other children fail to write their examinations even after completing the syllabus.
- There is shortage of books and furniture in the classrooms.

#### Recommendations

- Examination and school fees should be reduced to affordable amounts.
- Schemes like BEAM should benefit the needy.
- The government should supply textbooks, pens and writing books in schools.
- Children should not be expelled for not having paid fees since it is the responsibility of the parents to pay fees. The school should deal with the parents.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are beaten with electric wires and wood by their parents.
- Teachers are beating children for petty offences like coming to school late. This is embarrassing to children.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers and parents should not beat children harshly and with weapons.
- Corporal punishment should be there but not too severe to hurt children.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- The number of child sexual abuse cases is on the increase.

#### Recommendations

- Perpetrators should be given death sentences.
- Children should not be friendly to strangers.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are being employed as domestic workers.

#### Recommendations

- Children should be given jobs taking into account their ages.
- Perpetrators of child labour should be arrested.

### CHILD PARTICIPATION

#### Challenges

- Our culture does not allow children to participate or talk even if the decision affects them.

#### Recommendations

"Our parents should accept and listen to us if we have issues."

- The government should support the dreams of children.

### ELECTRICITY

#### Challenges

- There is no electricity in the rural areas.

#### Recommendations

- Rural schools should have electricity so that children can study at night.

"We want to be heard and be involved in decision making."

2.9.	DISTRICT:	MANGWE DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MATEBELELAND SOUTH PROVINCE
	VENUE:	BULU HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	23 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	208 CHILDREN (120 GIRLS AND 88 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children are failing to access the right to education because they do not have birth certificates. They fail to acquire Form 1 places.
- Registration offices are far away and in rural areas people do not have money to travel to these offices.

##### Recommendations

- Birth certificates should be given in hospitals.
- School authorities should be encouraged to assist school children without identity documents to acquire them.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- There are children living within child headed families in Mangwe District.

##### Recommendations

- Social services department must take care of those children.
- The government should take those children to children's homes.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- In most rural areas girls do not have equal opportunities with boys. They are often left out in most issues that affect them.
- OVCs are not receiving assistance or projects in order to sustain themselves.
- OVCs especially those who are HIV and AIDS infected do not have adequate food.
- Some schools do not adequately cater for the disabled children.

##### Recommendations

- All children, whether girls or boys, should be treated equally.
- OVCs should be equipped with skills that can help them embark on self-help projects.

- Children living with HIV and AIDS require a good diet and the government must provide them with food and medication.
- School structures should accommodate the disabled and the Braille system should be available in every school so that children do not have to look for special schools which are unaffordable.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- Hospitals and clinics are not well resourced in terms of staff, equipment and medication.
- People are charged fees for treatment at clinics.
- Children are being affected by religious practices which do not allow immunization.

#### Recommendations

- Ministry of Health and Social Services Department should provide more resources for rural hospitals and clinics.
- Treatment should be for free to all children.
- Immunization should be emphasized and those who do not immunize children should be arrested.
- The new constitution should guarantee children's right to health.

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- Some children are staying in houses which are not conducive for habitation.

#### Recommendations



### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children are affected by shortage of schools as they walk long distances to school.
- Children are failing to write examinations due to high examination fees.
- In primary schools, some teachers are good at one subject yet they are teaching more than six subjects.
- Teachers' strikes are affecting children.
- Children are being expelled from lessons after failing to pay school fees.
- There is no adequate furniture in schools.

#### Recommendations

- The government should build more schools in rural areas as many children walk miles to school.
- ZIMSEC should charge affordable examination fees.
- Primary schools should have special teachers for each subject like what is happening in secondary schools.
- Teachers' salaries should be increased so that teachers can work without disturbances and strikes.
- There must be a law that forbids school authorities from dismissing children or refusing them admission into the school premises for not paying the fees.
- The government and School Development Committees should source furniture for schools.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Some teachers employ corporal punishment to settle personal differences with a child.
- Corporal punishment is harmful to children.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers should desist from beating children in the name of the word discipline.
- Excessive beating should be stopped especially in schools.
- Corporal punishment is abusive and it affects children negatively and it must end.



### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Ignorance on the part of parents and adults is one of the reasons why children are being abused.
- Some children are being raped by very close relatives. Orphans, poor and the disabled children are the most affected.
- Some traditional healers are fueling rape by claiming that having sexual intercourse with a child cleanses HIV and AIDS.

#### Recommendations

- Child sexual abusers must be kept in jail for their whole lives.
- Children are innocent souls who require proper care, support and comfort.
- Traditional healers who prescribe false remedies like raping your own child should be sentenced to death.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are being used by adults to fetch firewood and water without considering their age.
- Some parents send children to sell wares at shops or near bars.

#### Recommendations

- The government, police, neighbours and churches must commit themselves to protecting children from child labour.
- Duties that are allocated to children should be manageable.
- Parents who force children to sell things close to the bars should be arrested.

### PROTECTION

#### Challenges

- Children are not fully protected from sexual abuse, political violence and child labour.
- The constitution does not fully protect children.

#### Recommendations

- Perpetrators of sexual abuse should be sentenced to death.
- The constitution should enshrine children's rights since it is the supreme law of the country.

2.10	DISTRICT:	UMZINGWANE DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MATEBELELAND SOUTH PROVINCE
	VENUE:	UMZINGWANE HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	23 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	195 CHILDREN (118 GIRLS AND 77 BOYS)

#### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATION

##### BIRTH REGISTRATION

#### Challenges

- The fees required for one to get a birth certificate are too high such that children staying with parents who are not working find it difficult to acquire birth certificates.
- The Registrar General's offices are located far away resulting in children staying with grandparents failing to get birth certificates. The grandparents who are old cannot walk long distances.

#### Recommendations

- Birth certificates should be free or the fees charged must be reduced.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Children living with HIV are discriminated against.

#### Recommendations

- Every child deserves fair and equal treatment.

- Teachers should be paid and textbooks should be supplied by the government and other nongovernmental organisations.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

#### **Challenges**

- Teachers are beating children at school. This embarrasses them and affects their performance.

#### **Recommendations**

- Corporal punishment should be abolished.

### **CHILD ABUSE**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are being abused sexually by parents and strangers. This is happening as they will be travelling the long distances to and from school.

#### **Recommendations**

- Sexual offenders should be castrated.
- People who abuse children should never be released after being arrested.
- Parents should protect their children.

### **CHILD LABOUR**

#### **Challenges**

- The work children were doing at home was too much that they felt as donkeys even though they appreciated that they have a responsibility to help their parents.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children should not work as donkeys.

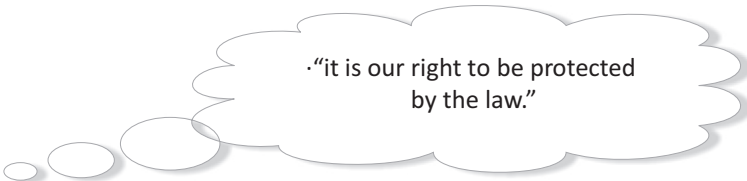
### **PROTECTION BY THE LAW**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are abused physically and sexually at home and at school. Some children are infected with HIV and their lifespan shortened.

#### **Recommendations**

- The law itself should protect children adequately from abusers.



“it is our right to be protected  
by the law.”

### **SHELTER**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are exposed to abuse due to accommodation problems. Women, men and children share one room. This affects children's welfare.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children should have good and safe shelter.

### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

#### Challenges

- Children walk long distances to school and leave home early in the morning sometimes without eating and will be hungry by the time they get to school. This has resulted in children losing concentration in class.

#### Recommendations

- The government should provide nutritious food at school.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- Children are drinking unclean water from unprotected sources which make them sick. They fail to access health services as the nurses usually work from 8am to 4pm and there will be no one to cater for emergencies at night.
- The hospitals are far and children are dying on their way to the hospital.

#### Recommendations

- Nurses should start work early and knock off late to cater for emergencies especially at night.
- Medicine should be free to children.
- The government should build more hospitals and clinics.
- There should be more health workers.
- The government should drill more boreholes and supply piped water which is clean to drink.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children are failing to concentrate in class after travelling long distances to school as the schools are far away.
- Teacher's strikes are affecting children's studies as they are failing to finish the syllabus on time.
- Children are denied access into school premises due to failure by parents to pay school fees, coming to school late, misbehaving at school or not having complete school uniforms.
- The school fees are exorbitant.
- Children without birth certificates are failing to access education.

#### Recommendations

- School buses should be available to carry children to school.
- Schools should not send children home for nonpayment of fees as it is the duty of the parent to do so.
- The schools should promote sporting activities and expand co-curricular subjects.
- Education should be for free to primary school students.

·"Enshrine children's right to education in the constitution."

2.11

DISTRICT:

PROVINCE:

VENUE:

DATE:

PARTICIPANTS:

LUPANE DISTRICT

MATEBELELAND NORTH PROVINCE

DANDANDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

24 JUNE 2010

112 CHILDREN (81 GIRLS AND 31 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

#### Challenges

- Children are failing to get birth certificates due to lack of financial resources by parents.

### **Recommendations**

- The government should ensure easy and affordable access to birth registration.

### **CHILD HEADED FAMILIES**

#### **Challenges**

- Child headed families are prone to emotional, physical and psychological abuse. They live as puppets or slaves as they try to make ends meet. Some of the children are too young to live on their own.
- The relatives are not assisting them with food.

#### **Recommendations**

- It is not safe for children in child headed homes to stay by themselves. They should be taken to children's homes where their needs are catered for. The government should build more homes to accommodate these children.
- The relatives of these children should provide them with food assistance.

### **DISCRIMINATION**

#### **Challenges**

- Our culture has played a role towards discrimination of children. Children can only speak when they are spoken to.
- Children who are physically challenged face discrimination at school and at home.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children should not be excluded in making decisions and be given an opportunity to participate.
- The government should provide for the disabled children who need all the care especially in school.

### **SHORTAGE OF FOOD**

#### **Challenges**

- Shortage of food at home.

#### **Recommendations**

- The government and parents should be able to provide food for children at home and at school. This can be achieved by the government providing seeds, fertilizers and equipment so that parents are able to cultivate and feed their children.

### **HEALTH**

#### **Challenges**

- There is a shortage of nurses and drugs at the few hospitals and clinics available.
- Some religious practices do not allow children to be immunized.

#### **Recommendations**

- The government should pay the doctors well so that they will not go on strike. Nurses and doctors should be available everyday to help the sick. More hospitals should be built where children can access free medication.
- Chiefs should encourage parents to immunize their children in the communities.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Challenges**

- Most parents cannot afford the high fees being charged in schools. This has affected the orphans more who do not have parents or relatives to pay school fees for them.
- The schools have no textbooks; children are sharing one text book per five or more children.

#### **Recommendations**

- Education should be free such that every child will be in school or at least the government should finance the education of orphans.
- The government should supply textbooks, pens and writing books in schools.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Teachers are beating children even if they are not feeling well with named wooden sticks that are kept in the classrooms.
- Children themselves are beating each other. Prefects have the powers to beat children at school.
- Children living with step parents are the most affected as they are beaten for no cause at all.

#### Recommendations

- Corporal punishment is not child friendly hence teachers, parents and step parents should not beat children with any weapon. Corporal punishment should be banned in schools and parents should exercise it only when necessary.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Children are suffering from emotional and psychological abuse perpetrated by parents and teachers. Adults scold children in a way that makes them suicidal. Some are insulted and reminded of their late parents. This affects their performance at school. Some parents are not aware of the effects of abuse.

#### Recommendations

- Parents should be sensitized of the effects of child abuse.
- Verbal abuse should stop and parents should treat children as human beings not morons. The environment at home should be peaceful and friendly. Orphans should not be consistently reminded of their late parents.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Orphans are working long hours in order to make a living.

#### Recommendations

- Forced labour to orphans should be stopped and every child has a right to rest.
- Where children are given work, the work should be limited taking into account their age.
- Those forcing children to work should be arrested.

### PROTECTION BY THE LAW

#### Challenges

- The police are failing children by not handling their reported cases as expected. Sexual abusers are not arrested after the cases have been reported.

#### Recommendations

- The police should be sensitive to cases involving children.
- The law itself should protect children adequately and provide for harsher sentences for those who break the law.

### RELIGION

#### Challenges

- Children are being forced to go to churches that violate their rights through practices like early child marriages.

#### Recommendations

- Children must not be forced to go to churches which violate their rights.
- Children should exercise their right to choose a religion they want.

### ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION

#### Challenges

- There are no recreational facilities in Lupane denying children their right to play and leisure.
- Parents deny children their right to play by stopping them from playing with other children.

#### Recommendation

- Children should be allowed to go for sports.

2.12	DISTRICT:	LUPANE DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MATEBELELAND NORTH PROVINCE
	VENUE:	GOMOZA PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	24 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	136 CHILDREN (97 GIRLS AND 39 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Parents cannot afford the costs of travelling to the Registrar General's offices which are too far.

##### Recommendations

- The Registrar General's offices should be located close to the villages so that everyone can have access to getting a birth certificate without incurring some travelling costs.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Children are discriminated against on the basis of sex especially on corporal punishment.

##### Recommendations

- Every child should be treated the same regardless of sex, gender and race.

#### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

##### Challenges

- Children are getting hungry at school.

##### Recommendations

- Non-governmental organisations like World Vision should give children porridge and beans at school.

#### HEALTH

##### Challenges

- There is shortage of nurses and doctors in the rural areas.
- Children are travelling long distances to seek medical attention which they will sometimes not get as the doctors will not be available.
- Children are dying after their parents refuse to immunize them because of religious beliefs.

##### Recommendations

- The government should build more hospitals in the rural areas.
- Clinics should have free drugs for children.
- Chiefs in the communities should encourage parents to immunize their children and those who refuse should be arrested.
- There should be home based care in the community.

#### EDUCATION

##### Challenges

- Teachers' strikes are forcing children to have a crush programme resulting in them going to school during holidays when they are supposed to be resting.
- Children born to poor parents are not going to school due to high fees.
- The classrooms have no windows and in winter it will be cold.

##### Recommendations

- Teachers should be paid well so that they teach during the term and allow children to rest during holidays.
- Children failing to pay fees should be considered for BEAM.
- The classrooms need windows so that children will not be cold in winter.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are beaten at home and school. At school, apart from being beaten by teachers, children are beaten by prefects with sticks.

#### Recommendations

- The government should ban corporal punishment as it is humiliating and degrading to children.
- Prefects should not be allowed to beat children.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- The rate at which children are being abused is increasing. Children can no longer walk long distances or play freely for fear of being victims.
- Sexual abuse cases are being dealt with at family level or community courts where the perpetrators are made to pay compensation.

#### Recommendations

- Those convicted of child sexual abuse must be given harsh sentences like death penalty.
- Chiefs should handle child abuse cases in a way that does not violate children's rights.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children staying with step parents are subjected to hard work.
- Parents do not know the limitations of the work children should get considering their age.

#### Recommendations

- Step parents should show parental love to their step children and not subject them to hard labour.
- The government should pass stiffer laws against child abuse.

### RELIGION

#### Challenges

- Children are forced to go to church even when the churches violate their rights. Some churches encourage early marriages and the child will be forced to leave school and concentrate on being a wife at an early age.

#### Recommendations

- Religious practices that are harmful to the child's development should be banned.
- Parents who force children into early marriages due to religion should be arrested.

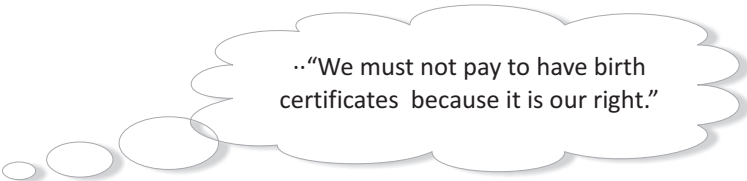
### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

#### Challenges

- Children in the rural areas are left out on recreational facilities as compared to those in the urban areas. They are deprived of their right to leisure and play.
- Parents are overprotective of their children and do not allow them to socialize and play with other children.

#### Recommendations

- Local authorities are encouraged to construct recreational facilities for children in the rural areas. These facilities should be safe so that parents will allow their children to play there.
- Children should have a right to play and rest.



..“We must not pay to have birth certificates because it is our right.”



2.13	DISTRICT:	NKAYI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MATEBELELAND NORTH PROVINCE
	VENUE:	NESIGWE SECONDARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	25 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	90 CHILDREN (50 GIRLS AND 40 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- People are charged high fees at registration offices.
- Some parents do not proceed with the registration because of the bad treatment at the registration offices.

##### Recommendations

- Obtaining a birth certificate should be easy.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- There are many children within child headed families.

##### Recommendations

- The government should provide and improve the living conditions for child headed families.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Teachers discriminate against children who do not have schools fees or who do not pay incentives.
- Albinos, poor children and children with disabilities are often discriminated against and isolated by other children as well as being excluded from various activities that affect them.

##### Recommendations

- Every child should be treated fairly and equally.
- Children should be free to approach teachers concerning their problems.

#### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

##### Challenges

- There are no adequate health professionals in rural areas and sometimes they go on strike.
- People are charged high consultation fees before treatment.
- There is a shortage of clean and safe sources of water such as boreholes.

##### Recommendations

- The government should pay doctors and nurses well so that they will not strike or go to other countries looking for greener pastures.
- The Government should ensure the provision of safe and clean sources of water in rural areas through, for example, drilling more boreholes.

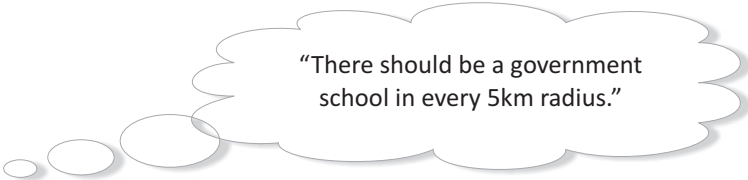
#### EDUCATION

##### Challenges

- Children in rural areas are affected by long distances they walk to school.
- Children's education is affected by teachers' strikes.
- Some classrooms are very old and dilapidated. Some do not have windows. This affects children in winter and rainy seasons.
- Schools do not have science laboratories hence children are not doing science and practical subjects.
- Some children are failing to proceed with education because they do not have parents and school fees.
- Some children go home late because of hot sitting. These get home very late since schools are very far away.

##### Recommendations

- The government should build more schools to avoid children walking long distances



"There should be a government school in every 5km radius."

- Teachers should not strike.
- Schools should be refurbished.
- The Government must build laboratories and provide apparatus for science subjects in rural areas.
- Practical subjects should start at primary level.
- The government should provide bursaries to children without school fees.
- Hot sitting should be stopped.

### **SHELTER**

#### **Challenges**

- Some children are homeless.
- Some child headed families are living in dilapidated houses.

#### **Recommendations**

- Homeless children should be sent to children's homes.
- Social Services department should improve standards of child headed families' houses.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

#### **Challenges**

- This form of physical abuse and violation of human rights is widely practiced in schools.
- Corporal punishment is being used excessively even for petty issues.
- Sometimes teachers display the instruments such as big sticks they use for corporal punishment.

#### **Recommendations**

- Teachers should not beat children too hard but make them realize their mistakes.
- Teachers must ask about the situations affecting children before beating them. They should only beat children according to the law.

### **CHILD ABUSE**

#### **Challenges**

- Police are reluctant to protect children.
- Sometimes at school children are forced to go to toilet only at break and lunch time.
- Step parents abuse children.

#### **Recommendations**

- The police should commit themselves to protecting children.
- Peer educators should regularly visit schools to encourage children to report cases of abuse.

### **CHILD LABOUR**

#### **Challenges**

- At school children are being forced to work for teachers in their houses and gardens.

#### **Recommendations**

- There must be a policy providing that at school children should only learn and not to do teachers' personal errands.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Some children do not want to associate themselves with the disabled children.
- Academically privileged children isolate themselves from slow learners.
- Children who do not have school fees are stigmatized by those who afford.

#### Recommendations

- Guidance and counselling should be fully practiced in schools so as to eradicate discrimination.
- Everyone should contribute in helping the orphans to get food, clothes and blankets.

### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

#### Challenges

- Orphans and Vulnerable Children do not have food.

#### Recommendations

- Children need to eat especially when going to school.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- The standards of school toilets are not comfortable for children and they are not healthy.
- There are no chemicals to clean toilets.
- There is shortage of hospitals, medical facilities and people pay for treatment in Nkayi District.
- HIV and AIDS infected children do not have access to ARV treatment.
- There are no clean sources of water.

#### Recommendations

- The Ministry of Health should provide chemicals and detergents for cleaning purposes in rural schools.
- The government should provide more hospitals and medical facilities in Nkayi District.
- Medical facilities should be free for people under the age of 10 years and those above 60 years.
- Antiretroviral drugs should be available free of charge to children.
- Ministry of Health should improve the standards of toilets in rural areas.
- The government should ensure that each and every family has a toilet and clean sources of water.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children are being expelled for failing to pay school fees.
- Children are not writing examinations because they do not have examination fees.
- Teachers are forcing children to pay fees for extra lessons.
- There are many temporary teachers in schools.

#### Recommendations

- Children should not be sent away from school if they have not paid the fees.
- Children must have free education, trained teachers and examinations should be taken free of charge.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Corporal punishment is no longer used as a form of correction but an abuse since teachers are beating children to the extent of inflicting injuries on them.

### Recommendations

- Children should not be beaten for coming late because they walk long distances to school.
- Children should choose where it is proper to be beaten.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Girls are being forced into early marriages.
- Some children do not report child abuse probably because they are not aware of the importance of reporting cases of child abuse.

#### Recommendations

- Adults who engage in child marriages must be given harsher sentences.

### PROTECTION

#### •Challenges

- Girls who are over 16 years are treated as mature and are married even before attaining the age of 18 years.
- Some policemen do not value child abuse cases only because children are young.

#### •Recommendations

- Maturity age should be raised to 25 years so as to avoid child marriages.
- Policemen who do not take heed of children's problems should be suspended from duty.

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2.14	DISTRICT:	NKAYI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MATEBELELAND NORTH PROVINCE
	VENUE:	NKAYI SECONDARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	25 JUNE 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	102 CHILDREN (55 GIRLS AND 47 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Many children are failing to do sporting activities, access assistance and aid from NGOs and write examinations because they do not have birth certificates.

##### Recommendations

- The government should allow children without birth certificates to write examinations.
- Schools should assist children without birth certificates to acquire them.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- There are children living within child headed families.

##### Recommendations

- Churches, relatives, members of the community and NGOs which deal with children should send children within child headed families to children's homes or take care of such children.

#### CHILD LABOUR

##### Challenges

- Teachers give children more work than necessary. They send children to collect firewood and fetch water.
- Children work very hard at home before going to school.

##### Recommendations

- Teachers should stop sending children to do their personal errands.
- Children must not work before going to school but they should work after school.

2.15	DISTRICT:	MUTASA DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MANICALAND PROVINCE
	VENUE:	ST MATHIAS TSONZO HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	05 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	197 CHILDREN (108 GIRLS AND 89 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Orphans are failing to acquire birth certificates as they have no one to represent them and cannot afford the registration fees.
- Children without birth certificates fail to acquire national IDs, passports and drivers licenses.

##### Recommendations

- Birth registration should be for free.
- Government must help OVCs to get birth certificates.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Children living alone without adult support fail to get food, shelter and education.
- The community is neglecting them.

##### Recommendations

- Government should build orphanages for children without adults looking after them.
- The government must provide these children with services such as medication, education and other basic necessities for free.
- Relatives and the community should help and take care of orphans.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Children are discriminating against each other.
- Adults are discriminating against children on basis of gender.

##### Recommendations

- All children, whether rich or poor, deserve the same treatment and equal opportunities.
- Children should not be discriminated against on basis of gender

"100% gender equality between boys and girls."

- Programmes such as food aid should benefit all children without any discrimination.
- Disabled children should not be discriminated against. They, like any other child, have the right to education hence they must also be in school.

#### FOOD

##### Challenges

- Some children go to school having eaten nothing whilst others get home from school and find no food. This is due to food shortages that frequently occur in the district.
- Children fall victim to diseases caused by lack of proper and adequate food.

##### Recommendations

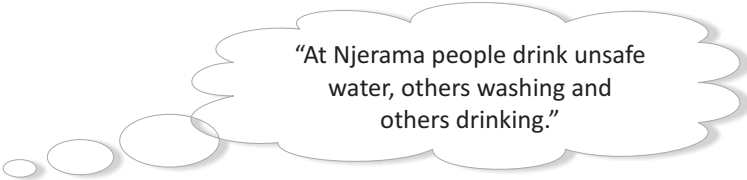
- Food aid programmes targeting children should be initiated. The selection of beneficiaries should not be biased.

## DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS REPORTS

## HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

## Challenges

- Children are not being immunised.
  - There are no adequate facilities to treat children in hospitals.
- Children are drinking unsafe water as there are no protected water sources.



"At Njerama people drink unsafe water, others washing and others drinking."

## Recommendations

- All children must be immunized and the law must make it compulsory.
- At least every village and school should have a borehole.
- Toilets should be constructed both in public places and at homes.
- Government should offer adequate health facilities for children to be treated.
- All children should have access to free healthcare.
- Children must be educated on health issues.

## SHELTER

## Challenges

- Some children are living in shacks unfit for human habitation. Some do not even have somewhere to stay as they are orphans with no adult looking after them.

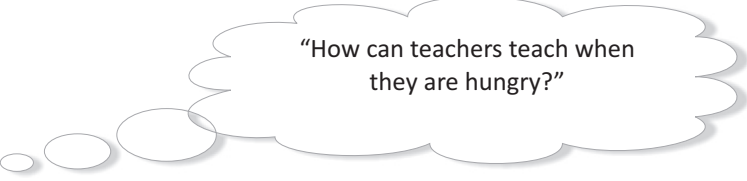
## Recommendations

- Measures should be put in place for children without shelter to be taken care of at local levels in their communities.

## EDUCATION

## Challenges

- Most children are having difficulties in paying school fees and are not being allowed to attend classes.
- Stationery and uniforms are expensive.
- Some children attend school the whole year but fail to register for examinations as the ZIMSEC fees are not affordable to the rural students.
- Schools, especially secondary schools, are far.
- Teachers are not being paid adequately resulting in frequent strikes



"How can teachers teach when they are hungry?"

## Recommendations

- Primary education should be free so that every child is at least able to read and write.
- Examination fees should be reduced for all children to be able to write examinations.
- Government should improve staff welfare by increasing their earnings to curb strikes.
- More schools should be constructed and be supplied with books and learning material so that the learning standards in rural areas are improved. Computers should be available to children so that they learn ICT.
- The Social Services department should provide school fees for children who cannot afford.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Teachers are physically abusing children through beating them in the name of corporal punishment. Slow learners are being beaten by teachers when they require special assistance.
- Beating affects children emotionally as they are always in fear. Some children run away from school while others are no longer participating in class for fear of being beaten.

#### Recommendations

- The constitution must completely outlaw corporal punishment.
- Children must not learn with fear as they will understand nothing and hate learning.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Girls are being sexually harassed in schools and many are being raped. Forced marriages are common for young girls. Boys are also falling victim to sexual abuse.
- Children are abusing other children through bullying.

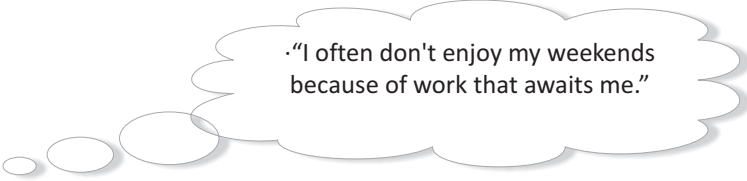
#### Recommendations

- Adults should be educated on the effects of child sexual abuse.
- Those found guilty of sexual abuse should be given long sentences particularly life imprisonment for rapists.
- Children raped should get medical attention to protect them from contracting diseases.
- Parents and guardians should desist from shouting at children using abusive language. They should be educated on children's rights so that they learn to respect children.
- School authorities should not tolerate bullies. They should be expelled.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Those children without school fees go to work to raise money.
- Parents and guardians are giving children excessive work when they come back from school, tired and hungry.



“I often don't enjoy my weekends because of work that awaits me.”

#### Recommendations

- Children should be given enough time to rest and study.
- The law should provide that no child should be employed.
- Farmers and miners who employ children should be punished heavily.

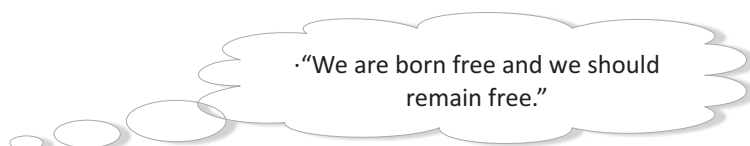
### RELIGION

#### Challenges

- Adults are imposing their religious beliefs and practices on children.

### Recommendations

- Children should be free to think on their own and choose what they want. Adults should just guide and protect them. This would foster a culture of religious tolerance.
- Children should have their liberty



2.16	DISTRICT:	CHIPINGE DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MANICALAND PROVINCE
	VENUE:	TUZUKA PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	06 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	196 CHILDREN (101 GIRLS AND 95 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Many children do not have birth certificates in Chipinge.

##### Recommendations

- Birth registration offices should be very close to people.
- Hospitals must offer birth certificates soon after birth.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- AIDS is more likely than other causes of death to create double orphans (children who have lost both parents).

##### Recommendations

- Department of Social Services should take care of the orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs).
- Orphans should be sent to children's homes.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- OVCs are often discriminated against and isolated.

##### Recommendations

- School children should not be discriminated against because of their race, tribe or HIV and AIDS status.
- Step parents should treat children equally even though they are not their biological children

#### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

##### Challenges

- Some children, especially the OVCs who do not have any source of food, suffer from kwashiorkor and other related diseases during times of drought.

##### Recommendations

- NGOs and government should provide agricultural inputs and create food security in rural areas.



### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

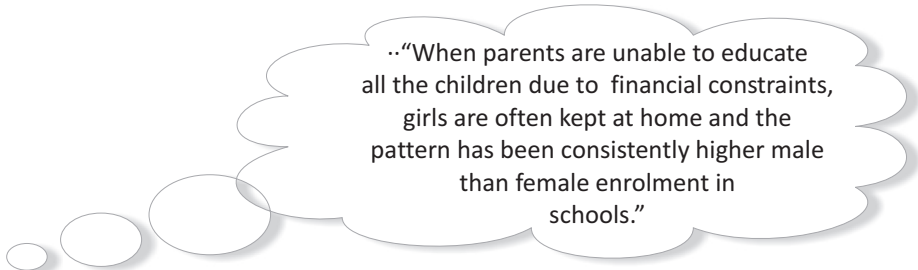
- There is no clean and safe water in Chipinge.
- The toilets are dilapidated which poses risk to children's health.

#### Recommendations

- The government should provide more doctors and nurses in Chipinge area as well as improving the standards of hospitals and clinics.
- The government and other organizations that deal with water and sanitation issues should ensure the provision of clean and safe water.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges



..“When parents are unable to educate all the children due to financial constraints, girls are often kept at home and the pattern has been consistently higher male than female enrolment in schools.”

- The introduction of school fees in foreign currency has affected many children.
- School children in Chipinge do not have computers and they do not learn science and practical subjects.

#### Recommendations

- All children, whether boys or girls, should be treated equally.
- Government should introduce computers, science and practical subjects in rural schools.
- Primary education should be free and BEAM should be resurrected.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Corporal punishment is degrading, brutal and cruel and most children are against its use in schools and homes.
- Teachers beat school children when they come late or where they do not have uniforms.

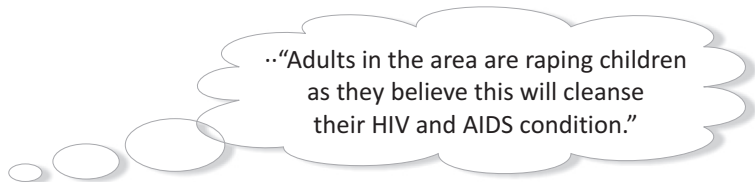
#### Recommendations

- There must be laws guiding corporal punishment so that it will not develop into child abuse.
- Headmasters only be responsible for corporal punishment.
- Teachers must not beat children using their bare hands.
- School authorities should restrict excessive discipline by teachers.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- The community is not reporting cases of child abuse since the abusers would be their relatives.



..“Adults in the area are raping children as they believe this will cleanse their HIV and AIDS condition.”

### Recommendations

- Cases of child sexual abuse, including those committed by relatives, must be reported to the police as early as possible.
- Those convicted of rape must be sentenced to life in jail.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Child labour is rampant in Chipinge as children are employed as farm workers in tea estates.
- Children are recruited to engage in diamond panning in Chiadzwa.

#### Recommendations

- Child labour should be regarded as an offence and child domestic workers' employers must be jailed.
- Children should be given work that takes into account their age.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Challenges

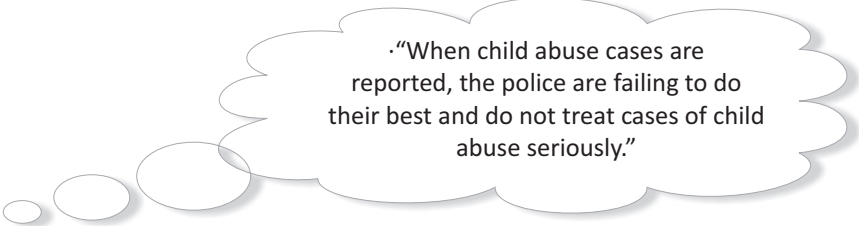
- Children are affected by violence during elections.

#### Recommendations

- The government, parents and members of the community must make sure that children are safe and not involved in violence because they do not vote.

### PROTECTION

#### Challenges



“When child abuse cases are reported, the police are failing to do their best and do not treat cases of child abuse seriously.”

#### Recommendations

- Parents, the police, teachers, relatives, church members and other members of the community should commit themselves to protecting children.

### OBSERVATIONS

The Chipinge summit was attended by the Chief of the area (Chief Musikavanhu) who showed interest on what was happening.

2.17	DISTRICT:	BIKITA DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASVINGO PROVINCE
	VENUE:	GWINDINGWI HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	07 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	156 CHILDREN (78 GIRLS AND 78 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

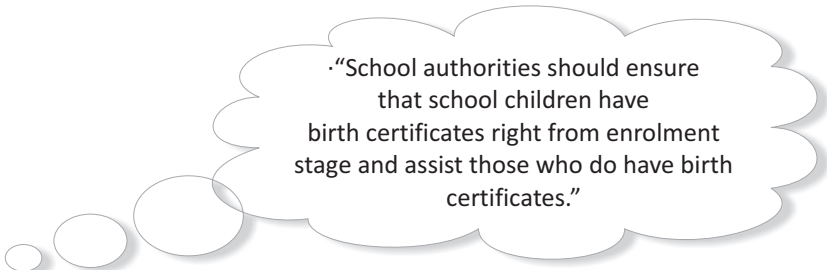
#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children are not allowed to register for Grade seven examinations without birth certificates.
- Children are failing to get Form 1 places and children are excluded from sporting activities because they do not have birth certificates.
- Registration fees are high and the offices are very far away from children's homes.

### Recommendations

- Birth certificates should be provided in hospitals soon after birth in order to counter the effects of having no birth certificates at a later stage.



“School authorities should ensure that school children have birth certificates right from enrolment stage and assist those who do have birth certificates.”

- Government should reduce registration fees and registration offices should be localized.

### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

#### Challenges

- There are children living within child headed families and they are poor.

#### Recommendations

- The government should help those children and they should be send to children's homes.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Girls are often ignored and neglected on issues affecting their families and are regarded to be only important to their husbands.
- Grouping of children in classes according to their performance is discriminatory.
- HIV and AIDS infected and affected children are denied access to schooling and health care and they often face discrimination at schools by other children.

#### Recommendations

- All children, whether boys or girls, should be treated equally.
- HIV and AIDS infected and affected children must also have equal opportunities.

### FOOD

#### Challenges

- A lot of children suffer during droughts.
- Rural farmers are not given agricultural inputs.
- At home children receive a small amount of food only because they are young.

#### Recommendations

- The government and NGOs should provide drought relief schemes in rural areas during drought.
- The government should provide rural farmers with agricultural inputs.
- Adults should give children enough food not to disadvantage children because of age.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There is lack of clean water sources hence people use unprotected water from rivers. There are poor blair toilets in rural areas.
- These combine to cause the spread of diseases.

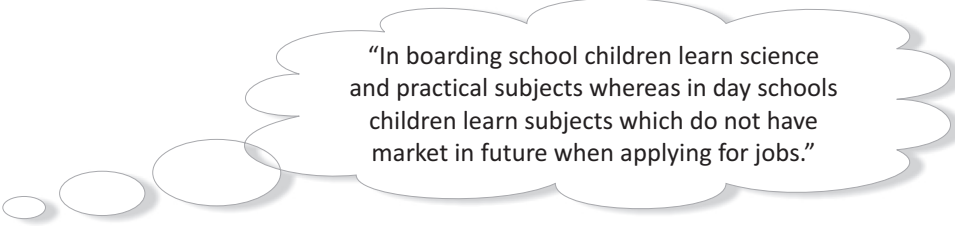
#### Recommendations

- Government must assist by drilling more boreholes, build and improve the standards of blair toilets in rural areas.
- ZINWA should not only cater for people in urban areas but it should also ensure the provision of clean and safe water in the rural areas.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children without school uniforms or fees and who come late are not allowed to enter the school gate. This denies them their right to education.
- Teachers' strikes are hampering children's education.
- Children walk very long distances to school.



"In boarding school children learn science and practical subjects whereas in day schools children learn subjects which do not have market in future when applying for jobs."

#### Recommendations

- A child has a right to education whether he/she is not wearing a school uniform.
- Science and practical subjects should be introduced in rural areas.
- The government must make it a law that every child goes to school at a subsidized fee up to grade 7 depending on location whether in a rural or urban area.
- The government should pay teachers reasonable salaries in order to avoid strikes.
- More schools, especially secondary schools, should be built in rural areas.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Corporal punishment is no longer done at the level correction and is now an abuse.
- Teachers are beating children on buttocks and its degrading.

#### Recommendations

- Corporal punishment must not be harmful to children.
- Beating school children is not the only solution, there should be an open door policy in schools where children would be able to share their problems with teachers.
- Corporal punishment should be made an offence in the constitution.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Adults are raping and forcing children to have sex with them especially those children with disabilities, who are very poor and who do not have parents.
- The practice of "chiramu" whereby the sister's husband plays with his wife's young sister often leads to sexual abuse and indecent assault.

#### Recommendations

- The perpetrators of sexual abuse should be given harsh conditions in jail.
- Adults should be educated on the importance of children's rights so that they would stay away from harmful cultural practices such as 'chiramu.'

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Sometimes orphans work in order to sustain themselves.
- Some children are child domestic workers and they are given peanuts.

#### Recommendations

- The government through the DSS must be in a position of assisting the OVCs where ever necessary.
- Those who employ children as domestic workers must understand their situations and give them payments which are commensurate to their labour.

### PROTECTION

#### Challenges

- When children report their matters to police they are ignored only because they are young.
- Children are vulnerable to school leavers who sit on corners and bridges.

#### Recommendations

- Children need maximum constitutional protection by having children's rights included in the new constitution.
- The government must assign police to get rid of the school leavers who sit on corners and bridges.

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2.18	DISTRICT:	GUTU DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASVINGO PROVINCE
	VENUE:	GUTU UNITED PRIMARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	8 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	242 CHILDREN (121 GIRLS AND 121 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children are facing difficulties in acquiring birth certificates because the registration offices are far away from their homes.
- Many children in Gutu do not have birth certificates and are being denied education.

##### Recommendations

- Children should be allowed to carry out registration process on their own. Hospitals should provide birth certificates soon after birth and registration offices should be close to people in rural areas.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Most parents are dying of HIV and AIDS and some are going to South Africa looking for greener pastures leaving very young children in charge of the families.

##### Recommendations

- Adults should be educated so that they would appreciate the effects of the HIV and AIDS pandemic such as making children orphans with some of these heading households.
- Parents should leave an adult in charge of children especially when going outside the country where they will stay for very long periods.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Discrimination is prevalent in schools where physically challenged children, children living with HIV and AIDS and the poor are the most affected groups.

#### Recommendations

- School authorities should provide guidance and counselling, create suggestion boxes and implement interaction clubs.
- It is necessary and ideal for every child to participate in matters that affect children.

### HEALTH

#### Challenges

- Young children are not being immunized.
- Cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea are the most dominant and prevalent diseases in the area. They mostly affect people with unprotected water sources, the poor people and those who are not educated.

#### Recommendations

- Little children should be immunized and there should be free medication for children.
- Children want to grow in a healthy, clean and safe environment with enough food and water.

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- They are homeless children living in Gutu and some are living in shelters unfit for children.

#### Recommendations

- Social services department, Churches and NGOs should commit themselves to protecting children and should build children's homes as well as ensuring that the homeless children are accommodated.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children are denied education only because they are from previous marriages.
- Children in rural areas walk long distances to school. Some end dropping from school.
- A combination of frequent strikes by teachers; shortage of qualified teachers; shortage of learning material and school uniforms; poor food in boarding schools; exorbitant fees; sending away of students for non-payment of schools fees by school authorities has resulted in the increase of school drop outs and the denial of children's fundamental right to access education.

#### Recommendations

- Parents must execute their parental responsibilities towards their children regardless of the fact that one is a natural parent or not.
- More schools should be constructed in rural areas so that they are reasonably spaced to allow children to walk to and from school.
- The government should shoulder its responsibility of paying teachers adequately in order to eliminate the occurrence of disruptive strikes.
- ZIMSEC should address the real problem of charging high examination fees.
- NGOs and the Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture should strive to provide children with stationery, uniforms and other needs.
- Children need good food, well cooked food in boarding schools and should be provided with free medication.
- The Government should introduce free and compulsory primary education in order to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education.
- The Government must also provide qualified teachers in rural areas.

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

#### **Challenges**

- Children, especially those not staying with their parents such as step children and school children, are subjected to corporal punishment.

#### **Recommendations**

- Adults should treat children fairly and corporal punishment should be abolished.
- School authorities should restrict excessive discipline by teachers.

### **CHILD ABUSE**

#### **Challenges**

- Sexual harassment and insults at schools by teachers and boys.
- Children are being raped and forced into early child marriages as a result of religious and customary practices. Child pledging is rampant in Gutu and children are being regarded as objects for wealth accumulation.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children should report sexual harassment and rape to police and School Development Committees.
- Those who marry under age children should be arrested.
- The law must provide for heavy punishment of the offenders.

### **CHILD LABOUR**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are subjected to child labour and exploitation.

#### **Recommendations**

- Those who employ child domestic workers or perpetrate any form of child labour should be arrested.

### **GOVERNANCE**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are not safe because of political violence during elections.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children should be protected from politics.

### **THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

#### **Challenges**

- Children are being left out in issues that affect them.

#### **Recommendations**

- Children must have the right to speak and express their opinions freely, and have freedom after speech.

### **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE**

#### **Challenges**

- Many children are engaging in drug and alcohol abuse.

#### **Recommendations**

- School authorities should provide guidance and counselling in schools so that children would stop drug and alcohol abuse.
- Adults must not sell or drink beer in the presence of children.

2.19	DISTRICT:	SHURUGWI DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MIDLANDS PROVINCE
	VENUE:	TONGOGARA HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	12 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	203 CHILDREN (104 GIRLS AND 99 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Some children do not have birth certificates because of various reasons. Some are orphans, others were born at home, while some have parents who do not have IDs and some do not know when the children were born.
- Those without birth certificates fail to acquire IDs and get jobs.

##### Recommendations

- The government, relatives, councilors and school heads should assist children to obtain birth certificates.
- COPAC should ensure that the right to birth registration is enshrined in the constitution.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Most OVCs are not going to school because they have no birth certificates.
- There are no programmes targeting OVCs in the community.

##### Recommendations

- Birth Registration offices must be set in rural areas and OVCs must be allowed to carry out the registration process alone.
- The Social Services Department, other government ministries and UNICEF must provide fees and homes for the children.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Disabled children are affected by discrimination.

##### Recommendations

- Guidance and counseling can help prevent discrimination among children.
- Government should set up schools which suit the disabled children.

#### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

##### Challenges

- Poor sanitation in schools and homes is adversely affecting children.

##### Recommendations

- Government must improve the standards of toilets in rural areas.
- Hygiene in school and at home must be emphasized.

#### EDUCATION

##### Challenges

- Parents cannot afford the high school fees.
- Children do not have uniforms and other school requirements like stationery.
- There are no adequate teaching and learning materials in the schools.
- Children walk long distances to and from schools.
- The teachers are demotivated due to poor working conditions.
- Most schools have unqualified teachers.
- OVCs are more affected by this state of affairs.



### Recommendations

- The government should ensure that all children enjoy their right to education by improving the education system. One way could be to build schools which are near to all residential areas.
- The government and donors such as UNICEF should assist especially the OVCs to enjoy their right to education.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are being beaten at school and home.
- Corporal punishment makes children even more vulnerable and be at the mercy of adults.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers and step parents should stop beating children.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Children are not being adequately protected from child abuse.
- Early child marriages are leading to girls dropping out of school.

#### Recommendations

- Children should be protected because they are a vulnerable group needing special treatment.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children are being given excessive manual work without time to rest.
- Orphans get exploited when they work for fees and food.
- Children are used as a source of cheap labour.

#### Recommendations

- Every child deserves to rest and must be given work that is commensurate with his or her age.
- For those children who work because they are in difficult circumstances, organisations such as UNICEF and MASO should give them fees and food.

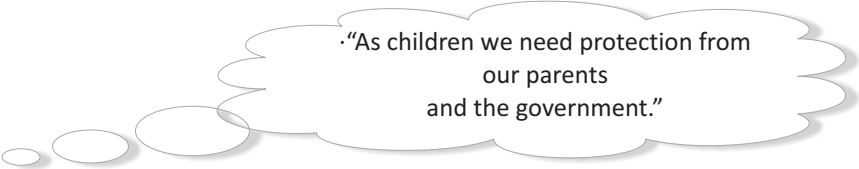
### PROTECTION

#### Challenges

- Some children are being abused by their step parents.

#### Recommendations

- Children must be free to choose guardians.



“As children we need protection from our parents and the government.”

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- Some children, especially orphans, have no accommodation.

#### Recommendations

- Government should build children's homes for those in need.

## DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS REPORTS

## GOVERNANCE

## Challenges

- Children are being affected by politics and political violence.
- There is no electricity in rural areas because funds are corruptly diverted by politicians.

## Recommendations

- Children must not be involved in political activities because they do not vote.
- Rural electrification must proceed and funds must not be diverted.

“Children's rights are human rights.”

**2.20**      **DISTRICT:**                      **GOKWE DISTRICT**  
**PROVINCE:**                      **MIDLANDS PROVINCE**  
**VENUE:**                              **NJELELE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**DATE:**                                **13 JULY 2010**  
**PARTICIPANTS:**    **167 CHILDREN (86 GIRLS AND 81 BOYS)**

**CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS****BIRTH REGISTRATION**

## Challenges

- Parents' reluctance, poverty and lack of knowledge on the importance of birth registration are the causes of non registration.
- Children without birth certificates are failing to write examinations.

## Recommendations

- The public must be educated on the importance of birth registration.
- Hospitals must issue birth certificates at the time of birth.
- Birth registration should be for free or where fees are paid they must be affordable.

**CHILD HEADED FAMILIES**

## Challenges

- Child headed families are rampant in Gokwe due to HIV and AIDS.

## Recommendations

- The social services department, relatives, members of the community, churches and NGOs who deal with children should commit themselves to protecting children within child headed households.
- Churches should help to uplift the plight of the children within child headed households.

**DISCRIMINATION**

## Challenges

- Children from rich families do not associate with those children from poor families.
- The disabled and albino children are often isolated and discriminated.

## Recommendations

“Guidance and counselling must be taken seriously and the government should provide schools which suit the disabled children or the existing schools should adequately provide for the disabled children.”

- School teachers should observe children as they play in order to identify victims of discrimination.
- School children should not be divided into classes according to their performances as this promotes separate development.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There are water borne and deficiency diseases and poor health standards in Gokwe.
- There is shortage of Blair toilets in the area and besides they are dilapidated.
- Young children are not being immunized.

#### Recommendations

- The government should provide health professionals.
- The government should provide clean and safe sources of water in Gokwe.
- Children must be given free health care, special care, treatment and protection.
- Government should prioritise immunization and the apostolic church members should be encouraged to immunize children.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children walk very long distances to schools which are very far away.
- There is shortage of furniture and stationery in schools.
- Children are affected by teachers' strikes.

#### Recommendations

- Each primary school must have its own secondary school.
- Government should build more schools in rural areas so that children will not walk long distances to school.
- Government should pay teachers in order to avoid teachers' strikes.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Corporal punishment is no longer a way of correcting a child but an abuse.
- Children are beaten or punished by teachers for coming late to school.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers must not beat children to the extent of hurting them.
- Children should follow school instructions and respect teachers.
- There must be an open door policy in schools where children would be free to discuss issues affecting them with their teachers and the creation of suggestion boxes so that children will be able to lodge complaints.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Rape is being perpetrated by very close relatives.
- There are adults who are raping children due to the false myth that this will cure them of their HIV status.
- The police sometimes do not treat the reported rape cases seriously.

#### Recommendations

- Children must report child abuse to the police.
- There must be introduction of stiffer and harsh punishments on the offenders.
- JCT should carry out awareness campaigns in Gokwe and educate the adults on children's rights in order to deter would-be abusers.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children work very hard in the morning before going to school.
- Children who stay with step parents are often used as puppets and do not have time to rest.

### Recommendations

- Children must be given work that is relevant to them.
- All children should be treated equally and they must be allowed to rest and have free time.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### Challenges

- Rural children do not have access to information.
- Children are not being informed about the law.
- Children do not have freedom in decision making.

#### Recommendations

- Newspapers should be distributed for free.
- Children must be free and involved in decision making.
- Children should be guaranteed freedom of speech and freedom after speech.

2.21	DISTRICT:	CHEGUTU DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE
	VENUE:	RIO TINTO HIGH SCHOOL
	DATE:	15 JULY 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	150 CHILDREN (64 GIRLS AND 76 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- Children whose parents are divorced or die when they are young face difficulties in acquiring birth certificates.

##### Recommendations

- No child should be born at home so that they can all be registered in hospitals after birth.
- Registration should be for free.
- Schools should ensure registration of all children.

#### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

##### Challenges

- Orphans are not being attended to by both the government and the communities they live in.
- They are prone to all sorts of diseases as they cannot afford health care.

##### Recommendations

- The community and government must take responsibility for children who live alone and without parents.
- Underprivileged children should be enrolled in schools through BEAM and other facilities.

#### DISCRIMINATION

##### Challenges

- Boys and girls are not being treated equally and fairly despite the fact that children are all equal.

##### Recommendations

- All children, be they boys or girls, deserve the same opportunities such as being sent to school.

#### HEALTH

##### Challenges

- Hospitals and clinics do not have enough staff, equipment and drugs to treat children.
- Some children are victims of their parents' religious beliefs which prohibit them from seeking medical treatment and poverty leading to many unfortunate deaths.

##### Recommendations

- Hospitals must be well resourced and offer treatment to children free of charge.
- Schemes to feed children should be introduced in schools to curb malnutrition.

### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There are no adequate sources of clean and safe water in the area.

#### Recommendations

- Boreholes should be sunk in all schools and at community centers.
- Clean water should be available in communities and in schools so that the spread of diseases such as cholera is reduced.

### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Teachers are constantly striking due to poor remuneration. This is leading to poor pass rate among children.
- Orphans fail to attend school because of high school fees.
- Some children end at primary level because of shortage of secondary schools.

#### Recommendations

- Teachers must be paid adequately so that they do not strike.
- Poor children must be assisted with school fees, uniforms and stationery.
- There must be transparency on the presidential scholarships which should benefit those who are underprivileged.
- The government must construct more well-resourced secondary schools so that children will not walk long distances to school.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

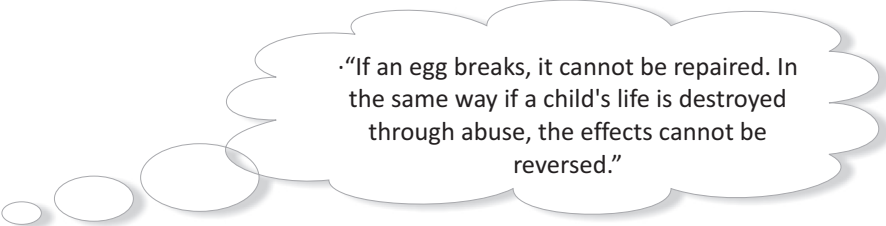
- Prefects in schools are beating students.
- Teachers are also beating children excessively.

#### Recommendations

- Prefects must not be allowed to beat children at school.
- Teachers should stop beating up children.
- The new constitution should abolish corporal punishment.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

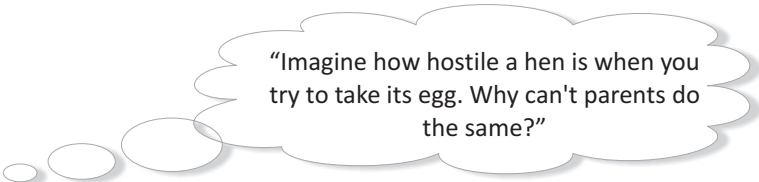


“If an egg breaks, it cannot be repaired. In the same way if a child's life is destroyed through abuse, the effects cannot be reversed.”

- Sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect are affecting children. Sexual abuse is resulting in children being infected with STIs and HIV.

#### Recommendations

- Tough sentences will curb abuse of children.



“Imagine how hostile a hen is when you try to take its egg. Why can't parents do the same?”

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Many children are being used by farm owners as cheap labour.
- The children are employed under harsh conditions with very little pay.

#### Recommendations

- There must be laws in place to protect children from child labour.
- There must be social security measures for children so that they do not fall victims to child labour in their search for survival.

### PARTICIPATION

#### Challenges

- Children are not being listened to when they raise their concerns.
- Children are not consulted when important decisions regarding their upkeep are made.

#### Recommendations

- A child is a person with rights to say out what he or she thinks.

### LEISURE AND REST

#### Challenges

- There are no recreational facilities for children. As a result children cannot enjoy their right to leisure and rest.
- At home, parents and guardians are not giving children enough time to rest and play.

#### Recommendations

- Every child deserves time to rest.
- Local authorities must establish sport and art centers for children to utilize.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Challenges

- Some children are very disrespectful and do not listen to their parents and guardians. Some do not attend lessons at school. This is resulting in children not enjoying all their rights.

#### Recommendations

- Children should be encouraged to be responsible and should be taught their responsibilities.

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2.22.	DISTRICT:	KARIBA DISTRICT
	PROVINCE:	MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE
	VENUE:	ST MICHAELS SECONDARY SCHOOL
	DATE:	07 OCTOBER 2010
	PARTICIPANTS:	183 CHILDREN (105 GIRLS AND 78 BOYS)

### CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIRTH REGISTRATION

##### Challenges

- The fees charged at the Registrar General's office are high and beyond the reach of many parents. This has affected children in sporting activities where they cannot participate without birth certificates.

##### Recommendations

- Birth certificates should be for free.
- The fees charged at the Registrar General's office should be reduced.

### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

#### Challenges

- Children in these families are not going to school as they cannot afford to pay school fees.

#### Recommendations

- The community should assist these children.
- The government should provide free education to these children.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Children in the rural areas are discriminated against and left out as they do not study computers like those in the urban areas.
- Physically challenged children are discriminated against by being placed in separate schools.

#### Recommendations

- Subjects done in schools should be similar for all children whether in the rural areas or urban areas.
- All schools should be built in a way to accommodate the physically challenged children rather than building separate schools for these children.

### SHORTAGE OF FOOD

#### Challenges

- Children are walking long distances to school and would want food at school.

#### Recommendations

- The government should provide food for children in primary schools for free.

### HEALTH AND WATER

#### Challenges

- The hospitals are located far away with no professionals like doctors.
- The hospitals and clinics do not have all the drugs.
- The fees paid at the hospitals are beyond the reach of many.
- Kariba is in the region with high temperatures and there is shortage of clean water. Children are using untreated water from unprotected water sources.

#### Recommendations

- The government should build more hospitals and clinics.
- Medication should be for free.

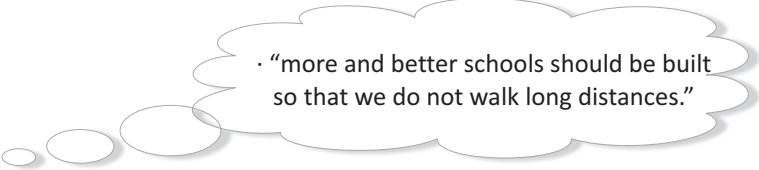
### EDUCATION

#### Challenges

- Children in the rural areas are not doing computers and other science subjects.
- Textbooks are inadequate in the rural schools.
- Children are walking more than 8km to school.
- The roads have no bridges and during the rainy season children find it difficult to cross and sometimes fail to go to school.
- Children are sitting on the floor at school and during the winter season the cold is unbearable for children.
- Shortage of teachers.

#### Recommendations

- All children whether in the rural areas or in towns should be able to do all subjects provided for by the Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture.
- The government should provide textbooks and better furniture in schools.



· “more and better schools should be built so that we do not walk long distances.”

- The government should pay teachers so that they will not resign and recruit more teachers.

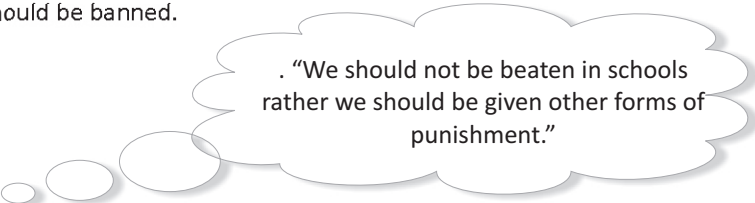
### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### Challenges

- Children are beaten at schools and home.

#### Recommendations

- Corporal punishment should be banned.



. "We should not be beaten in schools rather we should be given other forms of punishment."

- Parents should only beat children for a serious cause.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- Children are sexually abused by teachers and relatives.

#### Recommendations

- Harsher sentences should be passed on perpetrators.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Children spend most of their time working if they are not at school. They do not have time to rest and play. This affects children in the rural areas more.
- Parents do not even consider the age of the child before giving them work.

#### Recommendations

- Children should be given enough time to play and not work all the time.
- Children should not be made to work before going to school in the morning because they will be tired in class and will not concentrate.
- Children should be given work taking into account their age.
- Child labour should be criminalized.

### PROTECTION

#### Challenges

- Kariba is infested with animals such that children do not move around early in the morning or at sunset for fear of being attacked.

#### Recommendations

- Dangerous animals should be locked up in reserves and game parks where children will not be attacked.

### SHELTER

#### Challenges

- The houses children are living in are not safe and do not provide adequate protection from wildlife.

#### Recommendations

- The government should build more decent accommodation for children which protect them from the dangers of wildlife



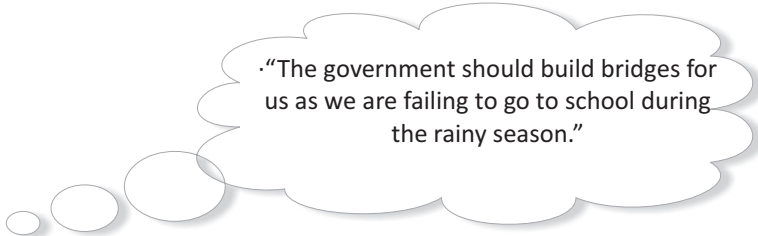
### TRANSPORT

#### Challenges

- The roads are bad as a result there are transport problems.

#### Recommendations

- The roads should be reconstructed so that buses will be able to use the roads and children will use them for free to go to school.
- Bridges should be reconstructed so that children will not have problems crossing rivers going to school



“The government should build bridges for us as we are failing to go to school during the rainy season.”

This was attended by children from all the 63 administrative districts in Zimbabwe. It was held at the Africa Unity Square and Parliament of Zimbabwe on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2010.

## CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### BIRTH REGISTRATION

#### Challenges

- There are too many children without birth certificates.

#### Recommendations

- Right to nationality and identity for every child should be guaranteed in the constitution.
- Every child should be registered at birth.
- Fees charged to get a birth certificate should allow every family to afford registering their children.

### CHILD HEADED FAMILIES

#### Challenges

- There are many child headed families emerging due to HIV and AIDS.
- OVCs are being neglected.
- There are no strong and functional social security measures in place for children living on their own.

#### Recommendations

- Every effort should be made for children to know their parents and stay with them.
- The state should take the responsibility of looking after abandoned children.
- Child led families must have the right to special assistance from the state.
- Government must have social security measures in place for all children.

### DISCRIMINATION

#### Challenges

- Children are not being given equal opportunities.
- There is gender inequality between boys and girls and they are being treated differently.
- Children's views are ignored as if what they say cannot assist in any way. They are denied participation.

#### Recommendations

- All children must be given equal opportunities and fair treatment.
- There must be gender balance between boys and girls and admission at universities must be based on the same terms and conditions.
- Disabled children should be involved in sports and social activities and should never be discriminated for any reason.
- The right to be heard and to social participation should be respected and enforced.

### FOOD

#### Challenges

- Many children suffer from malnutrition and starvation especially during times of drought.

#### Recommendations

- Parents and adults must be sensitised on giving balanced diets and nutritious foods to their children.
- Government should help children with nutritious foods through supplementary food distribution schemes.

### HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

#### Challenges

- There is unavailability of clean and safe water and proper sanitation in many communities especially in the rural areas.
- Children are not receiving medication when sick due to lack of financial resources and some religious sects which stop children from getting medical attention.
- Drugs and medical equipment especially in rural hospitals and clinics are in short supply.

## Recommendations

- Schools should have clean water sources and boreholes should be sunk. Every house must have a clean water source and a toilet so that there is no spread of diseases such as cholera and diarrhea.
- Medication for children must be free and immunisation should be compulsory.
- ARVs should be available for free and there should be health education programmes in communities.
- Proper toilets in all schools must be constructed.

## SHELTER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Challenges

- There are accommodation shortages especially in the urban high density areas.
- Environmental degradation is high resulting in unsafe and hazardous environments for children.
- Many children are living in unclean and unsafe environments, polluted and posing risks of diseases.

### Recommendations

- Right to shelter and decent housing must be prioritised in the new constitution.
- Children's homes must be built for children with nowhere to live.
- There should be a policy on prevention of pollution to safeguard the cleanliness of the environments children live in.
- Land should be redistributed equally so that all families may have a place to stay.

## EDUCATION

### Challenges

- Children are not accessing quality education.

### Recommendations

- Computers must be available in schools so that children learn Information and Communication Technology and every school must have a fully equipped library.
- Life skills education in all schools should be an important component of the curriculum.
- Primary education should be free and school fees and levies should be affordable and no child should be sent home from school because they have not paid school fees.
- Affordable examination fees and due dates that can be met should be set.
- Schools should be built for disabled people with all the facilities they need.
- Rural areas need more schools especially secondary schools so that children will not walk long distances to school.
- Teachers' salaries must be increased so that children do not become victims of frequent strikes.
- Children should be taught about their rights in schools.
- The education system must develop the talents of children in various fields as their right.

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

### Challenges

- Teachers are now physically abusing children in schools in the name of corporal punishment. Laws governing corporal punishment in the country are not being adhered to.
- Many children suffer physical harm and emotional stress with serious consequences after being beaten.

### Recommendations

- No child should be beaten at school and the constitution should make beating children a criminal offence.
- Parents should find other ways of disciplining their children not through beating and inflicting pain on them.

### CHILD ABUSE

#### Challenges

- The law is not fully protecting children.
- Cases of rape are now on the rise and boys are also being affected through sodomy.
- Children are abusing their colleagues at school and at home through bullying.

#### Recommendations

- The right to justice must be guaranteed for abused children. The law must protect all children.
- There should be a zero tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse where child abusers are given life sentences and rapists the death penalty.
- Government must monitor the implementation of children's rights in the country.  
A section with all children's rights must be included in the new constitution.

### CHILD LABOUR

#### Challenges

- Many children are being forced into economic activities by their guardians to supplement their families' incomes and most of the children no longer attend school.
- Some business owners especially in factories, farms and mines are employing children to work for them under harsh and unsafe conditions.

#### Recommendations

- Zero tolerance to child labour.
- Adults should be arrested when they employ minors to work for them.

### GOVERNANCE AND FREEDOMS

#### Challenges

- Children are being negatively affected by political activities in their communities especially when elections are being held. Some end up stopping to go to school during those periods.
- There is no respect of children's human rights.

#### Recommendations

- Politics must not interfere with the rights of children.
- Children must not be affected by political violence.
- Children should have the right to freedom of speech and freedom after speech.
- Children should be given the freedom to choose the religion to follow.
- Economic empowerment must also target children.

### LEISURE, REST AND RECREATION

#### Challenges

- Children are being denied the right to leisure and recreation. It is considered by many adults a worst of resources and valuable working time. This in turn is denying children the chance to grow and develop in a normal way.

#### Recommendations

- The right to play and to entertainment should be enforced so that parents comply.
- Parents and guardians should be educated on the importance of allowing children to rest, play and be creative.
- Every community should have a safe children's play centre. Parents and guardians must give their children time to play and rest at home as it is their right.

## LIST OF DISTRICT CHILD REPRESENTATIVES

## APPENDIX 1:

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	NAME OF CHILD REPRESENTATIVE
Harare	Warren Park	Batsirai Rushwaya
Harare	Warren Park	Ruvarashe W. L. Miti
Harare	Chitungwiza	Clotildah Manhunze
Mashonaland East	Mutoko	Tendai Gadzayi
Mashonaland East	Mudzi	Gareth Muringwa
Mashonaland Central	Bindura	Vimbai Mujegu
Mashonaland Central	Bindura	Leigh-Annie Chipadze
Mashonaland Central	Rushinga	Sharmaine Paswera
Mashonaland West	Mhondoro	Criswell Marupu
Mashonaland West	Kariba	Charity Chamboko and Cephas Moyo
Bulawayo	Khami	Thando Moyo
Bulawayo	Mzilikazi	Dean Tichaona Machingambi
Matebeleland South	Umzingwane	Tendai Madzivanyika
Matebeleland South	Mangwe	Mandy Ncube
Matebeleland North	Nkayi	Sifanisile Dhlomo
Matebeleland North	Nkayi	Xolani Thsabalala
Matebeleland North	Lupane	Sibonele Tshuma
Matebeleland North	Lupane	Mlotshwa Zine
Manicaland	Chipingwe	Blessing Komozana
Manicaland	Mutasa	Blessing Sapuranga
Midlands	Shurugwi	Thelma Panganayi
Midlands	Gokwe	Tadiwanashe Chirumbi
Masvingo	Gutu	Simbarashe Chidukwa
Masvingo	Bikita	Tafara T. Manyande

## LIST OF SCHOOLS

## APPENDIX 2:

VENUE	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	SCHOOLS ATTENDING
1. Warren Park 5 Primary school	Warren Park	Harare	Warren Park 5 Primary, Westlea Primary, Warren Park 4 Primary, Warren Park 6 Primary, Warren Park 2 Primary, Warren Park 3 Primary and Warren Park High.
2. Seke High 1	Chitungwiza	Harare	Seke 1 High, Zengeza 1 High, Seke 6 High, Tasimukira Primary, St Mary's High, Seke 4 High, Seke 11 Primary, Seke 3 High, Zengeza 4 Primary, Pfumo Primary, Vimbai Primary, Chinembiri Primary, Zengeza 3 High, Seke 5 High, Fungisai Primary, Mber Primary, Dudzai Primary, Tamuka Primary, Zengeza 8 Primary, Zengeza 4 High, Dungwiza Primary, Chaminuka Primary, Budirira Primary, Farai Primary, Ndangariro Primary, Zengeza 7 Primary, Zengeza Main Primary, Seke 2 High, Seke 7 Primary
3. Chipfiko Primary School	Mutoko	Mashonaland East	Mushimbo Primary, Rukau Secondary, Mushimbo Secondary, Kaunye Primary, Chipfiko Primary, Rukau Primary and Kaunye Secondary
4. Nyamakoko Primary School	Mudzi	Mashonaland East	Nyamakuyo Primary, Nyamuwanga Primary, Madzivanhanga Primary, Kotwa High, Chimukoko Secondary, Masarakufa Secondary and Koudo High.
5. Nyava Secondary School	Bindura rural	Mashonaland Central	Nyava Secondary, Nyava Primary, Muchapondwa Primary, Musana Primary, Rutope Secondary, Mupandira Primary and Chindotwe Primary.
6. Marymount High School	Rushinga	Mashonaland Central	Marymount Primary and Secondary, Nyamanyanya Secondary and Primary, Chiromba Primary and Bopoma Primary.
7. Rio Tinto High	Mubaira-Chegutu	Mashonaland West	Rio Tinto High, Mashayamombe Primary, Nyangweni Primary, Guvamombe Primary, St Gabriel

8. Rio Tinto High	Mubaira - Chegutu	Mashonaland West	Rio Tinto High, Mashayamombe Primary, Nyangweni Primary, Gu vamombe Primary, St Gabriel Nyundo Primary, Goroni Primary, St Andrew's Chipashu Primary, Neuso Secondary and Junction Adventist Secondary.
9. St Michaels Secondary School	Kariba	Mashonaland West	St Michaels Secondary, Nebiri Primary and Siakobvu Primary
10. Mazwi Primary School	Khami	Bulawayo	Amhlope Primary, Amaswazi Primary, Bambaneni Primary, St Bernard Primary, St Bernard Secondary, Mazwi Primary, Fusi Primary, Malindela High, Inyanda Secondary and Pumula High
11. Sigombe Primary School	Mzilikazi	Bulawayo	Que en Elizabeth Primary, Mabhukudwana Primary, Mqoqo Primary, Amavene Primary, Mafela Primary, Sigombe Primary, Mgombane Primary, Mtshane Primary and Mandwandwe Secondary
12. Gomoza Primary school	Lupane	Matebeleland North	Sibambene Secondary School and Gomoza Primary School
13. Dandanda Primary school	Lupane	Matebeleland North	Dandanda Primary School and Gogo High School
14. Nkayi High School	Nkayi	Matebeleland North	Nkayi High, Hlangabeza High, Nkayi Primary, Mathendele Primary and Dimbamiwa Primary.
15. Nesigwe Primary school		Matebeleland North	Nesigwe Secondary and Nesigwe primary, Amazwimabili Primary, Mtshabi Primary and Mtshabi Secondary.
16. Bulu High School	Mangwe	Matebeleland South	Bulu High, Patse Primary, Kweneng Primary and Bulu Primary
17. Umzingwane High School	Umzingwane	Matebeleland South	Mvuthu High, Sikhoveni Primary, Sikhoveni Secondary, Swazi High, Esigodini Primary, Umzingwane High, Carlisle Primary and Matshetshe Primary.
18. Tongogara High School	Shurugwi	Midlands	Tongogara High, Matamba Primary Masavezi Primary, Poshanyi Primary, Mvedzenge Primary, Chivakawenyandanga Secondary and

## LIST OF SCHOOLS

## APPENDIX 2:

19. Njelele High School	Gokwe	Midlands	Gwehava Primary, CZM Primary, Bova Primary, Gokwe Primary, Cheziya High and Njelele High
20. Gwindingwi high school	Bikita	Masvingo	Chirunda High, Gwindingwi High, Jaravaza Primary, Gumunyu Primary, Mutarara Primary, Mukotore Primary, Chikukutu Primary, Mupakwa Primary and Secondary, Muvati Primary, Duma Primary.
21. Gutu United Primary School	Gutu	Masvingo	Gutu CPS, Makumbe Primary and Secondary, Chipanganpo Primary, Chamisa Primary, Mupandawana High, Mukoroverwa Primary, Gutu United Primary, Gona Primary, Maregedza Primary, Hamandishe Primary, Hwiru Primary, Gutu Hig, Gwira Secondary, Tungamirai High, Gadzingo Secondary, Mbamba Primary





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