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CAMPAIGNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
1992 - 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

2021





Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

2021 Annual Report

About ZimRights

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) is an indigenous non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered under the Private Voluntary Organisation Act. It was formed in 1992 and registered in 1993 for the sole purpose of insuring that Zimbabweans are ensured of their rights as citizens and are equipped and empowered with the knowledge to defend rights.

Our Vision

We envision ourselves leading in developing and sustaining a culture of Human Rights in Zimbabwe

Mission Statement

We pursue our vision through the use of grassroots based approach in promoting, protecting and defending Human Rights in Zimbabwe through education, information, legal aid and litigation, counselling, lobbying, advocacy and litigation

Our Core Values

In the execution of our mandate, we are guided by the following core values

- Respect for human dignity**
- Sensitivity for gender and marginalized groups**
- Transparency and Accountability**
- Impartiality and team work**
- Non alignment to political parties**
- Confidentiality and integrity**
- Commitment and dedication**

National Council Members



Takesure Musiiwa

National Chairperson



Themba Chivheya

Vice National
Chairperson



Sarah Njanji

National Council
Member



Mildred Muzanechita

National Council
Member



Sithengisiwe Kalenge

National Council
Member



Nyadzisai Mutyandaedza

National Council
Member



Janet Kanaveti
National Treasurer



Lydia Maphosa
National Council
Member



**Armstrong
Magavhani**
National Council
Member



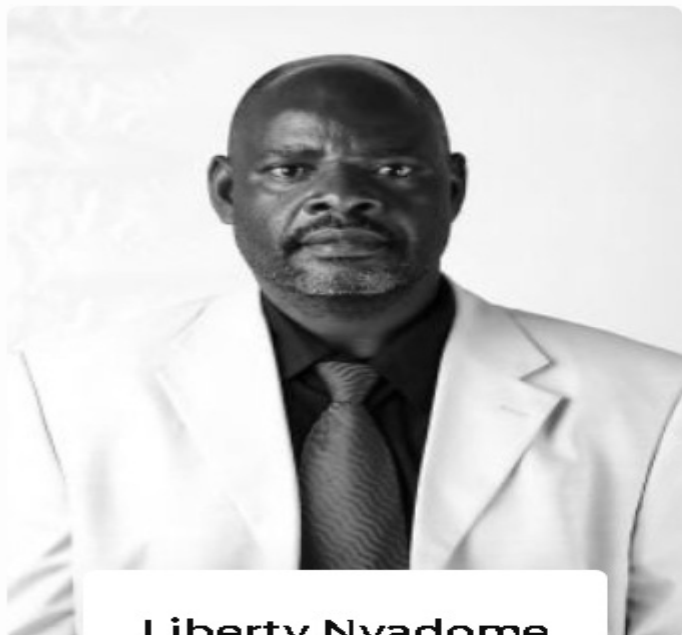
Ishmael Mkandla
National Council
Member



Joel Hita
Masvingo Chairperson



**Isaac
Chabonyonga**
Mashonaland West
Chairperson



Liberty Nyadome

Mashonaland East
Chairperson



Kelvin Nzimba

Mashonaland Central
Chairperson



Lagos Maphosa

Matebeleland South
Chairperson



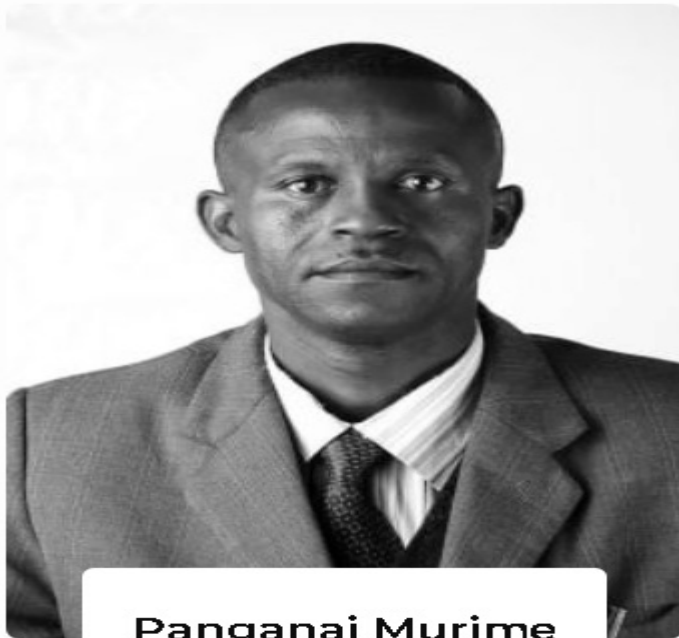
Jabulani Sibanda

Matebeleland North
Chairperson



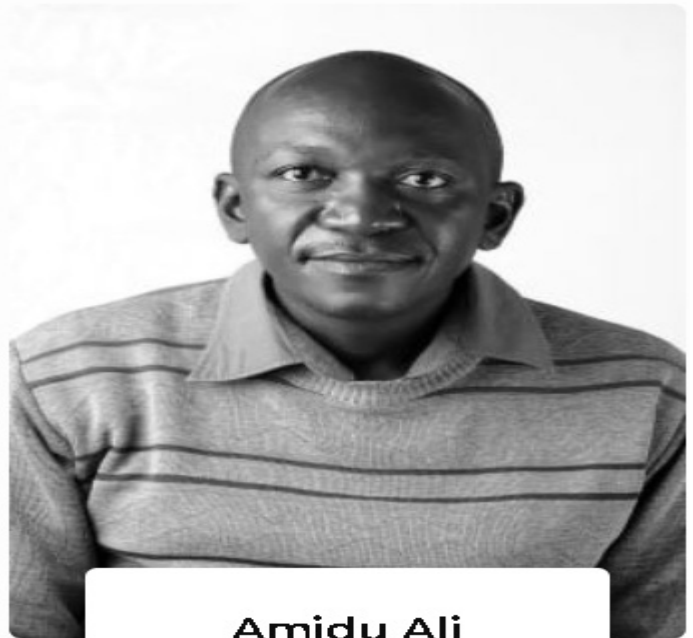
**Martin
Bongozozo**

Midlands Chairperson



Panganai Murime

Manicaland
Chairperson



Amidu Ali

Chitungwiza
Chairperson



**Takawira
Mashingaidze**

Harare Chairperson



Musa Moyo

Bulawayo Chairperson



Dzikamai Bere

National Director

National Chairperson's Message

As we wrap up 2021 we appreciate the efforts of our stakeholders in making sure that ZimRights maintains its course to promote, protect and defend human rights.

2021 was yet again another difficult year characterized by the use of state security agents to suppress dissent, weaponization of the law, politicization of aid and farming inputs, interference in the affairs of the judiciary and state-party conflation which was widespread throughout the year.

Government failed to take meaningful steps to uphold human rights and ensure justice for serious abuses primarily committed by security forces in 2021.

ZimRights calls on government to expeditiously act against the use of violence and torture by its agents, institute transitional justice mechanisms to address the historical injustices and insists on professional, disciplined conduct by the security forces.

An independent complaints mechanism provided for in the Constitution should urgently be established and we are grateful that public hearings for the Independent Complaints Commission were carried out in 2021. We look forward to the establishment of this mechanism, which we believe will be an important instrument to reduce human rights violations and accountability among security forces.

Corruption was prevalent in Zimbabwe and viciously damaged the country and its economy, thereby entrenching poverty in communities. The economic situation of Zimbabwe continued to be dire for many people. Economic participation remained largely exclusionary with the majority of Zimbabweans struggling to eke a living. Inflation continued to soar and the government failed to put support systems in place to bail the vulnerable in the communities. The revelation of corrupt tendencies by the elite and those close to government worsened the already bad situation. 2021 saw many families struggling and salaries remained subdued.

ZimRights carried updates on the human Rights situation in the country, highlighted the plight of Human Rights defenders around the country as well as promoted campaigns on vaccination transparency, registering to vote, the access to documentation and



forced evictions.

Other Human rights concerns in 2021 included a severe water and sanitation crisis in most urban areas, exacerbated by Covid-19 pandemic and increased need for running water and child marriages. Representative democracy also remained under threat with 28 vacancies in the House of Assembly and 105 local council seats as elections remained postponed. Most of the vacant seats were as a result of recalls by a faction of the MDC-T.

ZimRights also remained bothered by the growing trend of forced evictions. Several Indigenous communities faced evictions to make way for mining and commercial farming projects in 2021.

On February 26, 2021, the local government, urban and rural development minister, July Moyo, published a legal notice ordering thousands of people to either acquire fresh rights of use or occupation or immediately vacate approximately 12,940 hectares of Chilonga communal land in Chiredzi, south-eastern Zimbabwe.

The legal notice, Statutory Instrument 50 of 2021, which the government later replaced, said the land was being set aside for lucerne grass farming.

Other indigenous communities threatened with eviction during the year included the Dinde community in Hwange as well as communities in Mutoko, Manhize, Chipinge and Chivhu. Those behind the threat to evictions were political elites or entities linked to the government.

However, ZimRights still remains hopeful that a human rights centred government system is still possible. ZimRights remains committed to working with government and providing alternative solutions to ensure a human rights centred governance system.

We thank our stakeholders, and most importantly our vibrant membership, funding partners and the government for the support and collaboration in 2021. Our work was successful because of your support and we remain greatly indebted.

We look forward to a better 2022.

Message from the National Director



Dzikamai Bere

National Director

It is almost 2 years since we have been forced to find new ways of working as civil society due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It never gets better, but we get better at mastering the new ways. This is why as we close the 2021 year, we must reflect on what we can learn from the last two years of fighting for human rights in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As this annual report will show, we did not allow the pandemic to slow us down. The key highlights of our human rights work have been collaboration with various government departments to get urgent help to the most vulnerable. We have continued our work under the COVID-19 response strategy. We have reached out to assist persons in places of detention, health care workers working marginalised communities as well as centres of learning that were affected by the pandemic.

Our Youth Zone reached out to over 2000 young human rights champions through monthly human rights dialogues, youth clubs and our internship programme. High Schools hosting youth clubs used to complain about substance abuse but have witnessed a dramatic change as more young people are finding purpose through the youth clubs.

Our Open Up campaign empowered 330 women as community champions. It supported the rise to leadership of women in 4 provinces where women made

history by becoming Chairpersons while the Matebeleland Chairperson because the youngest National Council member in the history of ZimRights.

Our Community Justice Programme which worked with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission assisted over 80 champions to connect their communities with national human rights institutions leading to an increase in the number of cases reported and addressed by the duty bearers.

Despite the many challenges, we have remained very present in our communities, ensuring that citizens are not only aware of their rights but that they are champions of those rights.

As we enter 2022, we mark a moment of growth in history. Our association turns 30 years. We wish to mark this milestone by getting back to the membership and harnessing community wisdom for civic engagement. As you go through this annual report, feel free to share with us your thoughts and suggestions on how we can celebrate our 30 years of grassroots organising.

Thank you all for being part of our 2021 impact.

Overview of the Human Rights Situation in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's human rights record and governance has remained poor and of concern. While 2021 presented an opportunity to address human rights violations that had been exacerbated by the implementation of strict lockdown measures to contain the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Zimbabwe missed again the opportunity to right the wrongs and abuses are continuing into the present.

The progressive Constitution that we touted in 2013 and guarantees a full list of rights, still has not been fully implemented and some laws still being used which violate this supreme law.

In February 2021, the UK slapped sanctions on four Zimbabwean security chiefs that it said were responsible for some of the worst human rights violations including the then Minister of State Owen Ncube and Police Chief Godwin Matanga, clear reflection that our human rights record is still of concern. The United States, United Kingdom, and European Union also renewed the targeted sanctions.

The year 2021 was characterized by a new appetite by the government to use repressive laws to curtail the freedoms of its citizens and manipulate the work of Civil Society Organisations. The proposed Patriotic Act that seeks to punish citizens that hold discussions with foreign governments still hangs over the heads of citizens. The Private Voluntary Organisation Amendment Bill gazetted on the 5th of November 2021 seeks to give government control on the operations of NGOs. The PVO bill which, if voted into law, will see the narrowing of civic and democratic space in Zimbabwe. ZimRights commissioned a research on the issue and produced a detailed research paper. Some of the concerns arising from the Bill are that the Minister is given too much power to label any PVO as "high risk" or "vulnerable to" misuse for terrorism funding and impose measures against them and the Bill forces PVOs to reveal to the Minister any funding that comes from outside of Zimbabwe.

The threat to NGOs in 2021 was also amplified when on the 21st of June 2021, the Provincial Development Coordinator for Masvingo Province advised all CSOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) programming on youth issues to register with his office so as to be cleared and granted Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.

On the 30th of June 2021, the Harare Metropolitan

Provincial Development Coordinator issued a letter advising all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to register with the Provincial Development Coordinator, submit workplans and have their projects commissioned by 9 July 2021. On the 5th of November 2021, Parliament gazetted the PVO Act Bill.

The Constitutional Amendment Number 2 Bill was published as an Act on May 7 2021. The amendment to the Constitution, among other things, grants the president greater powers in appointing judges, diluting judicial independence and expanding the power of the Executive. This threatens the independence of various arms of government.

The Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill, signed into law by the President on the 3rd of December 2021 is variable with constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of expression and citizens right to access information. The Cybercrime Bill also violates the right to privacy enshrined under 57 of the Constitution.

Crackdown on opposition and civil society through legal system continued in 2021. Authorities between 8-11 Jan 2021 arrested journalist Hopewell Chin'ono and two senior officials of Nelson Chamisa-led faction of main opposition party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-A), Job Sikhala and Fadzayi Mahere, on charges of "publishing or communicating statements prejudicial to the state" which carry maximum of 20 years' imprisonment; in messages posted online, all three had accused police officer of killing baby in capital Harare. Opposition and pro-democracy campaigner, Makomborero Haruzivishe was arrested on 18 February 2021. State security agents who allegedly threatened to shoot Haruzivishe arrested him at gunpoint.

Human rights violations were rife, with ZimRights recording more than 120 human rights violations.

Forced evictions topped ZimRights' 2021 human rights violation cases. The community of Dinde in northern Zimbabwe is at pains to halt a coal-mining project on ancestral land that is being explored by Chinese company Beifa investments. Thousands in Chilonga, Chiredzi were also threatened with displacements to pave way for a grass-farming project. Almost 6000 people from Chimamukwakwa Communal lands were under threat of eviction from Green Fuel. Green Fuel is owned by Green Fuel investment headed by Zanu PF sympathiser and President Emmerson Mnangagwa's friend Billy Rautenbach. The threats stretched to Manhize and Mutoko

in Mahonaland East where the mining of iron ore and granite mining respectively is being prioritized over indigenous communities. Thousands of villagers were also under threat of eviction in Hwicho, from the Gutu Rural District Council which sought to allocate the area for urban residential stands.

The Sentry report which exposed the deep-seated corruption involving cartels linked to the government, in particular Kudakwashe Tagwirei who allegedly used connections with government leaders and central bank officials to gain access to hard currency and shield assets compounded by the failure to punish those who misuse public funds contributed to citizens lack of trust with government calls to fight and end corruption.

Incomes remained depressed, inflation spiralled and the costs of goods and services were beyond the reach of many. Demolitions made the situation worse as sources of livelihoods were destroyed including in Mbare and Glenview 8 home Industries.

Membership

ZimRights depends on a vibrant membership to achieve its vision of developing and sustaining a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe, hence the importance attached to membership.

In 2021, membership engagement focused on recruitment of new membership, revival of old members, engagement of current members and retention of all members.

The membership coordination Office therefore was engaged with growing the movement and ensuring seamless communications with its revered membership.

Our membership grew to 261780 In 2021 from 257 831 in 2020.

PROGRAMMES UPDATES

International Advocacy

ZimRights collaborated with the International Commission of Jurists ICJ and wrote a letter to the Chairperson of the African's Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calling on him to address Zimbabwe's failure to meet its obligations to protect the rights of life and health of its population in respect of its COVID-19 vaccine policies. The government responded by unveiling a vaccine rollout plan on the 16th of February 2021

Local Advocacy

For ZimRights, local advocacy ensures that all people in society are able to have their voices heard on issues of human rights and in 2021 ZimRights embarked on different advocacy initiatives to protect and promote the rights of our members and citizens at large.

The #SaveChilongaCampain (Chiredzi) campaign was conducted in March 2021. The campaign was in collaboration with organisations such as Citizen Manifesto, MACRAD, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, CNRG, WILSA, ZIMCodd and ZPP and reached over 100 000 people through our social media pages. The coalition was able to organise a fact-finding mission to Chilonga and subsequently issued a press statement, which directed the government of Zimbabwe to stop the evictions of Chilonga people. As a result of pressure from the coalition the government of Zimbabwe was forced to rescind its decision and immediately issue Statutory Instrument (SI) 72A of 2021 (Communal land (Setting aside of Land) (Chiredzi) Notice, 2021, which repealed SI50 of 2021. This was a welcome development for the people of Chilonga. However, the coalition will continue lobbying the government to completely withdraw SI 51 of 2021 and that the government of Zimbabwe amends SI 72A of 2021 by removing the clause which continues to set aside the Chilonga land for the purported grass-growing project.

ZimRights initiated the building of a coalition committed to protecting, promoting and defending the constitution. Working with Zimbabwe Peace Project, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and We Lead, the #ResistDictatorship Constitution Rally held on the 6th of May 2021 facilitated a rare citizen

convergence, with citizens vowing to fighting the politicians who put their hands on the sacred Charter. During the rally a petition was launched against the amendments to the constitution, inviting the thousands of delegates who were following the conversation to plug-in and resist the amendments. The petition called for the President Emmerson Mnangagwa not to sign the bill into law; the Chief Justice to honor the Constitution and vacate office on the 15th of May 2021 and the Parliament to repent from its misguided bill. The petition immediately garnered over 2000 signatures in the first hour as delegates made it viral.

On 1 July 2021, a US Based group, the Sentry published a report "Shadows and Shell Games: Uncovering an Offshore Business Empire" which exposed potentially corrupt practices by Kudakwashe Tagwirei a close government ally. Following the release of the report, which showed grand corruption, ZimRights co-hosted a family dialogue show with ZIMCodd and provided a platform for the citizens to discuss the Sentry Report that exposed the corruption cartels in Zimbabwe and impact. Over 300 People attended the Zoom session while hundreds more followed the online conversations with citizens calling on government to fulfil it's commitment to fight corruption

In Mola, Kariba ZimRights members and 1000 other villagers took the Zambezi Water Authority, Nyaminyami Rural District Council, National Assembly Member for Kariba John Roland Houghton, Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) and the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority Holdings Limited, the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Minister of Energy and Power development, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage and the Attorney General to court for contributing to the underdevelopment of Mola.

In Mudzi ZimRights members and 21 villagers reported Chief Goronga and Chief Mukota for abusing their traditional powers.

ZimRights engaged the Gutu Rural District Council to stop its planed eviction of the 400 Hwicho Village households from their ancestral land. The council acknowledged and committed in writing that they were not going to proceed with evictions.

Access to documentation-ZimRights, concerned with the poor access to National Registration documents in the country by citizens drafted a press statement calling on the government to uphold the access to documentation as a key human right upon which the enjoyment of other human rights is based. Thousands of Zimbabweans had challenges in accessing the documents, more specifically high school candidates who were supposed to register for their terminal examinations and the National Identity card is a requirement. The Director of Advocacy and Communication in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education later said that exam candidates could register for their exams without ID cards. However ZimRights continues to advocate for access to national documents.

The Hashtag #BeTheChampion4Rights campaign continued in 2021, seeking to create a resilient and sustainable mass movement for human rights in Zimbabwe, able to defend human rights in Zimbabwe. ZimRights realizes that a sustainable human rights agenda needs to transcend a single political party, organisation or activity like an election process or constitution making. It needs to build resilient structures and pillars for democratic participation as a way of life – and this defines the #BeTheChampion4Rights Campaign. To achieve that, the programme built a critical mass, enhancing community organizing and promoting dialogue and engagement skill among the grassroots communities. It created and equipped community structures and pillars so that democratic participation becomes a way of life. Should it happen that the Civil Society Organisation find themselves banned, the #BeTheChampion4Rights campaign would have already activated the communities to self organise and push back against any impending violation

PVO Bill Campaign

This is based on the Private Voluntary Organisation Bill, which was gazetted on 5 November 2021. In earlier pronouncements before Parliament, the President had said a proposed PVO Amendment Bill will be gazetted, to “deal with NGOs and PVOs operating outside their mandates and out of sync with the government’s humanitarian priorities” The bill is fraught with measures that curtail NGO operations while giving too much power to the government. This Campaign seeks to mobilise Zimbabwean citizens and other stakeholders to appreciate the short-

comings of the bill and to identify its role in shrinking civic space and stop it from becoming a law.

Access to Documentation Campaign

This Campaign was born out of concern with the lack of access to National Registration documents in the country. It identified access to documentation as a key human right upon which the enjoyment of other human rights is based. Without identity documentation, people are deprived of their human rights. A national inquiry by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission on Access to documentation released in September 2020 showed that many Zimbabweans are failing to access these documents, including over 2 million Zimbabweans who are stateless due to lack of documentation. The campaign aimed at ensuring that responsible authorities avail national.

10x10 voter mobilisation Campaign

The Campaign was launched in Zvishavane in December 2021, the campaign sought through ZimRights structures’, for the mobilization of 5 million citizens to engage with the electoral processes. The campaign also encouraged ZimRights’ 250 000 Members to mobilise at least 10 people each to register to vote and to go ahead and vote in the 2022 by Elections and the 2023 general elections. #10x10registernow2023 is the official hash tag for the campaign.

The Right to Peace Campaign

The right to Peace campaign is a continuation from 2020 The project is currently running in Bulawayo , Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces. In 2021..... peace monitors were trained.

Membership Coordination

ZimRights continued to show its presence on the market through the activities of its membership. Through the secretariat, ZimRights held 68 national and local convenings, both physical and virtual. The meetings took the form of workshops, trainings, conferences and dialogues. They managed to bring together Zimbabwean communities and their leaders on the same spaces to create a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe. Over 4000 members were directly engaged in these meetings.

At local level, our members were able to initiate community -led initiatives in the form of petitions and demonstrations, all in the quest to promote and

defend human rights. Our members' voices were heard in Chilonga, Sese and Mola, as they fought against evictions and other socio-economic and cultural rights. Our members voices continued to ensure that human rights are safeguarded as they monitored, documented and reported human rights violations from their communities.

(There was no information on this. What were the activities done under membership)

National Council

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) announced the appointment of two technical experts to its Management Committee with effect from 3 June 2021. The two experts are Ms. Nosimilio Chanaiwa and Mr. Jade Takudzwa Tsokodai. The appointment of the two experts is part of the ZimRights Transition Strategy that was adopted by the ZimRights National Council on 12 June 2020, allowing the Management Committee to incorporate relevant expertise necessary to enable it to effectively play its role. Ms. Chanaiwa and Mr. Tsokodai will play the roles of legal advisor and financial advisor respectively in support of the work of ZimRights.

Women and Human Rights

One of the AGM resolutions, number 08 of 2020 resolved that the National Council takes affirmative action to encourage regional councils to ensure gender parity at all levels. The resolution implemented in 2021 ensured that women do not engage only as participants in the human rights discourse, but lead in Human Rights issues for innovation. The Women's Human Rights Group was launched in 2021 paving the way for more women to take up leadership roles in human rights activities. Before the intervention, ZimRights did not have a single woman occupying the post of regional Chairperson but by the end of 2021, three women had been elected as Regional Chairpersons. This is a shift from zero percent to twenty-seven percent (0-27%).

“The ZimRights programme on women and human rights has really motivated as women not to be afraid of taking up leadership positions. For many years women have dominated most activities in human rights and even in Politics, but this programme has equipped us with the knowledge that we can be leaders of these activities” – Mildred Muzanechita – ZimRights Manicaland Vice-Chairperson

Six women voices forums were also conducted in 2021, reaching 216 women and 14 men. The activity created safe spaces which allowed women to meet and discuss their aspirations and share information on matters affecting them. Women's confidence to articulate developmental and rights issues was enhanced. After the meetings women came up with action plans to solve some of the challenges faced in their communities. For example in village 2 (Leo the area was missing here) of ward 5 women committed to come together with the leadership of the village and engage people who were selling illegal locally brewed beer 24/7 to men leading to conflicts in families when men did not return home. In village 1 the women committed to building a learning centre for ECD learners who had been travelling for more than 7km going to to get basic education.

Training on Traditional Court Procedures

Traditional Leadership plays a critical role in conflict resolution and peace building in the rural communities in Zimbabwe. However noting some gaps in the execution of the traditional duties of traditional leaders in conflict resolution in their communities, ZimRights in 2021 trained 86 women, 17 men and 31 youths on traditional court procedures and processes.

Mentorship programme

53 women and 1 man were mentored and trained on leadership to enhance their leadership skills. The sessions involved training the participants on the essence of leadership, the intersection between women leadership and human rights and sharing of experiences by those who are already in different facets of leadership. The leadership training session used the ZimRights hand book on women and leadership as a resource.

Policy research and Policy Dialogues

In 2021, ZimRights prioritised policy dialogues and researches. Two Policy dialogues were held in Midlands and Matebeleland provinces where key human rights policy issues were discussed.

As a leading human rights research organisation, ZimRights conducted an analysis of the policy and legal framework adopted by government during the COVID 19 pandemic and documented their impact on political and socio-economic environment. In advocating for human rights, ZimRights believes in solution oriented advocacy campaigns. The research among other recommendations urged government to strictly adhere to the constitution even during times of public health or any other emergencies, en-

sure that measures restricting rights and freedoms strictly comply with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination in both their substantive content and enforcement. Another recommendation was for the government to ensure that the restrictions imposed by the COVID – 19 regulations are equally and fairly applied using a human rights and people centered approach.

ZimRights also produced a detailed research paper and analysis of the PVO Act. The paper examined the current state of civic space in Zimbabwe, including examining the current Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill, and other factors affecting the operations of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Zimbabwe. Special focus was given on operations of grass-roots and community-based organisations (CBOs). The paper extracted recommendations, as well as suggestions on how grassroots movements can push back on shrinking civic space, claim active agency, and sustain their operations in the face of the challenges and threats.

Youth Capacity Building in digital Activism

Digital activism has proved to be a powerful tool for grassroots human rights conscious building mobilization. Youth Digital Activism provides new ways for ZimRights young grassroots population to directly engage with duty bearers and policy makers, giving them a voice that they would not ordinarily have and “speak” to those in power. It is in light of this that ZimRights noting the power of digital activism trained 16 youths Human Rights Champions aged between 18-35 from the [Insert pics of the youths undergoing training] country’s ten provinces equipping them with skills for digital activism. The youths are using digital media platforms to share human rights information, defend their rights and engage with duty bearers online. The youths are now actively participating in ZimRights Human Rights Campaigns and facilitating WhatsApp group human rights discussions in their provinces.

Strategic Litigation

In pursuit of its human rights agenda, ZimRights in 2021 used strategic litigation as an advocacy tool to raise awareness on human rights violations. ZimRights represented the people of Mola, in Siakobvu, Mashonaland West Province, who sued the Zambezi Water Authority, Nyaminyami Rural District Council, National Assembly Member for Kariba John Roland Houghton, Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) and the Zimba-

bwe Electricity Supply Authority Holdings Limited, the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Minister of Energy and Power development, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage and the Attorney General for contributing to the underdevelopment of Mola. The area is suffered from poor service delivery in the form of lack of access to power, water, and proper healthcare facilities. The area also has a poor road network and lack of adequate schools. The respondents opted for engagement outside court and the different service providers are addressing some of the human rights concerns.

ZimRights, working with the Mudzi Community human rights defenders, litigated against traditional leaders who were abusing their powers in Mudzi, Mashonaland East. The matter was taken to the high court of Zimbabwe for redress..

ZimRights coordinated CSOs namely ZIMCDD, ZPP, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, WILSA, LEGAL RESOURCES Foundation, CNRG and MACRAD and issued a statement against the evictions in Chilonga. The consortium challenged the Communal Lands Act in the High Court. Unfortunately High Court Judge Justice Joseph Mafusire threw out the court challenge in January 2022.

In pursuit of transparency and accountability, ZimRights on July 27 2021 requested for information on tax holidays with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and Ministry of Finance. Section 7 of the freedom of Act allows citizens to request the disclosure of government policy and other information of public interest.

Access to Vaccination-In February 2021, ZimRights approached the High Court demanding a comprehensive Covid-19 vaccination rollout plan including details of the budget allocations.

Transparency around tax holidays

On 27 July 2021 the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, (ZimRights) filed a Request for Information on “Tax Holidays” with ZIMRA and the Ministry of Finance. This was after a US Based group, The Sentry, published a report “Shadows and Shell Games: Uncovering an Offshore Business Empire” exposed potentially corrupt practices by government officials. The request for information sought:

- The type, and business sector of persons, including corporate persons exempt from liability for

corporate or other income tax in Zimbabwe in the example format:

- The criteria used to assess eligibility for granting of tax exemption to corporate entities for the period 2019 to date.
- If there is a register of tax-exempt corporate entities or individuals (resident shareholder`s tax payable on dividends) and for the register to be availed to ZimRights.

Mapping Peace Initiatives

The Right to Peace Campaign acknowledges that National Human Rights Institutions are critical in supporting the work of communities in building peace. In order to promote peace and human rights, ZimRights capacitated its membership on how to use the constitutionally provided human rights institutions to solve conflict and promote peace.

In Zaka ward 19, a petition on the request by the community to help resolve the challenge of the politicization of government aid was written and handed to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC).

ZimRights also revived a total of 15 of its peace committees to promote the understanding of peace as a right and activating community tools and cultures of peace.

ZimRights revived two peace gardens in Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces and trained the garden membership on conflict resolution, and membership recruitment, the peace gardens will provide a safe space platform for ZimRights members and peace committees to meet, engage and detect conflict early and find solutions without use of violence.

Peace structures met regularly and discussed community concerns and put forward recommendations for solutions to duty bearers

Grassroots Social accountability training sessions

Many people are unable to hold duty bearers accountable. 9 social accountability training sessions were conducted and 116 women, 39 youth and 53 men were reached. Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills of using local social accountability mechanisms to hold duty bearers to account. The capacity of duty bearers to be responsive to the needs of rights holders was enhanced as evidenced by the fact that in Mzimuni, immediately after the training people started questioning the councillor on the monies paid for transportation of food aid

and why there had not been any feedback to the community. With informed and empowered villagers, Mzimuni councillor learnt the importance of transparency and accountability

Youth Zones

On 1 December 2020, ZimRights launched the ZimRights Youth Zone with a number of activities that included a Constitution Summit for High Schools. Since then the Youth Zone continued to create space for young people to engage with the human rights agenda. These include an internship programme in which ZimRights partnered with universities in Zimbabwe and abroad including the University of Virginia in the USA. In this programme, students were hosted who are passionate about human rights.

A total of 25 youth dialogue meetings were held in 2021. These provided platforms for dialogue around human rights issues affecting the youths in different provinces. The trainings also proffered action by the youths to address the emerging human rights issues for example, In Hwange, the youths formed voter mobilisation teams to try and combat the prevalent voter apathy among the youths in the area. In Kwekwe, youths formed a committee that engaged the ministry of lands and advocate for mining claims to be given to the youths.

Noting the vibrancy of our youth zone on human rights issues, on 8 June 2021, VOA's Mike Hove hosted some members of the ZimRights YouthZone to speak about their human rights work.

Constitution Clubs

ZimRights managed to establish 6 Constitution Clubs in Masvingo and Matabeleland North provinces during the year 2021

List of Constitution Clubs opened in 2021

Zwangendaba	Matabeleland North
Ndarama	Masvingo
Wankie	Matabeleland North
Mosi Oa Tunya	Matabeleland North
Lupane State University	Matabeleland North
Great Zimbabwe University	Masvingo



Members of a high school constitution Club in Victoria Falls



Members of ZimRights Women and human Rights Zone in Zhombe



A Workshop in progress - Dinde, Hwange

Civic and Voter Education

ZimRights conducted a total of 35 Civic and voter education workshops to empower citizens to meaningfully participate in electoral processes. Basic voter requirements were discussed to equip citizens with knowledge on how to register, the voting process and the importance of voting.

Labour Rights Initiative

ZimRights continued to work with Sugar Milling Allied Workers' Union (SMAWUZ) team to capacitate them to effectively advocate for the full realisation of their members' socio-economic rights. In April 2021 SMAWUZ successfully negotiated for an upwards review of wages for its members and other workers at Tongaat-Hulett.

13 SMAWUZ members were also capacitated on the following areas; membership recruitment, training on labor rights, data management, lobbying and advocacy work, and training on membership representation on labour issues at the workplace. 13 (10 men and 3 women) members of the SMAWUZ leadership attended the meeting.

ZimRights Covid -19 Response

ZimRights continued its humanitarian approach in fighting the pandemic through donations of PPE, this was done in several communities in Mashonaland West, Harare, Midlands, Matebeleland North and Manicaland among others.

[Pictures of distribution of Covid-19 packs]

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association visited the Kwekwe Prisons, Redcliff Municipality, Kwekwe Urban Council, Nyameni Clinic and Marondera Children's home to support their COVID-19 response initiatives.

Bill Public Hearings

ZimRights mobilised its members to attend public hearings on the Independent Complaints Commission Bill, which were held in Harare, Chinhoyi, Bindura, Marondera, Mutare, Victoria Falls, Bulawayo, Gwanda, Masvingo and Gweru from the 7th to the 11th of June 2021. 50 members attended these hearings and gave feedback on their submissions and proceedings.

[Insert picture of a ZimRights Member standing up and contributing during public hearings]

2021 ZimRights Media Products

Documentary on impact of COVID-19 regulations and policies on citizens

ZimRights produced a 30 minutes documentary, which focused on citizens' experiences on the implementation of lockdown regulations by the government and security sector. In the documentary there was a call for the establishment of an independent complaints mechanism for members of the public against members of the security services pursuant to section 210 of the Constitution. The documentary featured vendors, journalists, women and youths.

Launch of the ZimRights Mobile Application

ZimRights launched the ZimRights App available on Google Play for Android platforms. The application can be downloaded here <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=zw.co.thundrcraft.society.zimrights.zimrights>

The ZimRights App allows communities to connect with each other and launch human rights protection and rights solution oriented local initiatives. The application is also a gateway to ZimRights resources and departments all in one place. With the restrictions imposed during Covid-19 induced lockdowns, the App helped with the advancement of the human rights agenda.

Family Dialogue

A family dialogue was convened by ZimRights, ZIM-CODD and the Constitutional Law Centre (CLC) in which citizens and experts recommended pursuit of accountability after the release of the Sentry Report.

2021 Publications

Fact Sheets and Reports

Community Human Rights Monitoring Model

ZimRights adopted the approach to advance a culture of respect for human rights by empowering citizens to monitor human rights violations in their communities. As such, the ZimRights Community Human Rights Monitoring Model is anchored on the coordinated efforts of the ZimRights grassroots structures, linking them with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and empowers ZimRights members to effectively monitor human rights violation. The Fact sheet also highlights the human rights institutions that communities can use to report violations and seeking redress.

Tax Holidays

This follows the granting of tax holidays to several corporations in the mining sector. Through the fact sheet, ZimRights provided information on what tax holidays are, whom they should be given and why.



participants during a civic and voter education workshop in Gwanda

Communal Land

Realising the threat that indigenous communities were under in terms of forced evictions, ZimRights provided advocacy tools to the communities affected by the act such as the Communal land fact sheet. This also provided for mobilisation of citizens to demand the repeal of the pre-independence communal lands act.

Independent Complaints Commission bill

ZimRights on the 16th of June 2021 released a special report analysing the Independent Complaints Commission Bill that government gazetted. The Zimbabwe Independent Complaints Commission Bill which seeks to implement section 210 of the Constitution which requires the establishment of an independent complaints mechanism. The principal purpose of the ICM is to provide an avenue for members of the public to pursue their grievances against misconduct by members of the security services. The report was targeted at the government and policy makers. It acknowledged that the Bill had some major shortcomings which if not attended to; the Bill would not fulfil the Constitutional provisions and be effective. These shortcomings include the selection process of the commissioners, the independence of the commission among other recommendations.

Resources

Open Up! Handbook on Women, Human Rights and Leadership in Zimbabwe

ZimRights believes that the role of women human

rights defenders is critical in advancing the human rights struggle. The handbook is an essential resource for all women human rights defenders who seek to go beyond mere participation but to lead the human rights discourse. Those who seek not only to be counted but rather to increase and influence the count. The role of women and girls in leading the human rights agenda needs to be strengthened to ensure not only the visibility of women but building the capacity of women in Zimbabwe to be able to articulate human rights issues from an informed perspective and as champions for human rights.

Level Up! Constitution Members Handbook

ZimRights published a handbook for the Constitution Clubs. This is a learning and reference resource for high school learners and equips constitutional club members with necessary knowledge for them to educate their peers and as well as undertake club activities, and it can be used for individual and group learning.

ZimRights Volunteers Manual. "The Red Team"

The manual was developed to provide you guidelines for ZimRights Volunteers. The manual helps volunteers to understand the organisation they are volunteering for and why ZimRights is grateful of their service.

Learning to Walk Report

The Learning to Walk Report provides a big picture of the milestones of the Constitution's journey since it was adopted in 2013. It is intended to provide a balanced picture of what has been done and how the

constitution has fared so far; the lessons learned and finally a set of recommendations. The report was launched at a time when the Constitution was under severe stress after the passing of two constitutional amendments, namely Constitutional Amendment Act No. 1 and Constitutional Amendment Act No. 2 both of which are subject to legal disputes.

Isiqondiso sokuzwisisa mayelana ngokwehliswa kwamandla okuzibusa ezabelweni (devolushini)

Lesi siqondiso senzelwe ukuba sisize umphakathi ukuba azwisise ngodaba lokwehliswa kwamandla okuzibusa eZimbabwe ukuze izizalwane zenelise ukuthuthukisa lokuphakamisa ukunanza ngokupheleleyo mayelana ngokwehliswa kwamandla

Lesisiqondiso sinika umphakathi ulwazi mayelana ngendlela zokwehliswa kwamandla okwehlukeneyo ezizweni njalo sifundisa ukuthi ukwehliswa kwamandla ezabelweni kumele kudalelwe ilizwe lelizwe

Key Commemorations

International Human Rights Day

ZimRights joined the rest of the human rights global community to observe International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2021. The international Human Rights Day is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity. It also provides an opportunity for a reflection on how much progress Zimbabwe has made in implementing its bill of rights as well as raising awareness and promotion of human rights

Responding to the theme “Reducing inequalities and advancing human rights”, ZimRights commemorated the 2021 Human Rights Day through a public discussion in Masvingo at Mucheke Hall. The discussion provided a reflective platform for communities to take stock of the milestones and deficits of the 2021 human rights journey as well as raise awareness and make policy proposals to remedy the emerging human rights issues. The commemoration brought together citizens from different organisations operating in Masvingo, ZimRights members as well as members of different action Zones.

The celebrations gave an opportunity for citizens to get information on human rights and how they can ensure that their rights are observed. A culture of di-

alogue and engagement was promoted through the focus group discussions. Women and youth who are in most cases treated unfairly had an opportunity to speak on issues affecting them through the platform.

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities

The Covid-19 pandemic and induced lockdowns during year 2021 negatively impacted on programs that needed physical attendance.

The use of laws to shrink civil space and curtailing of freedoms has a negative impact in the fight for human rights centred governance system and subdues community human rights defenders champions.

Corruption involving close government allies resulted in resources diverted away from delivering services to the communities, illicit financial flows and loss of finances that could have improved the lives of ordinary people. The lack of a political will to address corruption problems and the lack of a mechanism for witness protection has resulted in limited successes in initiatives to combat corruption as demonstrated by current data suggesting endemic corruption in Zimbabwe

However despite the challenges, ZimRights remains committed to upholding human rights because we believe that the concept of human rights allows people to speak up when their rights are violated. Indeed, the concept of human rights empowers people and tells them that they have a right to dignity and fair treatment and when this does not happen they stand up and claim their rights. As ZimRights we will soldier on and are ready to take off in 2022.

2021 Media Highlights

ZimRights against Constitutional amendment bill number 2

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202104230491.html>

ZimRights raises concern over June 2021 Demolitions

<https://www.263chat.com/zimrights-raises-alarm-over-livelihoods-destruction/>

ZimRights compels government to provide vaccine roll out plan

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/covid-19-vaccination-application-not-urgent-high-court/>

ZimRights seeking the dismissal of Obert Gutu from the NPRC because he is a member of a political party – ZANUPF

<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/zimrights-challenges-obert-gutus-continued-stay-as-nprc-commission->

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<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/zimrights-challenges-obert-gutus-continued-stay-as-nprc-commissioner/>

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/zimrights-wants-obert-gutu-fired-from-peace-commission-for-supporting-zanu-pf/>

<https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2021/07/18/gukura-hundi-gaffe-haunts-gutu>

I never joined Zanu PF: Obert Gutu – Nehanda Radio
Gutu NPCR appointment challenged due to his Zanu-PF membership – Nehanda Radio

ZimRights acts against impending evictions of the Chilonga Community and issues a statement

<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Chilonga-Solidarity-Platform.pdf>

<https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2021/03/28/villagers-decry-eviction-threats/?q=%2F2021%2F03%2F28%2Fvillagers-decry-eviction-threats%2F>

ZimRights calls on government to investigate and provide information on victims enforced disappearances

<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/zimrights-calls-on-government-to-investigate-and-provide-information-on-all-enforced-disappearances/>

ZimRights also carried its campaigns to influencing policy and empowering communities with human rights information.

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/07/stateless-zimbabweans-endure-prejudice-without-identity/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/07/forgotten-batonga-communities-sue-for-lack-of-development/>

ZimRights complained against the systematic attacks on the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) which have dented the institution's credibility and capacity to execute its mandate to the satisfaction of citizens.

<https://www.263chat.com/zimrights-raises-red-flag-over-peace-commission-attacks/>

ZimRights urging the government to stop forced evictions

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/09/respect-peoples-rights-govt-urged/>

<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/ongoing-demolitions-destroying-livelihoods/>

ZimRights advocating for Transparency and Accountability

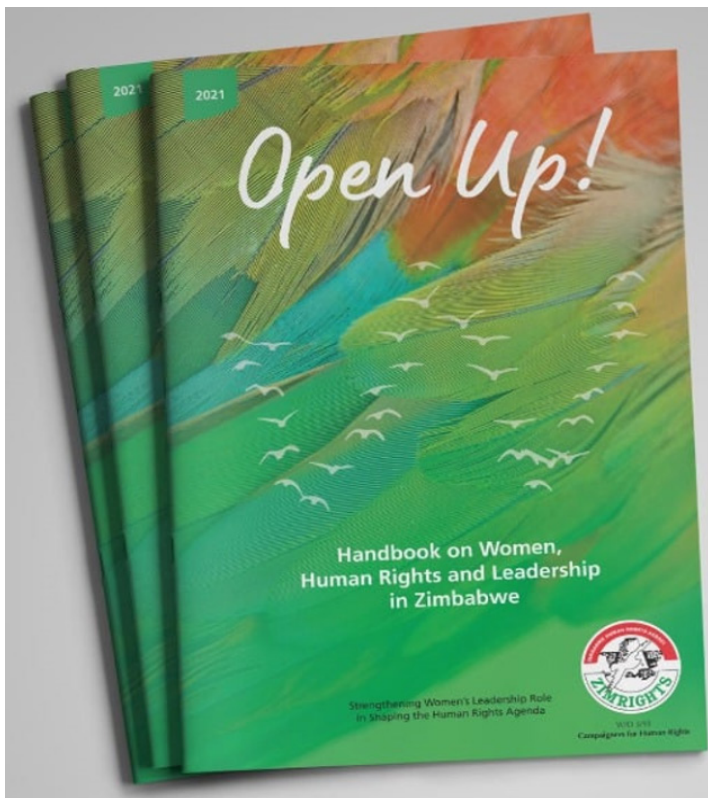
<https://www.zimrights.org.zw/sentry-report-state-capture-expose-zimrights-requests-information-on-beneficiaries-of-tax-holidays/>

<https://www.pressreader.com/zimbabwe/newsday-zimbabwe/20210802/281676847953545>

<https://bustop.tv/zimrights-files-tax-holiday-info-request/>

<https://www.zimeye.net/2021/07/30/zimrights-demands-information-on-beneficiaries-of-tax-holidays/>

<https://www.voashona.com/a/zimba->



Covers for the open up and level up handbooks published in 2021

bwe-new-organization-for-constitutional-matters-launched-in-zimbabwe/5900684.html
<https://www.voashona.com/a/zimbabweans-rally-protesting-against-constitutional-amendments/5880660.html>
<https://www.voashona.com/a/nyaya-yesarudzo-yekutsiva-nhengo-dzedare-reparamende-nemakanzura-yokonzera-mutauro/5783435.html>
<https://www.voashona.com/a/zimbabwe-rights-organization-takes-government-to-court-over-lack-of-transparency-on-covid-19-crisis/5765569.html>
<https://www.voashona.com/a/kusungwa-kwavasikhala-muzvare-mahere-chin-ono-namoyo-kwoshorwa-zvakanyanya/5741070.html>
<https://www.voashona.com/a/chirongwa-chevechidiki-chatinopakurirwa-namike-hove/5433729.html>
<https://www.voashona.com/a/zimbabwe-new-organization-for-constitutional-matters-launched-in-zimbabwe/5900684.html>
 'Political interference undermining Zacc' - NewsDay Zimbabwe
 Race to save Zim's constitution - The Standard
<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/12/gweru-not-ready-for-lockdown/>
 Looking ahead: 2022 and beyond

Looking ahead, 2022 and beyond, it is imperative that the human rights agenda dominates the conversations in the country. This should include issues of business and human rights to ensure that there is a balance between promotion of business initiatives and the respect for rights.

2022 will definitely be a busy year as we move towards the 2023 general elections and also prepare for the by-elections. ZimRights will continue capacitating its members to participate in national processes and choosing capable leaders who respect human rights.

ZimRights is also looking forward to working with the government, human rights institutions and duty-bearers in the promotion and protection of human rights and building a peaceful and democratic Zimbabwe.

Strategic Communications will be strengthened to enable communities to communicate effectively and shape the organisations programing. Having also realised that most our members do not oftenly meet duty –bearers, 2022 will be a year to strengthen digital activism and allow citizens to professionally engage with government and duty bearers.

ZimRights will also strengthen its resource mobilisation to widen its pogramming and reach more members in its programming.

ZimRights will continue to be a force to reckon with in promoting, protecting and defending human rights as we envision a culture of human rights permeating in the country.

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021
Statement of Changes in Funds for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Donor 1	Donor 2	Donor 2	Donor 3	Donor 4	Donor 5	Donor 6	Donor 7	Donor 8	Donor 9	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$		US\$	US\$
Restated balance as at 01 January 2020	7,831	20,147	177	10,934	21,705	-	-	-	-	176,090	236,884
Surplus or (Deficit) for the period	(7,578)	(14,905)	(155)	(10,848)	(4,906)	2,219	20,900	2,779	21,362	(7,116)	1,751
Balance as at 31 December 2020	253	5,241	22	86	16,800	2,219	20,900	2,779	21,362	168,974	238,636
Balance as at 01 January 2021	253	5,241	22	86	16,800	2,219	20,900	2,779	21,362	168,974	238,636
Surplus or (Deficit) for the period	18,009	4,013	270	-	(1,276)	25,802	(16,920)	(2,099)	(19,979)	(21,453)	(13,632)
Transfer to deferred Income	(18,262)	(9,254)	(270)	-	(15,524)	(28,054)	(3,980)	-	(1,382)		(76,727)
Transfer to Administration	-	-	(22)	(86)	-	33	-	(680)	-	755	-
Balance as at 31 December 2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148,276	148,276

