



EMTHONJENI WOMEN'S FORUM



2020
Annual Report

CONTENTS

i EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01	1.0 ADVOCACY:	
	1.1 Speak Out Khuluma End Sexual Harassment Now!	2
	1.2 Strengthening Women's Voices in Accountable Local Governance	5
	1.3 Women Demanding Accountable Governance	8

11	2.0 TRANSFORMING GENDER NORMS	
	2.1 Taking Action Now ! Reducing GBV in Insiza	12
	2.2 PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE SRHR AND SGBV INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN ZIMBABWE	14
	2.3 Take action- an Integrated approach to reducing GBV in Insiza and Umzingwane district.	16
	2.4 Counselling:	19

26	3.0 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	26
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Executive Summary

2020 has come and gone. It has been a tumultuous year fraught with anxiety due to COVID 19, and the need to respond appropriately and sensitively to victims and survivors of gender based violence who bore the brunt of the pandemic. The year has compelled us to embrace and adapt to the new normal way of leaving including conducting virtual meetings. More importantly COVID 19 has re-emphasised and heightened the importance of mental health care in our line of work.

The year 2020 marked the second year of our three-year strategy. It was a year of building on the foundation that was laid in the previous year and brought with it learning, COVID 19 related challenges and refocusing. Significant strides towards the realizing of our vision in the 3 strategic pillars continued.

ADVOCACY:-

Influencing change by engaging duty bearers towards policy and or social change. EWF continued to strengthen women's agency in demanding the fulfilment of their constitutional rights as well as strengthen women's participation in governance processes.


TRANSFORMING GENDER NORMS

through promoting gender equitable systems and structures towards the creation of a gender just world free from gender based violence.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

through reducing women's economic dependence and ensuring control and ownership of assets and income.

- National advocacy for amendment of Labour Relations Act to comprehensively speak to sexual harassment in the world of work.
- Call to ratify the ILO Convention 190.
- Advocacy for 2 corporates and 2 tertiary institutions to develop and or strengthen their sexual harassment policies.
- Demanded transparency and accountability on the use of CAMPFIRE funds in Tsholotsho.
- Demanded transparency and accountability on service delivery in Tsholotsho.
- 20 ISAL group members raised enough to buy each other 5 goats.

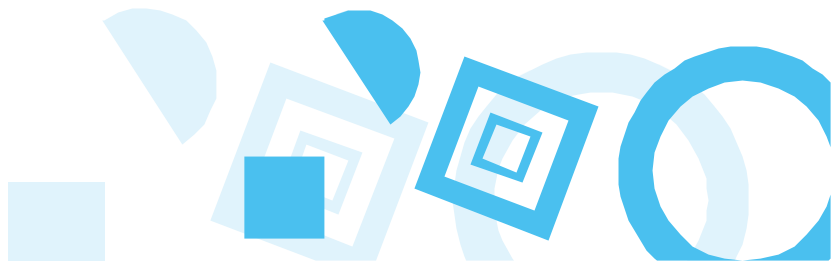
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- Women in ISAL groups reported improved household income as they also joined a local irrigation scheme that saw them being able to sell their produce to the open market.
 - ISAL members reported improved participation in household income and decision-making processes.
 - Communities have changed their behaviours and attitude through SASA! FAITH initiatives which has seen a reduction in cases of gender-based violence.
 - Men have been co-opted in all initiatives to fight VAW as they are key stakeholders.
Religious Leaders now talk about HIV/AIDS and gender based violence in their churches and encourage their congregants to get tested and to practice safer sex which has contributed to transforming gender norms.
 - Establishment of support groups that have become a safe space for women to express themselves.

Under the Advocacy strategic pillar we welcomed support from African Women Development Fund (AWDF) on lobbying and advocacy on the need for comprehensive policies on sexual harassment in the world of work. We also received rapid response support from Urgent Action Africa Fund and Diakonia towards ensuring safety and protection of women during COVID-19 lockdown.

Our resource mobilisation efforts also resulted in EWF partnering in a consortium to carry out peace and conflict management interventions in Insiza. Furthermore with support from AWDF, EWF developed a Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2022-25.

We welcomed two new board members with unique talents to our governance board, replacing two whose term had come to an end. We continued investing in the organization strengthening process that has three strategic pillars: We ended 2020 with substantive progress on our three-year strategic plan through consolidating programming in preventing VAW and especially considering the impact of COVID 19 on women. We strengthened our capacity as an organization from board and secretariat to deliver on our vision. We enter 2021 rejuvenated with a sense of optimism in the realisation of the organisations Theory of Change towards a GBV free society. We extend our warm appreciation to our funding partners for the support towards the realisation of our organisational goal of a GBV free society.

Together we can be the change we want to see.



The background features decorative geometric shapes in the corners. In the top-right and bottom-left corners, there are clusters of concentric squares and semi-circles in various shades of blue. The word 'ADVOCACY' is faintly visible in the background, centered behind the main title.

1.0

ADVOCACY

EWF continued to strengthen women's agency in demanding the fulfilment of their constitutional rights as well as strengthen women's participation in governance processes. EWF carried out 3 interventions on advocacy in 2020 and one other integrated in transforming gender norms.

1.1 Speak Out Khuluma End Sexual Harassment Now!

The Speak Out Khuluma! End Sexual Harassment Now! was a project supported by the Africa Women's Development Fund. The project sought to eliminate violence against women and girls & sustain respect for women's bodily integrity and autonomy. This was done through advocacy actions that agitated for the ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention 190 towards the elimination of sexual harassment in the world of work.

The project also included advocating for the amendment of the Labour Act (Chapter 28:01) towards adequately addressing sexual harassment in the world of work. At local level the project worked with women in

2 companies and 2 tertiary institutions through Student Representative Councils and Workers Unions to craft sexual harassment policies, ensure that sexual harassment policies are known by all students and that mechanisms are in place to protect employees and students who report cases of abuse. The project reached to a total of 798 people directly and 7980 people are assumed to have been reached indirectly.

The project engaged the parliamentary portfolio on labour and social welfare towards a comprehensive sexual harassment section in the Labour Relations Act (Chapter 28:01) as well as writing a petition to parliament culminating in an engagement with the Minister of Labour, Mr. Larry Mavima.

Issues Identified by women

- Students highlighted lack of awareness of sexual harassment policies and safe reporting mechanisms in their institutions.
- Lack of policy frameworks in the work space that address sexual harassment.
- Sexual harassment cases within tertiary institutions going unresolved hence deterring students from reporting.
- Women in the work space fear reporting issues of sexual harassment due to victimisation and retaliation by the perpetrator.

- Leaders in the work space conspire to conceal cases of abuse inadequate policy frameworks addressing sexual harassment
- Legacy issues in work spaces that have seen other women not being promoted as they have previously reported cases of abuse.

Major Success

On the 10th of November 2020 Emthonjeni Women's Forum supported an advocacy engagement between the Vice Chancellor, The Dean of students and female students from NUST who had been trained on advocacy by EWF. During the engagement students raised a concern on why the institution did not have a sexual harassment policy. The Vice Chancellor on that day committed to looking into the students concerns

and acknowledged it is a gap for such an institution with over 7000 students not to have a sexual harassment policy. Emthonjeni Women's Forum engaged Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) to assist the NUST legal representative in drafting a sexual harassment policy in November 2020. Legal fees were met by EWF. NUST currently has a sexual harassment policy subject to approval by the university council.

Challenges

The major challenge was COVID 19 and the lockdown regulations set by the state towards curbing the spread of COVID-19 and this hindered the implementation of the intervention. This necessitated the need for EWF to re-adjust and adapt implementation plans.

participation in the awareness meetings. Another challenge was unresponsive duty bearers and gate keepers in some of the institutions who created structural barriers towards engaging on the needed change, hence this delayed the realisation of some of the results.

This demanded change of strategy in the implementation of activities. The change in format of meetings directly had an impact on the target reach in terms of numbers. The online meetings had their own glitches as some participants experienced network challenges hence hampered some of the participants'

In the case of the National University of Science and Technology, the joint action in the crafting of the Sexual Harassment Policy came later into the project implementation as the Dean of Students kept blocking the move towards the crafting of a policy.

Lessons learnt

- Students were afraid of reporting cases of Sexual Harassment (SH) due to fear of victimization. This is a deterrent towards the reporting of SH cases. Through the learnings, EWF was able to share safe reporting mechanisms that the students could use towards reporting cases of sexual harassment within their institutions.

- Women were afraid of holding those who are in authority within workspaces to account for policy gaps and anomalies and this exacerbates the plight of women. Through deliberately creating platforms for engagement (advocacy teams) women could interact with other women, sharing strategies towards addressing structural barriers to effective communication with leaders in their workspace, women built their voice and agency towards engaging solution holders.
- In some instances middle management in workplaces or tertiary institutions are resistant to change that is not initiated by them, this slows down the process of change, hence EWF engaged those in higher authority towards addressing some of the issues.
- Individuals in organisation/institutions are sometimes unaware of policy provisions within their organisation, this is detrimental to their wellbeing and protection. Realising this, EWF through the policy dialogues raised awareness on the policy provisions of the various institution intertwined with national and international provisions such as the International Labour Organisation Convention 190.



Figure 1 *Public Service Labour and Social Welfare Parliamentary Portfolio Committee Chairperson Emma Ncube reading out the committee's commitment towards pushing for the amendment of the Labour Act*



Figure 2 *Fadzai Traquino presenting EWFs Draft amendment bill to section 8 of the Labour Act towards a comprehensive framework of addressing sexual harassment to the parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Labour and Social Welfare*



Figure 3: *Female students during a project reflection process @ holiday inn Bulawayo*

1.2 Strengthening Women's Voices in Accountable Local Governance



The project 'Strengthening Women's Voices in Accountable Local Governance' was carried out in ward 6 of Tsholotsho District, Matabeleland North Province. In light of the devolution agenda, the project sought to increase women's active participation in natural resource management and beneficiation thereof.

The project sought to equip women with the requisite skills to hold state actors accountable on the use of natural resources, how tenders are issued and how communities can benefit from their natural resources.

The goal of the project was to strengthen community women's role in demanding for accountable and transparent allocation of funds from local resource management (CAMPFIRE) in Tsholotsho district by 2021.

Issues Identified by the community women

- Community women were not aware of the quota allocated to them from proceeds of CAMPFIRE funds.
- Community women were not aware of developments the CAMPFIRE project has made in their areas.
- Women were not actively engaged in local decision-making processes on utilisation of local resources.
- Allegations of skewed beneficiation by community women as they highlighted CAMPFIRE funds were being utilised in one area of the ward where the councillor resides.

Major Success

- 299 females and 64 males were able to hold state actors to account for public funds and public resource management
- The women were also able to identify key advocacy issues concerning the CAMPFIRE programme and bring them to the fore through holding duty bearers such as the local CAMPFIRE committee, the councillor, the Tsholotsho Rural District Council Social Services Department and the CAMPFIRE department to account.

- Women also asserted that they had gained courage to demand their right to transparency, answerability and accountability from the duty bearers because of the exposure they received from the project. In addition, they reported that they are now able to engage the duty bearers, invite them to the community and have a meaningful conversation with them, something that was a taboo in the past.
- Women expressed that the project gave them an opportunity to seek clarity on not just CAMPFIRE but local development issues such as access to clean safe and portable water
- It is also critical to note that community leaders were happy that the project had made a positive impact on the women in terms of knowledge and leadership. As a result, they are now able to contribute positively in the development of their communities.

Lessons learnt

- If community members are involved in decision-making processes, they are better able to hold the duty bearers to account which is essential for inclusive governance, hence there is need to continue to empower women with advocacy skills.
- If there is no clear track record of how local CAMPFIRE resources are being utilised leaders can misuse the funds without accountability. Hence there is need for constant engagement with local state actors in order to foster a culture of accountability and responsiveness.
- If the CAMPFIRE Ward Committee would report back to the community on the use of the CAMPFIRE funds this would promote transparency and accountability subsequently reducing conflict on the utilisation of CAMPFIRE proceeds.
- If the members of the CAMPFIRE committee were elected from all villages in the ward, this would create a balance in the allocation and utilisation of CAMPFIRE proceeds. This calls for communities to demand for inclusion when the CAMPFIRE committee is being elected.
- If radio is strategically utilised in holding social accountability forums, it is likely to increase the responsiveness of the duty bearers.
- If review programmes are conducted with the project beneficiaries and district stakeholders, it would be helpful in mapping out the challenges encountered during the year and assist in collectively coming up with solutions to those challenges.
- If community women are fully aware of their rights as enshrined in the Constitution they are able to fully respond during discussions on local governance issues as well as effectively participate in governance and democratic processes

Challenges

- COVID-19 adversely affected the livelihoods of community members hence the diversion in attention from rights issues to issues of livelihoods and food security.
- Lockdown measures affected programming and mobility. This has affected the timeous implementation of the project's activities.
- The high level of surveillance of civic actors by the state hampered free movement as EWF officers had to be accompanied to all community actions by government officials.
- Follow up by state actors on activities and radio programmes was used as a means of intimidating EWF staff and community structures.
- Heavy rains and poor road networks were a challenge which meant starting the programme activities late.



Figure 2 *The ward 6counsellor clarifying issues on the expenditure of the CAMPFIRE funds to the community during social accountability meeting*

1.3 Women Demanding Accountable Governance

The 'Women Demanding Accountable Governance' project is being conducted in 6 wards of Tsholotsho district targeting women as primary beneficiaries, men and solution providers as secondary beneficiaries in Constitutional awareness. The project seeks to equip women with advocacy skills and to create a platform for women to engage in dialogue with state actors so

that they provide rights aligned services to the communities. These platforms lead to communities, especially women engaging and fully participating in the development of their communities. The activities implemented reached a total of 1 526 people (1 483F, 43M) out of the targeted 1 750 people across the six wards.

Advocacy Issues identified

Women in Ward 10, 11, 13 and 22 identified inaccessibility of clean water for drinking as an advocacy issue they would like to take up with the district duty bearers. Women indicated that they faced water challenges due to malfunctioning boreholes and

boreholes that produce salty water unfit for human and animal consumption. As a result of this challenge, women in these 4 wards had to contend with walking long distances in search of clean safe portable water to drink.

Outcomes

During the course of the intervention, Emthonjeni Women's Forum created platforms where women engaged duty bearers on issues affecting them within their communities. These engagement platforms led to duty bearers such as the District Development Fund to respond to women's advocacy issues through rehabilitating 11 boreholes in the 4 wards (2 in ward 10, 2 in ward 11, 3 in ward 13 and 3 in ward 22).

Challenges

- EWF had to postpone activities and in some activities reduce the number of participants per activity due to COVID 19 associated health risks. This resulted in some activities not reaching the intended targets. However, the organisation had to create more than one meeting point in a ward so as to reach its targets and results.

Lessons learnt

- If duty bearers participate in social accountability activities, they are able to address community advocacy issues. Their participation makes advocacy initiatives effective.
- If women are aware of their rights, they are able to identify violations and use the Constitution to cite and demand for their rights. This is essential towards strengthening their advocacy messages.

Our partner also aided EWF in organisational capacity building as indicated below. Integrated Technical Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA)

Earlier in the year, EWF received support from its funding Partner, where they conducted a 2-day Integrated Technical Organisational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) workshop with EWF staff members.

The ITOCA assisted the organisation in assessing critical elements for effective organisational management and identifying areas that need strengthening or further development. The interactive self-assessment process brought together staff from all the departments. Lively discussions were an opportunity for management, administration and

program staff to learn how each function, strengthening the team and reinforcing the inter-relatedness of the seven ITOCA components. These components are Governance, Administration, Human Resources, Financial Management, Organisational Management, Program Management and Project Performance Management.

At the end of the assessment, EWF identified areas that need to be addressed to strengthen the organisation and in subsequent years, enable it to view improvement and note where progress is still needed.

Sustainability Training

Q-Partnership Consultancy services was engaged on behalf of EWF for a Sustainability Planning Workshop. The workshop assisted EWF in coming up with a Sustainability Plan that will see EWF survive beyond donor funding. The sessions focused on why there is need for change and why sustainability is important.

Indicators of a sustainable EWF were also discussed during the workshop. At the end of the sessions, EWF came up with three priority areas that it needs to focus on to remain sustainable. These areas include human resources, learning and evaluation as well as fundraising and donor relations.



Women in ward 12 engaging duty bearers on issues affecting them in their communities during the public interface meeting held in the ward-May 2020



2.0

TRANSFORMING GENDER NORMS

TRANSFORMING
GENDER NORMS



EWFs second strategic pillar is on transforming gender norms through promoting gender equitable systems and structures towards the creation of a gender just world free from gender based violence. Various programmes were carried out in Umzingwane, Insiza and Bulawayo towards creating a GBV free society by transforming harmful cultural norms.

2.1 Taking Action Now ! Reducing GBV in Insiza

EWf continued with the "Taking Action Now! Reducing GBV in Insiza" project that uses a SASA! Faith methodology that seeks to reduce violence against women through biblical principles of Justice, Peace and Dignity. The project seeks to reduce gender-based violence through transforming gender norms at community level that perpetuate violence against women using the ecological model and working with faith based institutions in the communities.

2020 saw the implementation of the Support Phase whose aim is to strengthen CAs skills in supporting women experiencing violence, couples trying to balance power in their relationship, and activists preventing violence against women in the faith community. The Community Activists who are the main drivers of the project continued reaching out to the faith community by offering support to survivors

of VAW and people living with HIV. This was done through referring survivors of GBV to the religious leaders for counselling and to the relevant service providers for further assistance. 2 support groups of people living with HIV have been revived as a result of the support phase work.

The referral pathway being the heart of the support phase has been strengthened as the faith community is aware on which service providers to engage in certain issues. There has been great co-ordination between the church and the community as the church has been identified to be the immediate go to area for those who need a safe haven. The year 2020 saw women and men reaching out and speaking out on violence against women and revived support groups for people living with HIV.

Successes

- Faith leaders engage congregants in dialogue within their faith spaces on GBV.
- Faith communities establishing gender desks within their faith communities which has provided support to women who encounter GBV.

- Improved knowledge and positive attitudes in line with SASA! Faith values. According to Mid Term Review conducted in 2019, 59% of men and 70.2% women in Insiza believe it is wrong to commit VAW.
- Duty-bearers, faith and cultural leaders are demonstrating responsiveness on women's rights with a particular focus on GBV and participation in decision making.
- In 2020, communities under threat of Covid-19 receive timely accountable and needs-based assistance that protected their safety, dignity and fundamental human rights through the distribution of dignity kits.
- Identification of referral pathway at community and district level.

Challenges

- Implementation of programmatic work was affected by COVID 19 and national lockdown regulations.
- Program reach to male beneficiaries at Insiza faith communities is a challenge because the areas of operation are mining areas.
- Economic meltdown has resulted in community members migrating to neighbouring countries also affecting program reach.

Lessons learnt

- In order for relevance, impact and effectiveness to be realised, there is need to adapt and adopt systems that will necessitate implementation of activities especially in crisis times like the Covid-19 era
- In order to reach out to as many people as possible, the SASA FAITH methodology should not employ a blanket approach because societies are heterogenous in nature.

2.2 PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE SRHR AND SGBV INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN ZIMBABWE

The project 'Promoting Access to Inclusive SRHR and SGBV Information and Services in Zimbabwe' seeks to contribute to the improved well-being and sexual and reproductive health rights of all adolescents, including those at high-risk of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as those with disabilities in Zimbabwe using the SASA!FAITH model.

The project covers 10 wards of Bulawayo. During the year, 57 Community Activists who are the main drivers of the project were trained in the Support Phase whose main objective is to provide Religious Leaders and faith community members with the reasons and skills for joining power with others especially with faith community members experiencing and confronting issues of power, violence and HIV. The referral pathway was strengthened throughout the year as cases of GBV were reported and women were assisted.

Religious leaders have managed to create 3 gender desks within their churches which has contributed to creation of safe spaces for women in their churches. Also, the Support Phase saw faith community members trying to balance power in their relationships as evidenced through the couples retreat seminars in the Pelandaba UCCSA which has been an initiative of the Community Activist in that church. The seminars have assisted couples to understand issues of power, gender roles and have given them a platform to renew their marriage vows. The Support Phase resulted in faith community members possessing and demonstrating skills of supporting women experiencing violence.

Successes

- Communities with a sudden need to challenge norms and values that promote GBV and VAW by reporting cases of abuse and referring cases to the relevant service providers.
- Communities have been able to speak out against VAW and the topic has been included as one of the main agendas in every community meeting and this assisted in raising more awareness on SGBV.
- Women now have amplified voice, choice and agency within the faith spaces as they are able to say their views during the meetings pertaining the developments of the church unlike before where there was no power within.
- An improvement in male engagement within the project through Community Activist reaching out to 248 men with the support of the Religious Leaders who have included SGBV topics within their sermons.
- Communities making use of the referral systems especially to consortium members improved the layering component.

Challenges

- COVID 19 resulted in the closure of church gatherings, a meeting point for the SASA! FAITH intervention, this then meant that the Community Activist could not conduct their face to face sessions hence affecting the target numbers.

Lessons learnt

- Religious Leaders can make a great change in the churches if they are engaged even outside the quarterly meetings.
- There is a need to come up with disaster mitigation measures especially in the advent of COVID 19.
- There is a need to come up with strategies to equip community cadres with technological skills in addressing SGBV in the context of COVID 19, like provision of data.



EWF Manager, Religious Leaders and a Community Activist during a Radio Programme which aimed at raising awareness on SGBV within the faith community.

2.3 Take action- an Integrated approach to reducing GBV in Insiza and Umzingwane district.

2020 marked EWF's 5th and last year of "Take Action an Integrated approach to reducing GBV in Insiza and Umzingwane district" project with support from Diakonia. The intervention sought to create knowledgeable women who can act against GBV, enlist men to participate in addressing GBV in their communities and involve duty bearers in protecting and supporting survivors of GBV. The key interventions of the project were prevention through raising awareness, advocacy on GBV and psychosocial support and economic empowerment as part of responsive measures to prevent GBV.

The project aimed at increasing awareness on gender responsive laws and services; the provision of psychosocial support and legal aid to survivors of GBV; mobilizing men and young people to support gender equality, GBV prevention through community mobilization; and supporting GBV referral and coordination mechanisms at district and community level. The project reached out to a total of 2283 survivors of abuse of which 1733 were females and 550 were males. The clients came in seeking assistance with a variety of issues from counselling services to applications for maintenance, variance and protection orders and rehabilitative counselling. The project further went on to reach out to 226 in and out of school young men through its Catch them young initiative.

Intervention Strategies

EWF conducted a number of intervention activities in Insiza and Umzingwane districts in the year 2020 reaching a total of 1100 clients comprising 580 females and 520 males. The various activities were aimed at different target audiences and age groups ranging from traditional leaders, stakeholders, duty bearers and the well-established network of community structures the organization has in these districts. These activities included Social accountability meetings, strengthening of traditional leaders, strengthening of GBV management meetings, Male champions strengthening meetings, catch them young meetings and finally Community Based Counsellors strengthening. These activities were carried out so as to improve the capacity to respond to GBV, to coordinate integrated community response to GBV and male involvement was initiated to challenge patriarchy, social and cultural norms that are part of the underlying causes of GBV.

Umzingwane stakeholders at GBV management meeting.



Successes

- Engaging men provided an opportunity for community men to open up on the factors that fuel GBV within their homes and also identify possible solutions to the prevention of GBV
- Engaging duty bearers through GBV management meetings helped in establishing an effective referral pathway that included the health sector, judiciary and psycho social support services.
- Therapeutic crafts for survivors of GBV in support groups benefited them in attaining healthy communication skills and the development of self-awareness by listening to shared experience from other members in both Inside and Umzingwane districts.

Challenges

- Lack of governmental backing towards GBV service provision is a major challenge. While the laws provide for the protection of the women who have been abused, the implementation of the procedures is poor and this often makes reporting abuse seem futile to survivors.
- Covid-19 led to programming being held off for the duration of the lockdowns, with multiple programmes which necessitated the gathering of people being completely cancelled.
- Gender based violence was not included in the country's response plans and counselling was not recognized as an essential service hence a large number of clients still failed to access assistance due to COVID-19.

- The inaccessibility of services such as clinics and police stations due to their remote location from GBV survivors has made the effective completion of cases challenging to duty bearers resulting in cases reported at community level seldomly receiving the attention they deserve leaving survivors desperate in a never ending cycle of violence.
- Due to the current economic situation men have left homes in search of greener pastures making it difficult for projects to reach more men.

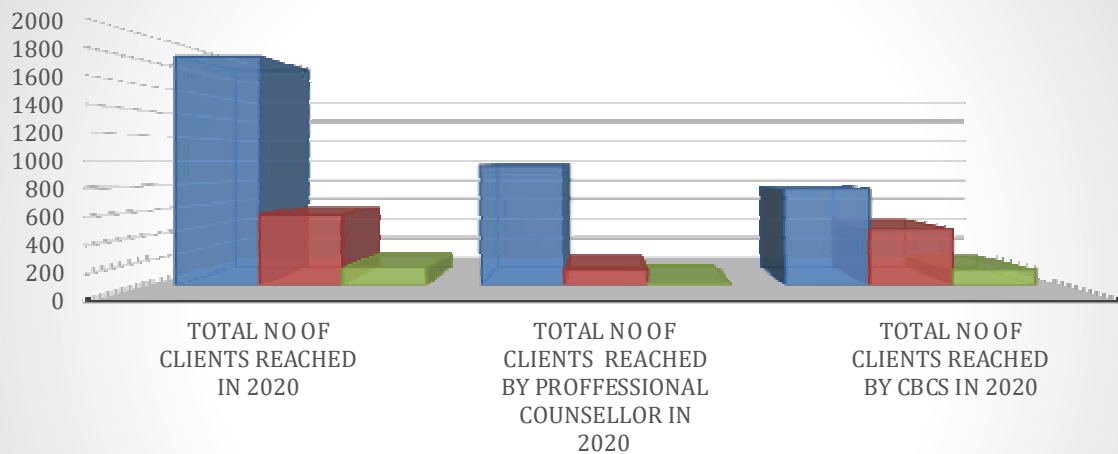
LESSONS LEARNT

Sexual and reproductive health issues are hardly discussed at family and community level. This results in most of the contestations in the home being related to troubled sexual relations.

EWF provides relief for survivors of GBV through the provision of counselling services. These services are provided for through face-to-face interaction as clients seek our services, through the courts where EWF continues to work closely with the Judiciary Services Commission at Insiza and Esigodini Magistrates Court. Our counsellors have also been providing services during outreach programmes in our rural communities to enable service provision to survivors who can't reach the urban or district centre for services. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic EWF has had to adjust and provide a toll free line to enable continuation of services during the COVID induced lockdown, the country faced. EWFs Community based Counsellors also played a pivotal role during the pandemic as they provided the requisite service as well as refereeing clients and ensuring their safety during COVID 19 lockdown.

The 2020 lockdowns due to COVID-19 led to an unanticipated spike in GBV cases. The substantial increase in GBV cases was largely as a result of psychological effects of isolation, and poor socio-economic environment due to COVID-19. In 2020 EWF reached out to a total of **2544** clients comprising **1843** females, **136** couples, and **565** males (rehabilitative counselling). The professional counsellor reached out to 1070 clients of which 953 were females and **117** were males and the community based counsellors reached out to **1213** clients of which **765** were females and **448** were males. The graph below shows the total reach for 2020.

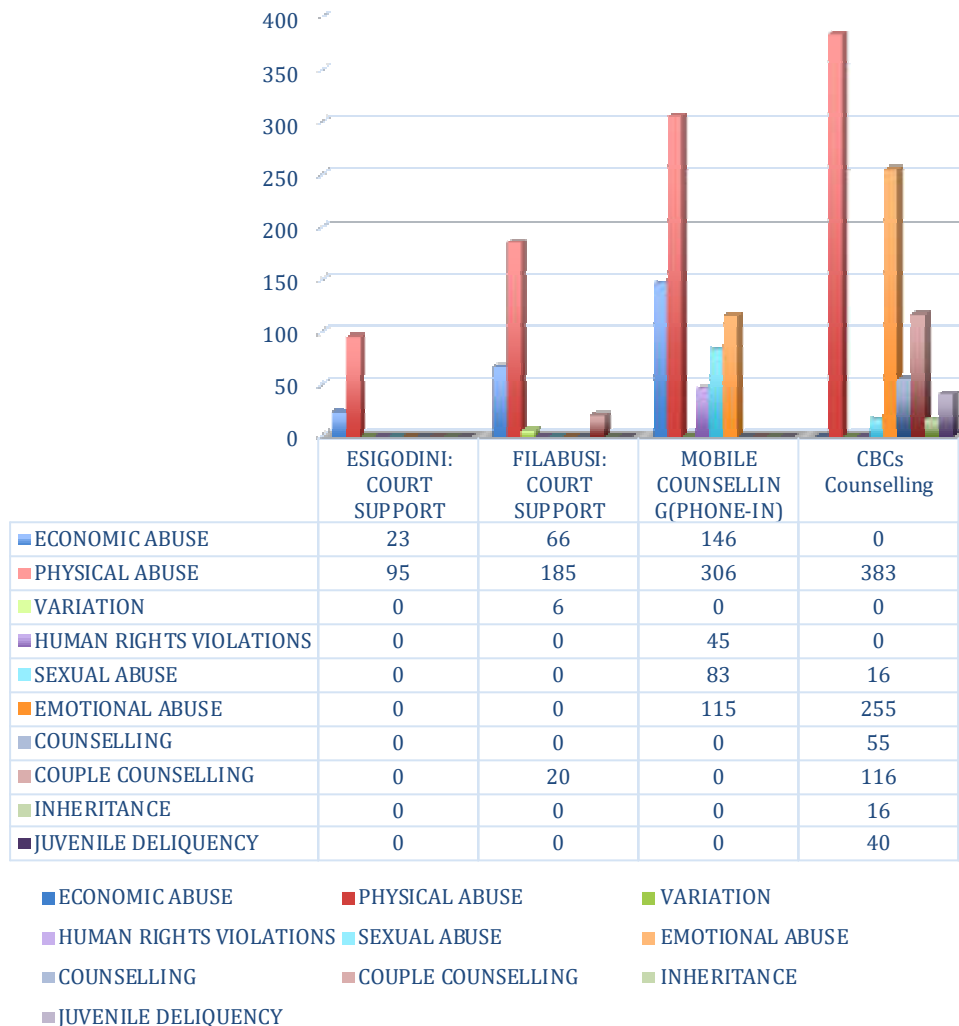
2020 CLIENTS REACHED



	TOTAL No OF CLIENTS REACHED IN 2020	TOTAL No OF CLIENTS REACHED BY PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLOR IN 2020	TOTAL No OF CLIENTS REACHED BY CBCS IN 2020
■ FEMALES	1843	953	765
■ MALES	565	117	448
■ COUPLES	136	20	116

■ FEMALES ■ MALES ■ COUPLES

ISSUES RAISED IN 2020

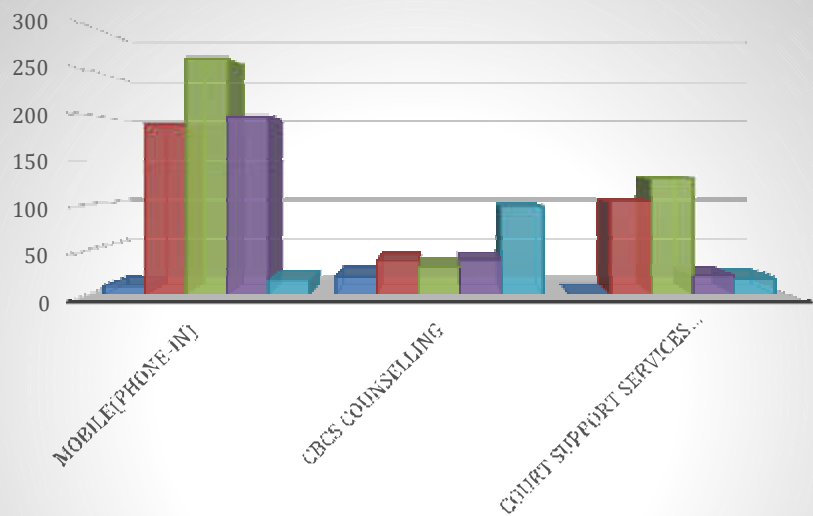


Cases of physical abuse were higher in 2020 and was the highest recorded form of GBV handled by professional counsellor and by the community structures. The survivors were offered counselling and assisted with completion of protection orders. The lockdowns brought about heightened unemployment and negative effect on the informal sector leading to increased economic abuse. Sexual abuse was also another concerning form of abuse that affected a large number of survivors. Of the cumulative 99 sexual abuse cases received by the organisation, 13 were of sexual abuse perpetrated against minors.

136 couples were offered couple counselling, helping couples with healthy communication skills towards amicable solutions to domestic disputes.

Survivors accessed on-line counselling through EWF's toll-free number as the country was placed on lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the 695 survivors who called seeking for assistance, 80 survivors who had experienced extreme cases of violence were all granted interim protection orders due to the severity of their cases. Counselling sessions, psycho-social support and follow-ups were also carried out through-out the course of the year. The 85 active CBCs comprising 55 females and 30 males reached out to a total of 1213 clients of which 765 were females and 448 were males. The CBCs offered the survivors preliminary counselling sessions and referrals to the appropriate service providers, such as the traditional leaders, Magistrates courts and the clinic

AGE RANGE OF CLIENTS REACHED IN 2020



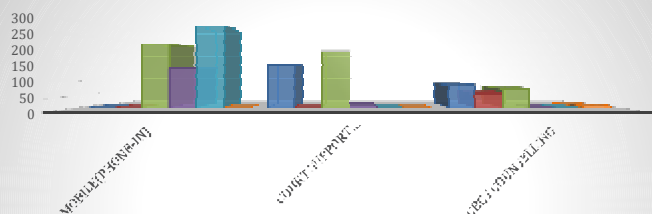
	MOBILE(PHONE-IN)	CBCs COUNSELLING	COURT SUPPORT SERVICES (FILABUSI&ESIGODI NI)
BELOW 20 YEARS	9	20	0
21-30YEARS	190	37	104
31-40YEARS	265	31	130
41-50YEARS	200	38	21
50+YEARS	16	98	18

BELOW 20YEARS 21-30YEARS 31-40YEARS 41-50YEARS 50+YEARS

in cases of physical abuse. The CBCs also referred the more challenging cases to the professional counsellor for further case management. 312 males were also offered rehabilitation by male CBCs. EWF appreciates the CBCs work during the COVID lockdowns as they continued providing much needed services to survivors of GBV.

The least number of survivors attended to was of survivors below the age of 20 who are not EWFs target clients. The 31-40 years had the highest clients reached, this is mostly because they have witnessed the cycle of violence and are able to take action. The 21-30 years age range had the second highest number of survivors reached. This age range is characterized by a generation of women who are more knowledgeable about social justice and are quick to take action whenever they face abuse. All the age groups were fairly represented and there was no specific observable trend between age range and a specific type of abuse.

EDUCATION LEVEL

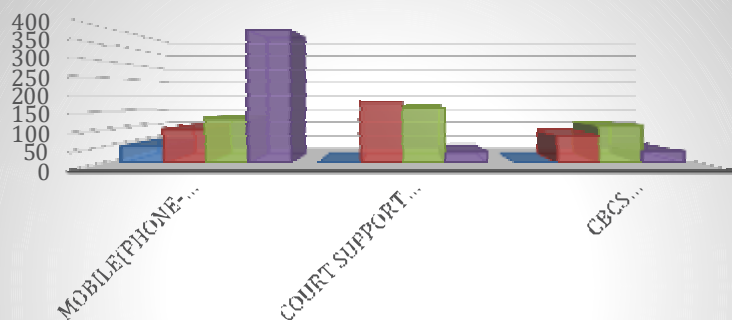


	MOBILE(PHONE-IN)	COURT SUPPORT SERVICES	CBCs COUNSELLING
GRADE 7	0	160	87
JUNIOR CERTIFICATE	0	0	53
O' LEVEL	235	208	76
A' LEVEL	145	7	0
TERTIARY	300	0	0
STANDARD 3-6	0	0	8

GRADE 7 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE O' LEVEL A' LEVEL TERTIARY STANDARD 3-6

The highest number of clients reached had reached O' Level. The majority of the survivors who reached higher educational levels were recorded mostly from Bulawayo through the toll-free helpline. The survivors reached at community level through the CBCs and courts had reached a lower educational level.

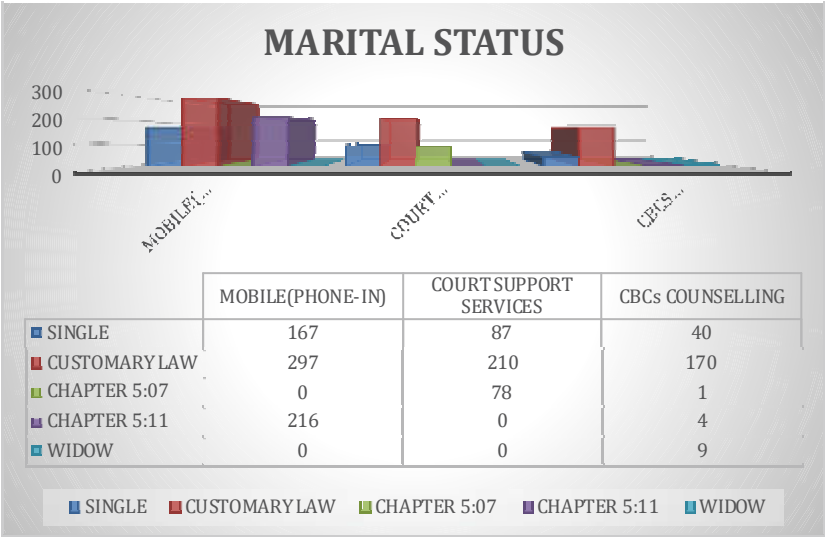
EMPLOYMENT STATUS



	MOBILE(PHONE-IN)	COURT SUPPORT SERVICES	CBCs COUNSELLING
STUDENTS	50	0	0
UNEMPLOYED	100	180	81
SELF-EMPLOYED	132	165	110
EMPLOYED	398	30	33

STUDENTS UNEMPLOYED SELF-EMPLOYED EMPLOYED

The majority of the employed clients recorded were received via phone-in followed by the self-employed class with the least number of survivors reached being unemployed. This trend shows that independent women are more likely to report abuse as they are financially independent and have no underlying fear of being punished for reporting. Unemployed women are least likely to report abuse as they fear that their children and themselves might be financially cut-off by the perpetrator as a means of punishing them for reporting the abuse.



The highest number of survivors reached were married under the customary law union. A majority of the people married under customary law union are traditional and adhere to cultural customs including the harmful practices that encourage misogyny, physical abuse and justifies extra-marital affairs perpetrated by men. The second highest group of survivors reached were single women seeking maintenance from their co-parenting partners. Widows made up the least number of clients attended to with all of them being assisted with inheritance related issues

Survivors Support Groups

6 Survivors clubs with a combined total number of 125 survivors were supported through therapeutic crafts that assisted them in expressing themselves and identifying the gaps in their healing process in order for them to be able to move-on. The network support system motivates them as they share experiences and solutions in their healing processes.



Figure 1 Survivors Club members doing their therapeutic crafts



CHALLENGES

- The lockdowns restricted the full counselling process. Unfortunately counselling relies heavily on non-verbal communication which is also used to measure the progress of the client, thus online (telephone) counselling denied the counsellor visual observation.
- Activities had to be suspended so as to conform to the effected lockdown restrictions.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Mental health issues associated with isolation, fear of the unknown tend to be overlooked but can turn anyone into a perpetrator, as witnessed from the spike of cases in 2020.

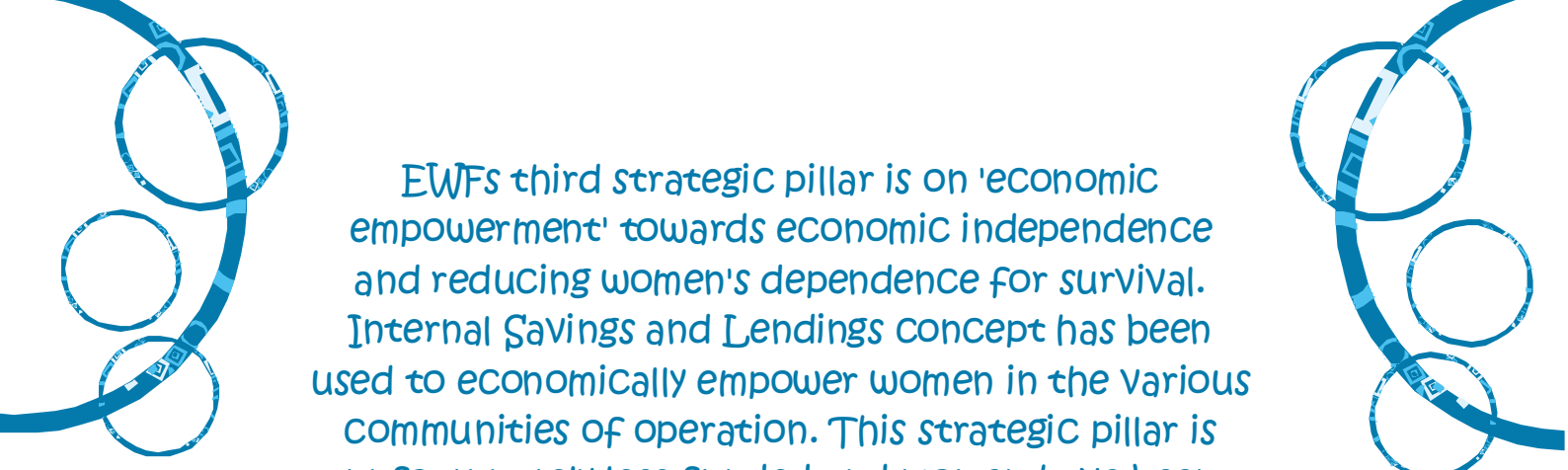
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3.0

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT





EWFs third strategic pillar is on 'economic empowerment' towards economic independence and reducing women's dependence for survival. Internal Savings and Lendings concept has been used to economically empower women in the various communities of operation. This strategic pillar is unfortunately less funded and women have been encouraged to come up with creative business proposals.

EWF also intends to utilise strategies learnt during resource mobilisation training from AWDf to effectively respond to this pillar.

In 2020, The SASA FAITH intervention has an economic strengthening component towards building women's economic empowerment through establishment of ISALS. The set goal being to enable women to not only have access to their income but also control and ownership of the resources generated and decision making powers on use of resources. This is done through encouraging communication between couples on income, budgeting and decision-making and how lack of these can be a cause and effect of violence against women (VAW). Technical support was offered to fifty-four existing ISAL groups where women with Income Generating Activities (IGAs) are capacitated on how to increase their portfolio growth, maintain profitable IGAs and utilisation of income for investment and consumptive purposes.

SUCCESSSES

- The Incomes Savings and Lending approach has improved women's economic empowerment as evidenced by women in Ward 17 of Tombo who managed to purchase livestock such as goats and poultry.
- Access to capital enabled Thulani Dube from Ward 17 Tombo to set up a tuck shop.
- 88.5% women have improved ownership, management and utilisation of income contributing to increased decision making at household level

CHALLENGES

- The re-introduction of the Zimbabwean currency (RTGS) has greatly affected the ISALs groups due to its liquidity leading to some women dropping out from the ISAL group. 20 women dropped out of the ISALS groups as they failed to keep up with the foreign currency which was introduced in their groups.
- The monthly subscriptions are grossly affected by the ever-rising inflation and cost of living resulting in some members pulling out of the ISAL groups.
- Average of 40 groups out of 56 failed to adapt to the economic situation.

LESSONS LEARNT

- ISALS groups adapt to the trending currencies used in the country they are better able to continue with their groups which will result in them being economic independent and can contribute to budgeting at household level.
- Average of 40 groups out of 56 failed to adapt to the economic situation.

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Duduzile Moyo, Counsellor

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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