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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STORY OF CHANGE

Charity Zimondo, of Ward 19, Insiza, has overcome financial hardships and transformed her life, following a training from the Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF). Previously dependent on her husband's income, Zimondo faced challenges maintaining her household.



After EWF training Zimondo joined a local ISAL group, where she and other members began by combining their savings. As the group grew, she took out a loan from the collective fund and used it to purchase her first cow, which was officially registered in her name. The ISAL group has not only provided her with financial support but also equipped her with the skills and confidence to manage her own assets.

"I never imagined I could achieve this on my own. The support from the ISAL group and the training I received from EWF have completely changed my life," Zimondo shared.

Her story serves as an inspiration to other women in her community, enhancing women participation in decision making.



COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS GBV SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EFW) conducted a specialized training enhancing the skills of Community Activists (CAs) in gender-based violence (GBV) advocacy. The training, brought consortium partners Musasa and ZWLA with requisite skill to provide knowledge and practical tools. Musasa, led sessions on basic counseling skills, equipping the CAs with necessary techniques to offer compassionate and effective support to survivors within their faith spaces.

ZWLA delved into the legal aspects of GBV, including laws related to sexual crimes. This legal education component empowered CAs to effectively advocate for justice on behalf of survivors. This training prepares CAs to make a tangible impact in their advocacy work, fostering a society free from violence within their faith spaces. Through these efforts, EFW continues to build a stronger, more informed network of advocates dedicated to supporting survivors and preventing GBV.





HIGH LEVEL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The High-Level Women in Leadership Summit, held in Harare on August 22-23, 2024, united influential women leaders, policymakers, and women-focused organisations to tackle key issues affecting women in Zimbabwe. Organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, with Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF) in attendance, the summit provided a platform for robust discussions on women's leadership and economic empowerment. Keynote speakers like Thokozani Khuphe, Divine Ndhlukula, and Buhle Mthombeni shared their inspiring stories of overcoming challenges to achieve leadership and business success. The event highlighted the progress made in advancing women's roles while addressing ongoing challenges such as gender-based violence and under representation in decision-making.

EWF's active participation in the summit, particularly in sessions focused on ending violence against women, emphasized its dedication to combating GBV in Zimbabwe. With support from partners like East West management Institute, Trocaire, and Diakonia, EWF led discussions that produced actionable priorities to fight violence against women and strengthen women's political leadership. The summit concluded with thematic breakaway sessions, offering more targeted dialogue on these issues. The stories shared by women leaders underscored the resilience and potential of women, highlighting the importance of amplifying their voices and creating platforms for mentorship and inspiration in communities.



TRADITIONAL LEADERS INDABA ON ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION

On August 7, traditional leaders gathered in Tsholotsho for an Indaba focused on improving documentation processes across communities in Tsholotsho. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED) highlighted the need for partnerships between traditional leaders, Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EWF), and government bodies in ensuring access to documentation.

Discussions focused on strengthening partnerships to overcome challenges in verifying documents and solemnizing marriages under the Marriages Act. Traditional leaders committed to educating their communities, assisting with document verification, and ensuring regular updates of those needing assistance in acquiring documents. They also agreed to advocate for paternal grandparents' right to obtain birth certificates for their grandchildren. EWF promised to advocate for this advocacy issue forward.

The traditional leaders indaba reinforced the critical role of traditional leaders in promoting documentation and ensuring women's access to identity papers.



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