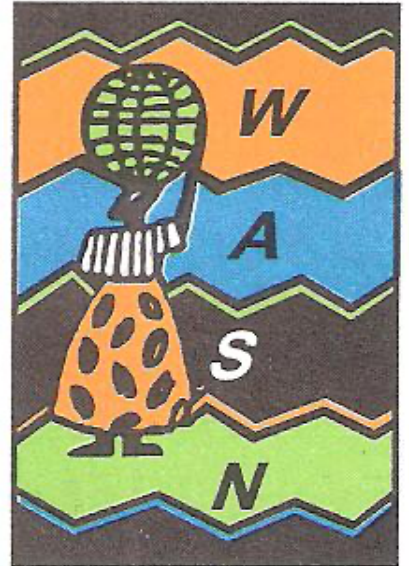


# **WOMEN AND AIDS SUPPORT NETWORK (WASN)**



## **WASN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **Acronyms**

|                 |                                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AIDS</b>     | <b>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</b>                    |
| <b>ARV</b>      | <b>Antiretroviral</b>                                         |
| <b>COVID-19</b> | <b>Coronavirus of 2019</b>                                    |
| <b>DAC</b>      | <b>District AIDS Coordinator</b>                              |
| <b>HIV</b>      | <b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</b>                           |
| <b>MoHCC</b>    | <b>Ministry of Health and Child Care</b>                      |
| <b>NANGO</b>    | <b>National Association of Non Governmental Organisations</b> |
| <b>OI</b>       | <b>Opportunistic Infections</b>                               |
| <b>PMTCT</b>    | <b>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission</b>             |
| <b>STI</b>      | <b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b>                        |
| <b>WAG</b>      | <b>Women's Action Group</b>                                   |
| <b>WASN</b>     | <b>Women and AIDS Support Network</b>                         |
| <b>WCoZ</b>     | <b>Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe</b>                          |

## **Foreword by WASN Board Chairperson**

The beginning of 2021 came with a bang of increased COVID-19 cases. The festive season saw many people crossing borders from other countries to spend time with their families. According to Zimbabwe Situation Report of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the country recorded 34 deaths which was the highest in a single day since March 2020 which was the outbreak of the pandemic. The public's complacency coupled with negligence was the cause for the high numbers of COVID-19 deaths. The Zimbabwe Government immediately put strict lockdown measures with curfew to curb the spread of Coronavirus. The stringent measures coupled with wearing of masks, washing of hands or sanitizing and observing physical distancing was the way to go.

Notwithstanding COVID-19, WASN managed to carry out its activities in the remotest area of Gokwe South District in Chief Nemangwe's area of Sesame. WASN trained community members to create support groups that enabled them to advance their right to health, ability to communicate and assert themselves, dialogues with various stakeholders and advocating for the voiceless in the community.

Gratitude to the Board of Trustees and WASN staff who have managed to work during the trying times under difficult circumstances. To the Trustees who are busy elsewhere, many thanks for actively participating in some Zoom meetings called by WASN.

Without funding from our partners Olof Palme Center and AIDS Health Foundation WASN staff would not have carried out the activities which transform the lives of so many women, girls, men and boys in the far to reach communities.

I thank you all.

Moirá Ngaru



WASN Board Chairperson

## **Executive Director's Report**

COVID-19 squashed our optimism for the future to continue to creating support groups during the beginning of 2021. I thank the Board members and staff for their unwavering support and sound advise during the times of strife. Indeed without their support our goals would not have been achieved. Careful planning during COVID-19 and with lockdowns had to be observed and at the same time manage the outreaches and making sure nobody was exposed to COVID-19.

With support from Ministry of Health and Child Care, Olof Palme Center International and AIDS Health Foundation, WASN gained a lot in respect to human rights promotion, protection and capacitation of support group members on health issues. The year 2021 saw WASN capacitating women, girls, men and boys at Sesame Clinic through dissemination of information through SMS, WhatsApp on COVID-19 information, dished out masks to support group members, taught them on hand washing or sanitizing and maintaining physical distancing.

I would like to appreciate our development partners, Olof Palme International Center (OPIC) and AIDS Health Foundation who supported WASN immensely to make women, girls, men and boys' health better in Zimbabwe. I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2022.



Asante Sana! Iwe neni tine basa! Aluta Continua!

Anna-Colletor Penduka

Executive Director

## **WASN in Brief**

Women and AIDS Support Network (WASN) is a women's organisation dedicated to the fight for women and girls' issues in the era of HIV, AIDS, COVID-19 and beyond. WASN is a non governmental organisation founded in 1989 in Harare after the Society for Women Against AIDS held a meeting in Harare. Key to WASN's work is the promotion of women's and girls' Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights by addressing issues through gender lenses.

From inception, WASN has advocated for women and girls' rights. Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of many epidemics like HIV, Cancers, Gender Based Violence, the global Pandemic COVID-19 and Poverty.

WASN's programs have been designed for women and girls by researches done by involving the women and girls who happen to bear the brunt of the issues. WASN draws its commitment, selflessness, strength and wisdom from the women and girls from diverse backgrounds who come from rural and urban communities.

WASN's programs are community driven as the organisation undertakes baseline surveys then tailor make the trainings to suit the needs of the different communities.

## **WASN values**

WASN board and staff commit themselves to the following values, which become the guiding principles of the organisation.

### **Strategic values**

1. WASN is a feminist organisation
2. WASN is gender specific and work to realize women and girls interests
3. WASN believes in and seeks to cultivate participation by women and girls in all its work.
4. WASN is committed to timely response to women and girls issues.

### **Cultural values**

In pursuing the mission, WASN develops and strengthens a work culture among its Board and Staff that emphasizes the following values.

- ✓ Good governance
- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Professionalism

Globally, Health is one important concern of women, girls, men and boys. In the early 80s major gains were achieved through joint and complementary responses among the health

sector, NGOs and the communities. The gains were reversed due to the impact of AIDS, structural adjustments programmes and reductions in the budget allocations to health and household incomes. Currently the quality of care has declined, health workers have left for greener pastures and the ones remaining no longer provide good consistent service due to lack of or shortages of medicines, gloves and medical equipment. It is, however imperative that all stakeholders continue to put heads together and assist each other to attain Universal Health Coverage.

2021 has seen the global pandemic COVID-19 putting everything in disarray as the disgruntlement by health service providers as well as health consumers due to lack of Personal Protective Equipment was rampant. Many approaches to attain “health for all” seem bleak as most health institutions have dilapidated buildings, worn out equipment, poor morale within doctors, nurses and auxilliary staff, inadequate food and medicines. However, most NGOs working on health continue to advocate for provision of health for all in the era of many diseases and the population growing.

### **Acknowledgements**

WASN acknowledges the valuable support and contributions from our partner Olof Palme Center International and AIDS Health Foundation which made it possible for the organisation to continue functioning and carrying out its mandate of disseminating information to women, girls, men and boys.

WASN received lots of support from the Board of Trustees during the reporting period which cannot go unmentioned.

Furthermore, WASN extends its gratitude to Women’s organisations, AIDS Service Organisations, Ministry of Health and Child Care, National AIDS Council, Ministry of Home Affairs and the communities where we have worked in.

Special mention to the Support Group members who attended the trainings right throughout the year and health workers for the unwavering support to the former. Some travelled long distances to attend 3 day trainings and some came even when they were not feeling very well. They did not tire but would be assisted at the Clinic.



**Sesame Support Group members attending Stakeholders meeting.**

### **Activities from Programs in Summary**

The activities carried out during the year were as follows:-

1. Clearance protocol:- Planning with the local leadership and various Service Providers to work in Chief Nemangwe's area at Sesame Clinic in Gokwe South District.
2. Mobilizing women and girls living with HIV with the help of the local Clinic to create Support Groups.  
2x1day baseline surveys on women and girls' challenges and needs
3. Assessment of Service Providers challenges in relationship to service provision.  
. 2 x 1day baseline on service challenges being encountered by various Service Providers.
4. Training in Sexual, Reproductive Health, Rights and Leadership skills. Pre  
and post tests. To check on knowledge levels before and after trainings.  
2 x 3 day Training workshops on Rights Based Approaches and leadership skills, SRHR  
Education on the Woman's Body and demonstration on how to insert the Female Condom

5. Training in Communication and Assertiveness skills  
2 x 2day training workshops on communication and assertiveness  
Role plays to make participants aware of importance of communication.
6. Training in Advocacy  
2 x 3day training in Advocacy skills
7. Advocacy campaigns-Dialogues : Stakeholders Meetings  
1 day dialogue with various stakeholders/service providers and Support Group members.
8. Networking locally and regionally for advocacy purposes:- .International Women's Day:  
World AIDS Day: 16 Days of Activism via ZOOM.
9. Materials production in relation to advocacy issues- T shirts, sun hats and masks.
10. ZOOM meetings with OPIC, various stakeholders, other NGOs as well as beneficiaries.

## **Resources**

### **• Human**

The harsh economic problems being experienced have not spared WASN. However WASN exceptionally managed to carry out activities lined up for the year. Despite the harsh political, economic environment and the limited funding situation the staff managed to soldier on with the work.

There was unwavering support from the Board and staff members who stood firm with the organisation, built good relationships, shared responsibilities and decision making during harsh times and still managed to fulfill WASN 2021 plans.

### **• Funding**

WASN managed to carry out the planned activities courtesy of funding from OPIC, AHF and from rentals of office. WASN continues to write proposals to different funders hoping to get more funding.

## **c. Networking**

Not much changed from the previous year 2020 as The New World Order that brought lockdowns continued with one wave after another swept the globe. This meant everyone had to abide by the WHO regulations resulting in many meetings being done over ZOOM. The ZOOM meetings meant there were no face to face meetings and staff worked from home meaning everybody needed data to work from home. Only essential services went to their work stations and the rest of the NGOs worked from home except when the lockdowns were relaxed.

Zoom meeting with Yeukai from AB Communications and Norbert Chetu to partner during the lockdown and disseminate information to Support Groups and the general populous in the Midlands Province. WASN indicated that we would engage them once we start our activities in Gokwe South District.

Zoom meetings were held with the following in March: Director's Forum wellness session on 10<sup>th</sup> March, Gender Technical Working Group (NAC) on International Women's Day, WCoZ Strategic Plan on Midterm Review, Classic 263 Radio talk on GBV during the month of March with WAG. WASN had written a statement titled "Standing Together as One". We, the women of Zimbabwe we are what we are because of others. From diverse backgrounds like students, doctors, lawyers, housewives, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, women with various conditions, gender and sexual identities, let us hold hands together to distinguish ourselves into greatness. We need each other as mentioned by the Psalmist who reminds us on how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in Unity. Let us empower our womenfolk to access, demand and acquire various services through good communication and supporting each other. Let us raise awareness against bias and take action for equality."

Therefore March, which is women's month, women choose to celebrate each other's achievements, raise awareness of various issues affecting women, influence behaviour, challenge bias and smashing stereotypes. Below are the organisations that participated: NAC, WAG, LESO, SAT, Making Waves, Widows Fountain of Life, Institute of Women Social Workers, Pan African Positive Women's Coalition (PAPWC), Network of Zimbabwe Positive Women (NZPW+), The Cancer Association of Zimbabwe and The AIDS and Arts Foundation (TAAF).

We had a staff meeting whereby we renewed contracts for the staff for 2021 basing on the existing funding base.

End of March saw WASN and WAG partner on the Classic 263 Radio show talking about GBV and other gender related issues commemorating the Women's Month.

While in Gokwe we held 2 Zoom meetings with OPIC on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May looking at the Overall Program Goal checking what WASN contributes towards the Political Priority Area, Actors working in Cooperation and Rights Holders in the areas of Democracy and Human Rights and Gender Equality. The meetings were a refresher course and reminder of other issues that WASN does and would assist in reporting on the project results.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June NANGO Multi Stakeholder Engagement meeting with over 200 participants from CSOs, Local Government, Councillors, MPs RDC and health workers dialogued on development work and engagement. This was a fruitful dialogue as CSOs were asked to compliment the efforts by some MPs and Councillors.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June NANGO meeting on CSO Self Regulation Mechanism and PVO Shadow Bill No2 and discussed what the draft documents contained.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July the Director participated in the Torch Caravan to celebrate 20 years of the Global Fund.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July a Zoom meeting for the Torch Caravan Activities involving CCM, MOHCC, NAC before handing over the torch to Malawi. The torch had been received virtually by Itai Rusike of CWGH together with most of the CSO Directors and champions for different diseases. The torch was finally handed over to Malawi on 23<sup>rd</sup> July under a colourful ceremony with South Africa showing a video of hand over to Zimbabwe, being received by Zimbabwe and the brief activities done by Zimbabwe before handing to Malawi by Tendayi Westerhof on behalf of the Global Fund Advocates in Zimbabwe. The event was well coordinated.

End of month the Director attended a series of meetings by WCoZ, CWGH, WAG, NANGO, in respect to GBV, COVID-19, Consultation by Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

With NANGO and WCoZ the issue of organisations to register with the Harare DCC took centre stage with discussions on how best to engage the DCC without disrupting NGOs work. Others felt the move was unconstitutional and this was challenged in court. A few organisations had complied and there was confusion as to what would happen to most who had not complied. Eventually most organisations handed in the DCCs requirements while the litigation was underway.

On 13<sup>th</sup> August I attended the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance by Gender Links as this is a network of networks that campaigned for the SADC Gender Protocol in 2008 and reviewed in 2016. This is a unique sub regional instrument that brings together existing continental and global commitments to achieving gender equality in line with SDGs.

Attended the WCoZ-WIPSU annual leadership training school which emphasized on innovation, personal body-soul growth, passing on knowledge to others, no matter how difficult things might be there is no need for competition, when depressed seeking counselling and remembering that the personal is political. Therefore, self-care is important in our work. We need to think about our hearts, bodies, minds and souls. The training went on to highlight issues that can ground us like having problems from family, community and work. Therefore, self-awareness is key in our work so that we are organised. Being mindful when working in nature that we try to walk barefoot and see what happens when in the forest and assimilate what nature provides. Bring in many friends with like minds and share stories while in nature.

Another strategy is that of the Grateful jug. This strategy makes one keep in touch and it is therapeutic for holistic self-care with exercising, praying and singing. There is need to create a space that inspires you to self-care with stones, leaves, incense, sweets and do not keep dirty files. Do not go to bed with anything toxic but clear your mind and make sure if you cannot resolve it then focus on something productive.

Another strategy was FIRE which an individual or organisation can utilise. One can Extinguish or Re-Ignite individuals or organisations by use of a suggestion box to motivate everyone. The following could assist, teamwork, refresher courses, celebrating birthdays, team building and boot camps etc. bring family once to workplace for them to understand and appreciate what you do. Provide others with opportunity to grow and let them feel how difficult it is to lead.

Creating spaces and boundaries sets the time to work and not be distracted, let children know it and work in your space. There is self-naturing, self-talk and what are you saying to yourself. This happens every day two bulls fight in every person's mind: Positivity and Negativity and the one that wins is the one that is fed the most. Therefore creation of a community of care amongst family, friends, relatives, workmates and grandparents is imperative.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September WASN had a Zoom meeting with OPIC Country Coordinator for Zimbabwe and eSwatini and Calle Sundstedt Programme Manager OPIC during the Annual Partner dialogue. The two needed summarised significant changes in our programming during the period Jan-Sept with positive or negative impact. The Director gave a comprehensive outline of how the organisation managed to carry out the work as much as staff worked mostly from home. WASN continued to be in touch with Support Group members through WhatsApp and SMSs churning out the much needed information. Once the level 4 lockdown was relaxed WASN trained the Support Group members in Advocacy. Therefore, despite the lockdown WASN has managed to carry out its activities. The two were impressed as they indicated that other organisations were expressing challenges in programming.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September the Director attended ZAN Director's Forum wherein Directors shared responses to COVID-19 pandemic and the activities that were implemented to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

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On 27<sup>th</sup> September WASN held a virtual board meeting and presentations were made to the board members of what had taken place since the last board meeting. Various reports were presented by the Director, Program Manager and Finance/Admin Officer.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, a training meeting was held by UNICEF over ZOOM. The training was on

- 1, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
2. Prevention of Fraud and Corrupt Activities
3. Joint Monitoring and Evaluation

There was a pre-test that was administered with the following questions: a) What are the Prevention Controls to mitigate against Fraud? b) At which phase of program implementation is Monitoring? c) What is the purpose of the assurance activities i.e. audit? This training was a good one as it formed the basis of refresher course.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October attended a Joint Planning of CWGH Board and Executive Committee meeting on issues of Funding, elections of Executive Committee members and National Conference with the last two issues being suspended due to COVID-19.

On the same day attended a ZESN/WCOZ virtual meeting discussing the different models of Quota Systems in Zimbabwe looking at the pros and cons and proffering recommendations.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October a Zoom meeting called by ZESN on the topic Effective Participation and Representation of Women in Zimbabwe's Electoral Democracy facilitated by Sakhile Sifelani Ngoma, Comm. Joyce Kazembe, J. Chindewere from PADARE, Namatai Kwekweza from WeLead, Ronika Mumbire from ZWB and Comm. Virginia Muwanigwa from ZGC.

On 26<sup>th</sup> October OPIC met with its partners at Jameson Hotel physically to workshop on Gender Equality Integration.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October attended a Zoom meeting called upon by WAG on Termination of Pregnancy (ToP). Among the challenges found were limited grounds for legal termination, criminalisation of unlawful termination, failure to distinguish between the different gestation stages, unmet need for family planning methods, lack of information, abortion related stigma, requirements for a magistrate certificate and many others. The major issue being that abortion is generally associated with pregnancy due to promiscuity and termination is rather universal as it incorporates rape, incest and medical incapacitation.

The meetings were a platform for linking, sharing and learning from others their experiences in the different communities where they programmed.

#### **d. Board Meetings**

On 18<sup>th</sup> June WASN held a virtual board meeting with two members sending apologies.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September WASN held a virtual board meeting and presentations were made to the board members of what had taken place since the last board meeting. Various reports were presented by the Director, Program Manager and Finance/Admin Officer.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December WASN board meeting was held virtually. Lots of issues were discussed as well as suggestions being made on how to continue to sustain programming during the following years.

### **e. Promoting Sexual, Reproductive Health, Rights and Leadership**

OPIC advised that they disbursed the funds on 13 April 2021 and immediately we communicated our intention to DAC Gokwe South District for our clearance protocol to work at Sesame Clinic and create 2 Support Groups. WASN staff travelled to Gokwe during the period 26-28 April with DAC taking us to Rural District Council, District Medical Officer, Sister In Charge at Gokwe Hospital and we had fruitful meetings with them as they welcomed us again in the District. The DMO reiterated the need to emphasise that the elderly women should be screened for NCDs rather than present them when it is too late. Since WASN engages mostly women he urged us to encourage the women to visit the health centres for screening of Cervical Cancers and other NCDs.

The DMO then tasked DAC to get the Community Nurse to go and introduce WASN staff to Sesame Clinic staff for us to have the women, girls, men and boys mobilised for the creation of the Support Groups. The introductions were done resulting in WASN spelling out our requirements that each group had to have 45 people with 36 being females and 9 males. WASN indicated that the Leadership and SRHR trainings would start from 10-15 May 2021. The trainings were carried out successfully at Sesame Clinic. Leadership training Pictures



Learning STIs and other HIV related diseases



Body mapping

The 4 pictures below show women, men, boys and girls doing role plays and resource mapping in their communities



Group work



Presenting Resource mapping



Drama performance



Presenting Resource mapping

Soon after the Leadership and SRHR trainings there was an announcement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of Indian Strain of the Coronavirus in Kwekwe and we felt our programming could be disturbed and decided to go back to train on Communication and Assertiveness before stringent measures could be imposed on travelling. Preparations were made and trainings done from 25-28 May.



Sister in Charge during the training



Sharing information during Communication and Assertiveness Training

Beginning of September started preparing for Gokwe South District outreach factoring the needs of the Support Group members who indicated that they needed sports for wellness. WASN bought them 2 netballs which are kept at the Clinic.

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 WASN trained the two Support Groups in Advocacy. The Support Group members were very enthusiastic to learn and implement the strategies for the betterment of their communities.



Advocacy training and handover of condoms and netballs

WASN staff travelled to Gokwe South District to wrap up its 2021 activities with various stakeholders and Support Group members. On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, was invited to Chief Nemangwe's homestead where the following stakeholders were present: DDC, DAC, MOHCC, VFU, Social Welfare, Women's Affairs, sabhukus and nurses that came to vaccinate the community leaders. I was given the opportunity to introduce WASN and mentioned what our programme entailed to those who met me for the first time. The Chief reiterated what WASN had done in educating the Support Group members in Makuwerere, Musita, Masuka, Svisvi and Sasame areas.

The 20<sup>th</sup> October was the big day being Stakeholders Day to dialogue with Support Group members at Sesame Clinic. By 8 am the Support Group members were already registering and being given T-shirts and hats as they were very enthusiastic to showcase to stakeholders what they had learnt. In the meantime the various stakeholders were arriving as WASN brought other officers who did not have transport from Gokwe Centre. The MC was Mr. John Siyagijima a teacher and Radio Zimbabwe personality leaving with disability conducted the event from 9am to 4pm. All protocols were observed and the Headman led the people in greeting Chief Nemangwe (Mika Katyavazungu) his real name. The program went on well with WASN introducing the staff, its history, its niche to empower women and girls regards their SRHR, leadership, communication and assertiveness as well as advocating for the voiceless and objectives of the meeting. The process was interjected with musical interlude by Support Group members and drama. This kept all present glued to the process being directed by the MC.

The MC interviewed WASN Director, the District Development Coordinator and the Chief and the interviews were aired on Radio Zimbabwe.

WASN had sent guidelines being set of questions frequently asked by Support Group members to be addressed by stakeholders during their presentations. The various stakeholders narrated and gave statistics of what was asked. Issues of adherence to ART, viral load, testing and treating, Gender Based Violence cases and how to report, child marriages, school drop outs and payment of fees through Social Services, food hand outs and seed allocation challenges and suppression of many issues were discussed.

The Chief took to the podium and thanked everyone present naming others by name and hierarchy for gracing the meeting that had been enabled by WASN. He talked at length about GBV and how working in partnership with the police had decreased incidences by a group of machete welders who had terrorised the Mutimutema Growth Point. Buses and transporters were avoiding the Growth Point as it had become a hot spot of machete gangs. The partnership yielded good results with 8 of the 16 gang members being nabbed. He mentioned that families that helped the rest of the gang to escape would also face wrath of the traditional courts as they knew what their sons were committing crime in the area. Snippets of the Chief are attached.



Chief Nemangwe and his wife

After the Chief had spoken the people were given transport and lunch allowances before embarking on netball. Amongst the stakeholders present was a business man who donated another netball to the Support Group members. WASN felt honoured that it had brought in various stakeholders who appreciated the works by WASN.

Pictures of other Stakeholders making presentations



The top picture is Mrs Dera the Assistant DDC and below it is Sgt Mwadira of VFU

Below are other Stakeholders.



After the Chief had spoken the people were given transport and lunch allowances before embarking on netball. Amongst the stakeholders present was a business man who donated another ball to the Support Group members. WASN felt honoured that it had brought in various stakeholders who appreciated the works by WASN.

## AHF Activities

In preparation for the AHF activities WASN wrote a letter to the City Health Directorate to enable WASN carry activities in Hopley on 5<sup>th</sup> November and followed up on 16<sup>th</sup> November to which some officers simply advised us that they will phone us. As WASN we tasked one of the board members to get in touch with ZNNP+ to mobilise women and girls living with HIV to be trained at our offices. With political tensions in these communities it was prudent to let the women be trained on SRHR and leadership at our offices. WASN slated the trainings for 8-10 December and 13-15 December. The first group had 33 members. The group appreciated being trained and expressed the many challenges they encounter in the community. The second group had 43 members and we pitched tents in the garden to enable social distancing and hired chairs. WASN provided refreshments of drinks and sandwiches then provided transport allowances. The Support Group members showed enthusiasm in the program wherein they shared testimonies and challenges they encountered in the community. The majority of the women mentioned drug abuse by their children and grandchildren with some even joining some cults. WASN referred other parents to organisations dealing with youths abusing drugs. WASN disbursed condoms to the members as well as masks. On the last day of the training sun hats and wrappers were given to each member.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Support Group from Hopley**

**after SRHR and Leadership training**

## **Financial Systems and Accountability**

During the period 2021, the Admin/Finance Officer made sure that all procedures covering financial matters were adhered to by WASN staff. The use of the WASN accounting manual guided every staff member on procedures that ensure consistency, transparency and integrity in handling of financial issues of the organisation.

## **Monitoring of the financial performance**

Use of the consolidated budget formed the basis of the 2021 expenditure. The use of programmers raising a requestion for the activities, countersigned by Finance officer, Executive Director and Treasurer or Chairperson ensures transparency.

Wasn's financial conduct was monitored through the preparation and submission of monthly reports. The procurement procedures were conducted as per accounting manual like:use of 3 quotations, approved by the Director and selection of best quotation.

The Mid term audit was done and submitted to the donor and shared with the Board and Staff. End of December a final annual audit was done and had no problems arising from the recordings and quality of the financial reporting.

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## **Successes**

- Dissemination of COVID-19 information through SMS, WhatsApp and distribution of fliers and masks to the various Support Groups in Chirumanzu and Gokwe South Districts.
- Creation and Resuscitation of Support Groups of women, girls, men and boys living with HIV at Svisvi Clinic under Chief Nemangwe and Hopley in Harare.
- Women, girls, men and boys trained in: Rights Based Approaches, SRHR, communication and assertiveness skills, advocacy skills, Sex and sexuality – body and resource mapping
- Dialogues - Support Group members, Health Service Providers, Law enforcement agents, other Stakeholders working in the area, Traditional and Local leaders dialoguing on pertinent issues that affect them in the community.
- Produced materials like fliers used during the COVID-19 period and masks, T shirts. Sun hats and wrappers for the Support Group members and stakeholders.
- Formation of Netball teams for their wellness.

## Lessons Learnt

- Ability to adapt when a pandemic arises like COVID-19 that put most plans in disarray.
- Changing ways of communication to the hard to reach areas in times of strife by providing data bundles.
- Involvement of traditional leaders and other Service Providers enhances Community Based Programming.
- Service Providers and service recipients created rapport.
- Dialogue meetings among various Service Providers and Support Group members improved demand and access of services resulting in improved service delivery.
- Creation of consortiums in tackling issues in the same constituency assisted the poorest of the poor.
- Testimonies from parents of drug abuse by their children with WASN referring to those who assist to overcome addiction and recovery.
- More women and girls are still in need of empowerment and skills building.

## Obituary



The late Honourable Senator Rejoice Timire

WASN lost the above Board member due to Covid-19. She represented Persons with Disabilities in the Parliament of Zimbabwe. She was a dedicated professional who executed her duties and roles diligently, a loving mother, sister, aunt and friend. MHDSRIEP

## **Conclusion**

WASN's ultimate vision is an atmosphere where women and girls enjoy their full Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights, in the HIV, AIDS and COVID19 era.

WASN however worked with what was feasible like the education on SRHR, Leadership, Communication and Assertiveness, Advocacy, Dialogues and ZOOM meetings.