

# EveryWoman E-Bulletin August 2016

## Making a Difference For Women!

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An SRHR Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) following proceedings during a ZWRCN consultative meeting

## ZWRCN NEWS

Gender and Health

### Engaging Women in Communities to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network ZWRCN is playing a role in motivating women of all ages in Mutoko and Shurugwi to improve their health seeking behaviour in relation to their sexual and reproductive health. At the same time the organisation is taking the opportunity to mobilise women to advocate for improved access to public health services as well as quality of services. Community Monitoring Committees (CMCs) have been established in Mutoko and Shurugwi to champion this agenda. On 24 August, 2016 ZWRCN held a workshop in Mutoko for women aged between 25 and 50 who met to consolidate the CMC, and discuss among other things issues affecting women in accessing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

(SRHR) related information. The discussion was underpinned by a focus on the rights enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe, including the right to life. It was pointed out that the Constitution of Zimbabwe stipulates interconnected rights related to sexual and reproductive health. Amongst them is Section 48- Right to life, Section 51- Human Dignity, Section 52- Personal Security, Section 60- Freedom of conscience, Section 62- Access to Information, Section 63- Right to Freedom of Expression, Section 76- Right to health care and Section 78 on Marriage rights.



**Virginia Muwanigwa facilitating the SRHR Community Monitoring Committee meeting in Mutoko on 24 August, 2016**

During the meeting the women were reminded that SRH issues affect all spheres of life. It was highlighted that domestic violence and gender based violence on women can be traced back to the politics of women's sexuality. Patriarchal attitudes towards women's health was a stumbling block in women asserting their sexuality and being able to realise their rights to reproductive health; an example was cited of males who do not accept that their wives can go to a health centre and get assistance from a male nurse.

**Gender  
Budgeting**

**Women and the 2017 Budget. Defining our  
Demands**

The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) convened a workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 to review financing for women's empowerment through the national budget, with a special focus on health and agriculture. The workshop dubbed "Women and the 2017 budget, Defining our Demands" was attended by CSOs with different development mandates, including women's organisations with a health and agriculture mandate, tax experts, economics gurus. The workshop provided a platform for information sharing on the state of the economy: the good and the bad; tax justice and why it matters in public finance as well as illicit financial flows and implications for engendering and democratising the national budget. The group who identified themselves as Gender Responsive Budgeting Alliance agreed that the women's movement had made progress in several areas but the time had come to elevate the struggle and begin to interrogate macroeconomic issues and the impact of decisions made at that level on women's empowerment.



Participants at the Civil Society Gender Budgeting Workshop

The review workshop served as a basis for defining budget priorities for 2017. The Gender Budget Alliance identified access to general budget Information; pro poor and gender sensitive policy and legal framework reforms; establishment of VIAC centres at district level; review of command agriculture requirements to support small scale farmers, and, more support to programmes that are pro women e.g. groundnut farming, as some of the budget advocacy issues for 2017.

## ZIMBABWE NEWS

### AROUND ZIMBABWE

### **Command Agriculture: Financing for Agriculture Vital for Food Security- The Herald**

As the 2016/17 farming season draws closer, it is refreshing to note that some banks have committed themselves to continue availing funds towards the agricultural season. [Click for more](#)

### **Imports drop 20% in July-Financial Gazette**

THE country's total import bill dropped 20,34 per cent in the seven months to July weighed down by a number of factors which include troubles in the external payment systems, import restrictions placed on selected products by Government, troubles in the external payment systems and weak industry demand for raw materials.. [Click for more](#)

### **Government to start implementation of 25 million ICT Innovation fund – Financial Gazette**

The Zimbabwean government is in the final stages of setting up the structures for the multi-million ICT innovation fund and will begin the implementation of this pool by the end of September 2016. [Click for more](#)

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **AUC Chairperson, H.E Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, approves the deployment of 'a historic Women-only' African Union Election Observation Mission to the Republic of Seychelles**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma has approved the deployment of a Woman-only Short-Term Election Observer Mission for the Parliamentary Elections scheduled for 8-10 September, 2016 in the Republic of Seychelles. [Click for more](#)

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. AFRODAD Summer School on Natural Resources, Revenue Management and IFFs**

#### **Deadline: October 14 2016**

The African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) invites applications for its 2016 Summer School Training on Natural Resources: Revenue Management & Illicit Financial Flows in Africa. The one week training program will comprise up to 40 participants drawn from parliaments, civil society organizations, faith based organisations and media houses. The training program will be held in Pretoria, South Africa and runs over five days from Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2016. [Click for more](#)

### **2. Comic Relief's Common Ground Initiative Women and Girls' Rights: Innovation Fund**

Comic Relief is seeking applications for its Innovation Fund with an aim to work which addresses the rights of young women in sub-Saharan Africa. It wants to support innovative and creative campaigning, convening, skills building, inter-generational dialogues, and the use of new and existing digital and mobile technologies. [Click for more](#)

## E-RESOURCES

1. Africa Human Development Report for 2016 on Accelerating Gender Equality and Women Empowerment [click to view](#)

*"You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."*  
*Michelle Obama*