

DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN AFRICA NETWORK

(DAWA)

Registration Number: MA0001206/2020

WHO WE ARE:

- Dawa is an indigenous, community based girl and young women founded and led feminist network in Africa to promote the rights and leadership of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Our approach is integrated, addressing social injustices and challenging inequalities, (including but not limited to gender, social, legal, economic), eradicating poverty and promoting education, because these are central to enabling AGYW to have autonomy over their lives and achieve good health and overall wellbeing. We co-create spaces to engage in much needed advocacy on a myriad of issues including access to comprehensive SRHR information and services, access to new HIV prevention and contraceptive methods that increase choices for girls and young women and reproductive justice.

VISION:

To achieve a future where girls and young women have control over the resources they need and the power to use them to end inequalities and fulfil their rights.

MISSION:

To become the leading network in East and Southern Africa that enables adolescent girls and young women leaders to self-organise for social good.

OBJECTIVES:

- To build the capacity of adolescent girls and young women to lead social action campaigns and projects at community, national and regional level;
- To advance an integrated approach to ending inequalities through education, poverty eradication and economic empowerment to achieve gender equality and good health,
- To connect our lived experiences and linking our communities to global platforms and vice-versa;
- To facilitate adolescent girls and young women's access to funding as a fiscal host.

More:

Learning (girl and women centred approaches)

Pharmatec advocacy, roll out of new interventions FP or HIV

Education dealing with misinformation (CSE, bodily autonomy), MHM myths and misconceptions, contraception myths and misconceptions -Matrix for questions and answers, selfcare and digital health, MPTs

Quality monitoring of services received, inform services needed, data for advocacy- realtime access to consumer insights, accountability, digital platforms

Social and behavioural science

Making the politics personal

VALUES:

1. Equality
2. Integrity
3. Innovation
4. Collaboration
5. Accountability
6. Accompaniment

WHAT INSPIRED US:

Strengthened investment in championing leadership and equity for and by AGYW in all their diversity in the ESA region has the potential to fast-track progress in ending AIDS and improving access to quality sexual and reproductive health and rights services. AGYW leaders are in urgent need of resources and a platform that is led by them to effect change in this regard. Dawa is an indigenous, young women-led network in East and Southern Africa created to make this happen.

OUR STRATEGY

The lived experience of AGYW is critical in shaping desired outcomes, addressing gaps and challenges that currently exist in the HIV and SRHR response. The 'missed opportunities' which we experience at a great cost is the inability to support the investment in AGYW's enthusiasm, knowledge and skill.

We channel these experiences to change development outcomes through the following approaches:

Networking and Movement Building: This part of DAWA's work entails the recruitment of members at national and regional level with support for in-country inception meetings and the development of localised advocacy strategies. It also includes capacity strengthening of adolescent girls and young women leaders to be able to organise and engage in advocacy, service demand creation and quality of services accountability and advocacy around new and emerging HIV prevention, SRHR products that seek to increase choices for girls and women.

Capacity Strengthening: Based on our lived and professional experiences, AGYW have the capacity but what it takes sometimes is to discover it and amplify it. At DAWA we commit to co-create opportunities for capacity strengthening through training, networking and peer and intergenerational mentorship.

Advocacy: Challenging inequalities including gender inequalities, that are deeply rooted in the existing patriarchal system in Africa requires continued advocacy. We collectively come

together to design advocacy initiatives that are evidence based as this approach will allow us to have our voices heard. The evidence comes from our own lived experiences and the data around us.

Feminist Accompaniment: We have experienced the benefits of mentorship and the accompaniment that comes along with it. Therefore our approach is to create the spaces that allow intra and intergenerational mentorship and exchanged learning.

Accountability: Girls and young women have a right to access services that are non-judgemental, not coerced and that meet their needs. Service provision accountability is a key approach that we focus on in order to push for quality improvement of services and delivery of services from a rights based approach.

Knowledge Management: We believe that girls and young women have the ability to make decisions over their lives, provided they have access to correct information. This motivates us to work around dealing with misinformation on SRHR, existing myths and misconceptions on gender equality and SRHR, education on research processes. Our approach will also include translating knowledge from research into information that can be understood by communities of girls and women.

Good Governance: Through this component DAWA provides technical support for the establishment of governance structures for organisations and networks in line with international good practice. This includes facilitating cross-generational collaboration to ensure that governing bodies have a mix of values and experiences.

WHOM DO WE WORK WITH

We collaborate, partner, implement with anyone who self identifies as a girl or woman between the ages 10 to 35 years in Zimbabwe and in the broader Eastern and Southern Africa region.

To date our network consists of over 600 girls and young women between the ages 15 to 35 who are members of the DAWA network. And 49 girl and young women led organisations, registered and unregistered who have also signed up for membership.

Our Structure- portray like a jigsaw puzzle

We believe that organisations do not create movements but people do. Henceforth our structure speaks on the feminist principles of power sharing and co-leadership as we seek to co-create spaces not to empower AGYW but to share the power.

DAWA day to day management team

Advisory Board-3 AGYW

(15-24) finance, lawyer, feminist, philanthropy or private sector below 35

Network members

Country Influence and Engagement Leads- belong to a girl and young women led organisation that is a member of the DAWA network



STAFF

Executive Coordinator

Programs and Advocacy Coordinator

- Programs Associate -Community Engagement**
- Programs Associate -M and E**
- Programs Associate-Advocacy and Networking**

Comms Coordinator

Finance and Admin Coordinator

OUR IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCE

Project Name: Leading in the New Decade :Leadership for and by AGYW for comprehensive HIV prevention and SRHR integration.

Funder: Global HIV Prevention Coalition Catalytic Funding through UNAIDS Zimbabwe

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Ministry of Health Zimbabwe and National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe

Period of Implementation:September 2020 to January 2021

Amount: 45 000 USD

Brief description and achievements: Accelerating HIV prevention efforts for AGYW requires meaningful, coordinated and supported engagement of the AGYW themselves. The project focused on building capacities of 36 AGYW from high HIV incidence and high HIV risk districts of Zimbabwe across the 10 provinces. The AGYW consisted of emerging and new advocates , who were trained in HIV prevention advocacy and movement building, supported with smartphones and data to be a vehicle for correct information giving and for engaging in digital advocacy during the Covid19 pandemic.108 sessions on topics related to AGYW leadership, gender equality, SRHR, HIV prevention, bodily autonomy and empowerment were conducted via whatsapp reaching over 510 AGYW across the country. 236 AGYW were reached out through community based dialogues supported by National AIDS Council at district level.

Project Name: “AGYW Demand- National Budget Advocacy to Show Us The Money On Health”

Funder: ARASA

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Womandla Foundation

Amount: 140 000 Rands

Implementing Period: September 2021-November 2021

Brief description and achievements: Engagement of AYW in decision making processes is critical and important in ensuring the priorities of AGYW are considered. Partnering with Womandla Foundation, 60 AGYW were trained in budget advocacy and monitoring and co-created a position paper which provided evidence needed for the National Budget Advocacy.

The 60 trained AGYW engaged in community National Budget Consultations to advocate for the recognition of the Abuja declaration and allocation of 15% of the national health budget towards health. Online the project reached over 600 AGYW with messages they could use for such advocacy. A high level stakeholder meeting to present the position paper was organised and this linked AGYW leaders with policy makers including Member of Parliament.

Project Name: Young People in Zimbabwe taking the lead on accountability

Funder: Youth Power Hub

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Girl Child Empowerment Trust and Womandla Foundation

Amount: \$2480 USD

Implementing Period: November 2021 to December 2021

Brief description and achievements: In collaboration with Girl Child Empowerment the project focused on engaging with 50 young people from rural Masvingo province of Zimbabwe on strengthening accountability towards the ICPD+25 targets made by Zimbabwe. 50 young people were engaged face to face and , 147 digitally via whatsapp, the resultant call to action was shared with stakeholders in a high level meeting that had CSO representatives, community leaders and policy makers.

Project Name: Connecting to Lead : Breaking the Gendered Digital Divide

Funder: ARASA

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Womandla Foundation

Amount: 84 000 Rands

Implementing Period: May 2022 to August 2022

Brief description and achievements: The objective was to connect AGYW leaders and the communities they lead across 3 countries Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi to co-create solutions on improved and sustained digital advocacy. 15 girls across the 3 countries who lead community based organisations who are part of the DAWA network were trained in digital advocacy, feminist movement building and resilience. The 15 young women further collaborated in the development of a toolkit, which seeks to support AGYW on effectively engaging in digital advocacy the new normal ushered in by the COVID 19 pandemic. The project also sought to demonstrate that AGYW if supported with right information, adequate resources and capacity have the ability to mobilise their constituencies, co-create tools that work for them and engage effectively.

Project Name: Tosirika/ Silence is not an option

Funder: ARASA

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Womandla Foundation

Amount: 50 000 Rands

Implementing Period: November 2022-December 2022

Brief description and achievements:

This project was used as an opportunity to amplify our voices, to garner commitments towards ending inequalities, ending harmful practices including GBV and ensuring girls and young women have the necessary support they need to thrive including. This also includes amplifying the messages on bodily autonomy and integrity which are very important for everyone especially women, young women, adolescents and people who are marginalised and criminalised, encourage critical awareness on the impact of GBV in the lives of girls and young women and importance of recognising bodily autonomy and integrity as a human rights issue, challenge the existing power imbalances and the position of girls and young women relative to boys and young men and capacitate girls and young women and their communities to link and connect with national, regional and global initiatives and processes on ending inequalities and promote bodily autonomy and integrity. As a collective of girls and young women, in our diversity, we brought forth our energies and power to raise our voices and demand action on ending violence against women and girls.

Project Name: Connecting to our Power: Challenging A Gathering Storm in the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) landscape

Funder: Urgent Africa Fund

Technical Support or Implementing Partners:

Amount: \$ 9000

Implementing Period: March 2023 to November 2023

Brief description and achievements:

The project is mainly focused on advancing SRHR advocacy in these challenging times where there is an increase in backlash and uncertainty about the future of our rights, strengthening the capacity of 24 AGYW from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi who are leading organisations to understand their power and corridors of power at national, regional and global levels, which is important as they show social change towards improved SRHR outcomes for AGYW and develop three accompanying briefs. Development of a girls Health Corner mobile application as a source of information, peer learning and interactions amongst girls and young women engaged in SRHR advocacy.

Project Name: Connecting to lead: Young Women and Adolescent Girls taking the lead in challenging the inequalities and ending GBV-Phase

Funder: HIVOS

Implementing Period: April 2023 to December 2023

Brief description and achievements:

The project's overall goal was to contribute to the empowerment of YWAG by challenging the inequalities and injustices that fuel GBV in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, through advocacy capacity strengthening, community mobilisation and feminist movement building. The project was implemented in Ward 16 Chivi, a rural district in Zimbabwe. A district with a high prevalence of Gender based violence cases. The project connected YWAG in Masvingo and beyond through physical and online activities like WhatsApp dialogues, podcast series, value clarification dialogues, and physical capacity- strengthening training. The project targeted at least 300 people in their diversities

Project Name: Connecting to lead: Young Women and Adolescent Girls taking the lead in challenging the equalities and ending GBV-Phase 2

Funder: HIVOS

Implementing Period: April 2024 to June 2024

Brief description and achievements:

The project's overall goal was to contribute to the empowerment of YWAG by challenging the inequalities and injustices that fuel GBV in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, through advocacy capacity strengthening, community mobilisation and feminist movement building. The project was implemented in Mwenezi Ward 18, rural district in Zimbabwe as a continuation from Chivi District. The Project Sought to contribute to the empowerment of YWAG in identifying and challenging the key drivers of inequalities and injustices that fuel GBV in Mwenezi, Through the GBV Community Based Research we conducted in 2024, from the findings economic disempowerment proved to be the driving force for GBV among women in Mwenezi, Zimbabwe Therefore, through feminist advocacy capacity strengthening, community mobilisation, knowledge management we created pathways for economic empowerment. We reached 500 + YWAG via social media, sports tournaments and community dialogues/journal clubs

Project Name: Connecting to lead: Young Women and Adolescent Girls taking the lead in challenging the equalities and ending GBV-Phase 3

Funder: HIVOS

Technical Support or Implementing Partners:

Amount: \$15 000

Implementing Period: September 2024 to April 2025

Brief description and achievements:

The project's overall goal is to contribute to the empowerment of YWAG in identifying and challenging the key drivers of inequalities and injustices that fuel GBV in Ward 18, Mwenezi, Zimbabwe through feminist advocacy capacity strengthening, community mobilization, knowledge management and creating pathways for economic empowerment. This will be

achieved through supporting trained YWAG startup livelihood projects in Mwenzi district, strengthening the capacity of 25 community leaders including political, religious and traditional leaders in Ward 18 and Mwenzi District to understand feminist approaches of preventing and responding to GBV against YWAG in their communities and strengthen community engagement and knowledge on GBV prevention through sports tournaments, solidarity marches, engagement of traditional and social media under the Tosirika: Silence is not an Option campaign on ending GBV in Mwenzi.

Project Name : Empowering AGYW through Inclusive Education

Partners: GPE

Implementing Period: January 2023 to June 2023

The Project aimed to promote inclusive education and empower Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) from marginalized communities to overcome educational barriers and reach their full potential. The project targeted 10 AGYW aged 15-24 from marginalized communities, including those with disabilities, and those in rural or urban poor areas.

Key components included offering mentorship programs designed to support AGYW in their educational pursuits, encompassing vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities. Furthermore, the project engaged with local communities, parents, and caregivers to increase awareness of the importance of inclusive education and garner support for AGYW's education. Advocacy efforts were undertaken to influence policy changes and decision-makers to promote inclusive education and address the unique needs of AGYW.

The project established partnerships with local organizations, schools, and communities. A monitoring and evaluation framework was developed to track progress and impact. The project also built capacity among local stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education and community leaders.

Project Name: Community led HIV and AIDS Monitoring

Funder: UNAIDS CLM

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: Zimbabwe Young Positives (ZY+)

Amount: \$ 20 000

Implementing Period: October 2023 - October 2024

Brief description and achievements:

The project was implemented in Mwenezi district, Zimbabwe. The focus of this project was to cocreate spaces and build capacities for Young people Living with HIV (YPLHIV) and AGYW in their diverse communities by developing accountability projects on improving access to quality HIV information and services. Targeting at least 500 YPLHIV.

Project Name:

Funder: VIIV HealthCare

Technical Support or Implementing Partners: My Age Zimbabwe Trust

Amount:

Implementing Period: January 2024- December 2025

Brief description and achievements:

The Connecting Adolescent girls and young women for HIV prevention project seeks to contribute to lowering new HIV infections amongst AGYW in their diversity from Masvingo. The project will contribute towards increased health-seeking behaviour among adolescent girls and young women, a decrease in new HIV infections amongst adolescent girls and young women and increased knowledge on HIV and AIDS. This will be achieved through innovative approaches to information sharing, demand generation, and community mobilisation in order to improve access, utilisation, and retention of HIV combination prevention methods.

Project Name: Education for Change: Increasing access to quality education for social mobility and change

Partners: GPE

Implementing Period: July 2024- December 2024

The Project aimed at improving access to quality education for marginalised and disadvantaged groups, promoting social mobility and empowering them to become agents of positive change in Mwenezi. This was achieved through empowering marginalized and disadvantaged students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become agents of positive change in their communities, promoting social mobility and equality. Community engagement and ownership to foster community engagement and ownership of education initiatives, promoting a culture of education and social change. This project targeted young women, girls and community leaders. This Project was also used as a way to advocate creating safe, inclusive, and supportive school environments where AGYW feel secure and are encouraged to participate actively.

Project Name: Transforming Masculinities: Connecting and Engaging Young Men and Boys and Young Women and Girls to Promote Gender Equality and End Gender-Based Violence.

Funder: WCOZ

Technical Support or Implementing Partners:
Amount: \$ 10 000

Implementing Period: September 2024 to December 2024

Brief description and achievements:

The project sought to contribute to creating a gender-just society free from all forms of Gender Based Violence and harmful practices in Mwenezi Rural District, through the engagement and participation of young women and men and adolescent boys in transformative training, value clarification dialogues, and policy advocacy campaigns. 20 Young men and Adolescent boys were trained

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Implementing Period: July 2024- December 2024
Technical Support: GPE

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WHAT DO WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD

Governance

Advisory Board

DAWA is in the process of constituting an advisory board to support the Trustees and the current DAWA team. We envision a board that will constitute of the following:

- Representatives of AGYW between the ages 15-24 and 24 -35, these reps may represent different intersectionalities or multiple identities in order to ensure our diversity is recognised.
- Representative from private sector/philanthropy

- Representative with a financial background
- Representative with a human rights, women;s rights and law background
- Representative with a civil society, advocacy and feminist movement building experience

Strategic Plan

DAWA has been implementing projects and activities guided by our vision and mission. We have been developing annual work plans, including an advocacy calendar to guide our activities and we believe it is time to develop a 3 year strategic plan. To do this we would require resources to hire a consultant and we believe with a budget of \$3500 usd this can be possible. Supporting policies for the successful implementation of the strategic plan will be developed including:

- Child Protection Policy
- Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Financial Policy

Program Management

DAWA Team for Day to Day Management

Currently DAWA is anchored by a team of 4 volunteers , who have the following positions Executive Coordinator, Programs Coordinator, Advocacy and Movement Building Coordinator and Communications and Events Coordinator. Our team is missing a Finance and Administration Coordinator and a Monitoring and Learning Coordinator.

As we continue to mobilise resources to support our team of volunteers, expand the team and also adequately compensate for the work the team does, we are also open to exploring options . These options may include fellowships for the team that will allow them to get stipends and at the same time work or implement projects under DAWA, internships that will allow the DAWA team to be seconded and work at DAWA but being financed by another institution.

Website

We are in urgent need of a website. Our website was hacked in September 2022 during the implementation of the Connecting to Lead: Breaking the Gendered Digital Divide Project. The hacking of the website has delayed the development of the Girls Health Corner mobile application, a platform co-created by girls and young women as a source of SRHR information, providing peer support to each other and for exchange learning. The absence of a website has also made us more invisible , as our presence in the digital space only now depends on social media platforms and to potential funders and donors this raises credibility issues on our existence and impact. To have a fully functional and secure website we require support of \$750 USD.

Financial and Administration

Bank Account

DAWA has not managed to have its own bank account and has been using fiscal host services from Womandla Foundation. Plans are underway once we have an advisory board in place and a finance and administration coordinator to open a bank account for the organisation in 2023.

Our Social Media and Communications Platform

Email: coms.dawa@gmail.com

Phone: +263778883840

Website: [Dawa \(dawango.org\)](http://Dawa(dawango.org))

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/DAWAFacebook>

Twitter: <https://bit.ly/DAWATwitter>

Instagram: <https://bit.ly/DAWAInstagram>

Linked In: <https://bit.ly/DAWALinkedIn>