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DREAMS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR
AN AIDS-FREE FUTURE
FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

**The Culture
Fund
DREAMS IC**
Journey

**SUCCESS
STORIES**

**BEHIND
THE SCENES**

**GRABBING
THE SECOND
CHANCE**

Girls Can Know Decode and ACT

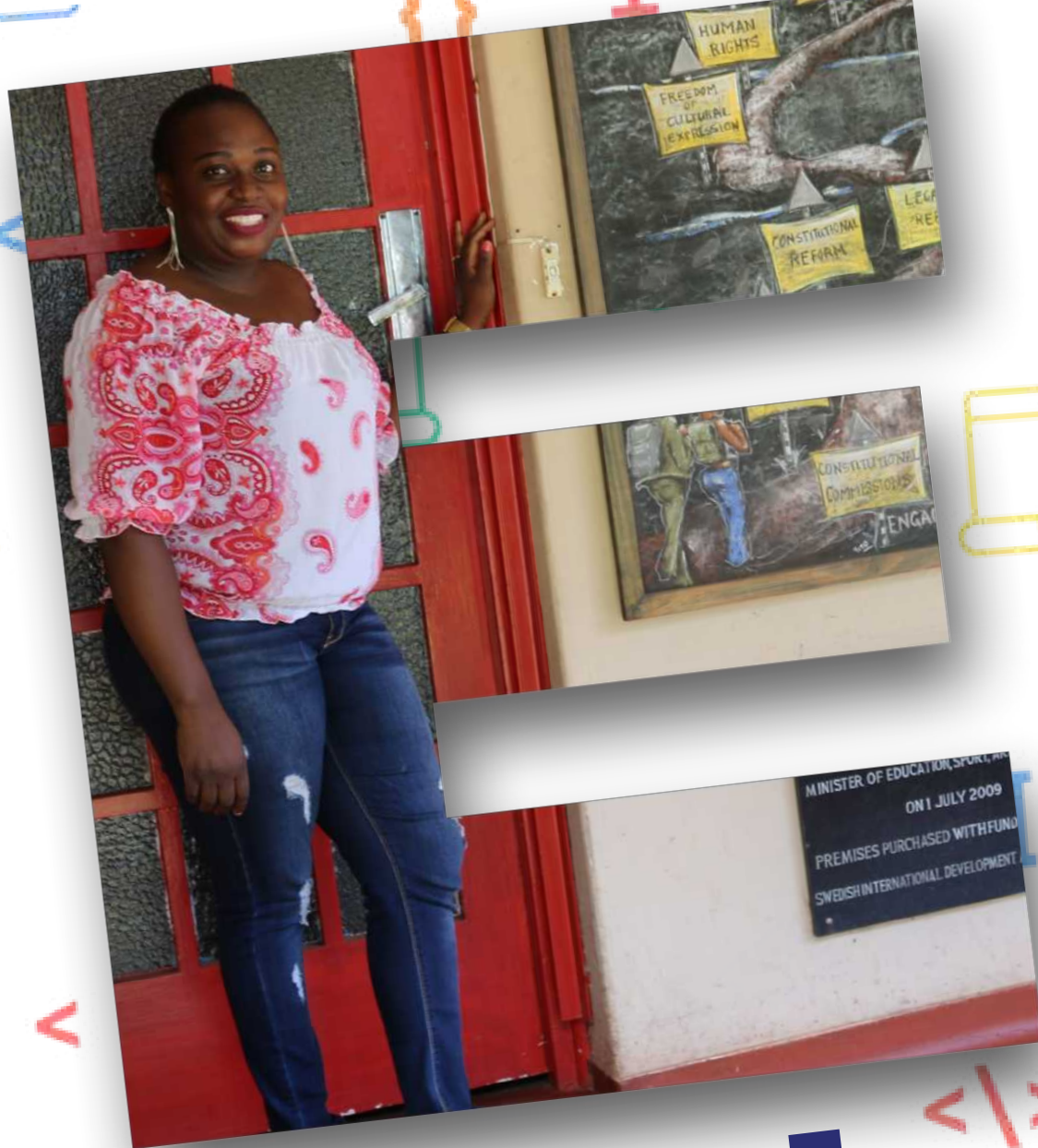
THIS IS



The Culture Fund of Zimbabwe Trust (Culture Fund) is a non-profit organization. Over the last decade, it has supported active development and progressive social change agents in more than 1,000 creative projects. The Fund has helped strengthen Community Based Organisations (CBOs) capacities, assisted women and youth empowerment interventions, enhanced community livelihoods capacities and fostered citizen rights awareness. A unique enabler within Zimbabwean society, the Culture Fund is unique in helping build creative capacities through investing resources in actions that enable mainstreaming of innovative solutions into sustainable development interventions.

The Culture Fund through a series of creative arts activities seeks to encourage self-motivated and conscious AGYW by adopting a holistic approach that looks at the total being from Body (BO), Mind (MI) and Soul (SO) (BOMISO). Through the BOMISO approach the Culture Fund entry point is to interrogate cultural practices and norms inhibiting access to knowledge and SRH services amongst the target AGYW. In addition, it seeks to debunk and expose some false arguments peddled as culture inhibiting access to services. Through creative arts the AGYW utilize the platforms provided for self-expression and articulation on SRH issues thereby motivating them to seek services. The ultimate objective is for AGYW to project their voices, be heard and seek to fulfill their SRH needs as they deem necessary.

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Editor's note

Mazvinyanya Madzivaide

Here we are with yet another edition of the Culture Fund DREAMS magazine series. Unfortunately, this edition is the last edition, everything that begins at some point ends, so is our DREAMS Innovation Challenge project. We had a whole two years and a few months implementing the project and we are at the finish line of the project. We are grateful for the paths we walked, the new partnerships, friendships and relationships we made throughout the two great years, we know that a lot of girls enjoyed this journey as much as we did. This final issue is about our journey, our success and experiences whilst on the journey, we hope you will enjoy the last edition and get to have a glimpse of the project for the last time. It is my hope that you will hold on to the sweet memories and hope for a brighter and more fun future!

The Culture Fund **DREAMS** IC journey

The project kicked off by identifying repositories of stigma, taboos and cultural sensitivities that have traditionally hindered AGYW demanding health services through a baseline commissioned in early 2017. The intervention entry point was debunking (expose falsehoods of a myth, idea or belief) retrogressive traditional cultural practices that inhibit full access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and other SRH

The ultimate objective of the project was to empower AGYW with capacity, self-belief and relevant information prompting them to seek access to health services contributing to the overall DREAMS goal of reducing HIV infection among AGYW by 40%

The project being implemented in 6 districts involved a variety of creative genres to engage community members and Adolescent Girls and Young Women on debunking cultural taboos which inhibit AGYW from accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health services. The journey started in October 2016 and ending 31 March 2019.

It has been a thrilling journey and as using creative arts to communicate, here are some of the methodologies used in the project implementation:

GIANT puppets

Giant puppets were used to capture attention of community members as they were exposed for the first time to the concept. The giant puppets helped unlock discussions which are not easy to engage in, around sexuality especially in forums where there are both men and women in the same circle. Community members enjoyed acts by giant puppets, and they will always remember the puppets.





Theatre and dance

The project used theatre as a way of communicating especially with the in school and out of school AGYW. The idea was that this age group does not do well with sit in manual learning approaches and hence a more captivating engagement would ensure attention and information retention of these age groups. Culture Fund partners, ZISAF, Victory Siyanqoba and CHIPAWO used theatre with in school BOMISO club sessions to discuss virginity preservation, delaying sexual debut, understanding the empowering side of culture among so many topics. The in school and out of school girls created their own plays around BOMISO curriculum and learnt through this creative engagement. The community also enjoyed theatre as they crafted their own dramas and performed during community festivals.

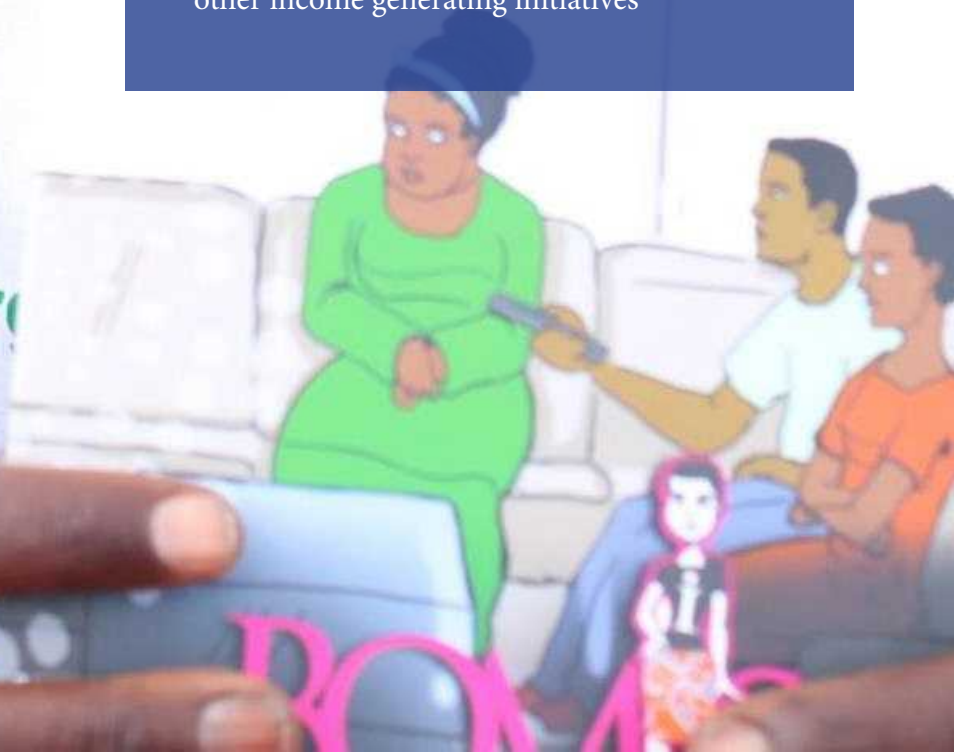
Comic Books

The all-time favorite little booklets among AGYW was the BOMISO comic books which the project developed, in 4 phases. The comic books were shared amongst club members in schools and out of school clubs. They centred around Bomiso who is a beautiful adolescent girl; intelligent and sassy. A shining light among her friends and peers who live together in a fast-paced high-density suburb of a town in her native country, Zimbabwe. Bomiso episodes centred on the lives of Bomiso, her adolescent big-brother brother, Munzwa, and their father's sister, Tete Paidia; clear-minded and equally sassy woman in her mid-thirties. Tete Pai has her eye on the patriarchal world they all live in. She sees through its underlying values and knows that some of them affect how adolescent girls and young women, like Bomiso, relate to HIV/Aids issues.

SUCCESS STORIES!

► Being a facilitator

My name is Molly Chagurika . I am a facilitator for the out of school AGYW under Kurainashe Organisation. I have been working with adolescent girls and young women for quite a long time but this project was really interesting in a unique way. The methodology of implementing through creative arts made it more interesting. It even made facilitating easy because the girls could retain the messages easily. The adolescent girls and young women learnt a lot from the project .For so many years; Mazowe is marked by intergenerational relationships. Many tobacco farmers old enough to be the girls' parents would enter into relationships with the young girls and they get petty things in return. It is in these farms where girls could also go and work to earn a little money for their personal upkeep .Thanks ,to the project ,now girls understand the importance of their bodies .Even if I was to speak from a parents' perspective ,girls now concentrate more on their school work. The Creative Enterprise was also quite interesting for the girls. They can now do things on their own; they earn extra money which helps them buy some extra things which they need. After the training, the adolescent girls and young women came up with more ideas and now they can make bags which they sell for \$50. Now they make bracelets, necklaces and the profits are ploughed back into the clubs so that they benefit more, whilst venturing into other income generating initiatives





Grabbing the Second Chance

Gratify Purazi

Gratify Purazi is a 21 young woman who lives in Chipinge, one of Culture Fund DREAMS IC districts in Manicaland Province. She grew up with her parents in the village and did her primary and partly secondary school in the same village.

Gratify grew up naïve on sexuality and was learning and discovering herself as she was growing up. She got pregnant in 2012, at the age of 15 whilst studying Form 3 (10th grade). She was then forced to go and stay with her boyfriend as husband and wife. Unfortunately, the husband was not interested in the marriage; he abused her almost on a daily basis. She succumbed to the abuse for some time hoping her fortune may change. With no hope of change in the new marriage, she decided to go back to her parents' house. Thankfully the parents accepted her back home. She stayed with her parents whilst looking after her baby through looking for piece jobs as there was no support from the father of the child. Whilst back in her village, she learnt of BOMISO club in her ward. Gratify Purazi, Chipinge

She joined her friends and participated in club sessions in her ward in 2017. She learnt a lot on sexuality, bodily integrity, HIV and women empowerment in general. She realized the importance of this knowledge to girls and she started

“She wishes to pursue a career in community development where she feels she can contribute in helping young women and girls in her ward to be empowered and pursue education first before engaging in sexual activities.”

recruiting other younger girls to attend the meetings so that they will not fall into the same trap as she did when she was a teenager. She can freely talk about sex and sexuality with other girls and even older women, which is something

she was not able to do as she was growing up.

In the later part of the same year, Gratify was referred to a project which was offering part time informal education subsidies, which she gladly followed up as she wanted a better life for herself and her baby. She got enrolled into the programme and started attending classes. This year she registered 6 O Level subjects at a local school and is set to write examinations in October and November. She is hopeful of this new journey and she is working hard to ensure she passes her examinations.

‘I hope to pass all the six subjects I am studying and I want to proceed to Advanced level next year,’ she says.

She wishes to pursue a career in community development where she feels she can contribute in helping young women and girls in her ward to be empowered and pursue education first before engaging in sexual activities. She feels with the knowledge she has she is already engaging girls in her village in discussions around BOMISO even the younger girls so that they make the right decisions about their life.

PAC GIRLS!!

The Culture Fund DREAMS IC project had a group of girls aged between 16-23, who helped in project design, assisting with trendy and

age specific ways of communicating with AGYW, this group of girls was the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). For the last time let's

hear what some of our Project Advisory Committee members have to say about the exposure to the project as well as just 'this n that'.

TANYA CHARINGIRA



“Being part of the Dreams IC Project has not only made me be part of a life charging initiative to the other young girls across the country but along the way it changed me too. It wasn't only fun but mostly it was a life changing experience, one that has transformed my mind to see the world from a different perspective. In my experience, I was given a quick awakening to realise that there is still a huge gap to cover in as much advocating and promoting the girl child to realise their fullest potential.”

“It was one opportunity that a young person like myself could have wanted to grasp. The project entrusted us young people through PAC to have a representative voice. The field trips were quite informative and adventurous. I personally, got to learn that women and girls are greatest forces to be treasured if they are given a chance and an opportunity. I got to learn a lot through the Creative Enterprise –the beads, the condom bags, the condom belts, everything was so fun and detaining. I managed to meet new people, made friends and learnt a lot through interacting in the project. In short, DREAMS IC was a big family which collaborated with a common goal of raising a determined, resilient, empowered, aids-free, mentored and safe girl.”



CONSTANCE CHIRILELE

TENDAI MAVENGENI



What a total success it was being a Culture Fund PAC member. I enjoyed participating in the project particularly my trip to Mazowe district where I met up with girls my age who were very confident and openly interacted and shared their opinions during a session. The PAC meetings were also eventful and I learnt a lot of things. The team work of PAC was great, truly there is power in numbers. In my view the DREAMS project was successful and hopefully there will be more of such projects to help girls in the future.”

Sweet Success

The Culture Fund DREAMS IC project realized this success in numbers over the two years of programming.

DREAMS IC PROJECT IN FIGURES

6476

AGYW completed BOMISO and SRH sessions (in school and out of school clubs)

85%

of referred AGYW completed their referrals (1963/2303)

40239

Community members reached through BOMISO dialogues

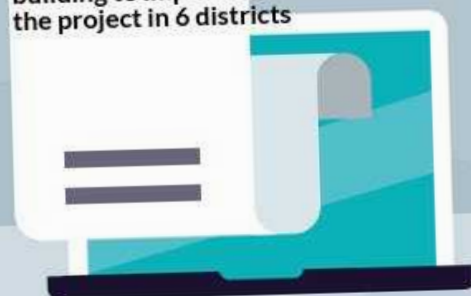
174

Facilitators trained to deliver BOMISO sessions in school, out of school and in the community

200

AGYW trained in creative enterprise for economic strengthening

8 CBOs supported with funds and capacity building to implement the project in 6 districts



FOOT PRINTS

The project has been all around the 6 provinces and here are some pictures of where the project has been,



1. OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB SESSION IN GWERU



2. COMMUNITY DIALOGUE MAKONI



3. COMMUNITY DIALOGUE MUTARE



4. IN SCHOOL CLUB SESSION MUTARE



**8. INTERNATIONAL AIDS DAY
COMMEMORATION IN MAZOWE**



**9. INTERNATIONAL AIDS DAY
COMMEMORATION IN MAZOWE**



10. IN SCHOOL FESTIVAL MAZOWE



5. LAUNDRY CAFÉ SESSION GWERU









BEHIND THE SCENES

CULTURE FUND TEAM

Here are the Culture Fund DREAMS IC project front runners, who gladly made sure the project is rolled out successfully:



DREAMS Innovation Challenge was essentially about giving young women and girls the opportunity to dream and engage about better lives, ...better futures! They did so within a creative Culture Fund project. Indeed culture and arts were important vehicles for delivering positive change within communities! **Farai Mpfunya, Culture Fund Director**

When DREAMS IC started we promised that we were going to bring “swag to HIV programming”. We deployed creative arts and did some wonderful creative productions that engaged and animated the AGYW unlocking enhanced access to SRHS. I was mainstreamed into youth over the last 2.5 years such that even my dress code changed to jeans, woodies, sneakers and vest jackets only. Have learnt to empathize and listen to the concerns of youth and jointly programme with them. As the saying goes, “nothing for us without us” – **Overson Chiyaka, DREAMS IC Project Coordinator**



What a thrilling experience working with AGYW in the project, we came a long way from total strangers to being aunty to so many girls out there. I enjoyed being young again and in the process I had lots of take aways from the project, learning everyday, and I hope to continue talking with girls in my circles and help them make right decisions!.

***Mazvinyanya
Madzivaide, DREAMS IC
M & E Officer***



Great opportunity working for DREAMS IC project I enjoyed the project and it sharpened my thinking in terms of development work. HIV field was a new adventure for me and had a lot of life changing moments with community members. I discovered different cultures and beliefs and made me realise I need to be sensitive when dealing with what people believe in so that you have proper and meaningful conversations.

***Bright Mutiwazuka,
DREAMS IC Assistant
Project Officer***



Our Gratitude

The Culture Fund DREAMS IC project could not have had the reach, the life changing initiatives, and the results it had, if it was a sole journey. Culture Fund appreciates its eight foot soldiers (CBOs) who implemented the project on the ground, worked so hard to ensure the project is a success in the 6 districts.

- Children Performing Arts Workshop
- Family AIDS Caring Trust
- Kurainashe Organisation
- Midlands AIDS Service Organisation (MASO)
- Peacebuilding and Capacity Development Foundation (PACDEF)
- Padare/Enkundleni Men's Forum on Gender
- Victory Siyanqoba Trust
- Zimbabwe International Schools Arts Festival Trust

The Culture Fund Trust appreciates the DREAMS IC grant manager, John Snow Inc, for capacitating the team and sharpening project delivery, monitoring and evaluation, funds management and compliance.

Finally, the support from PEPFAR made the whole project possible and Culture Fund is grateful for the partnership.

DREAMS INNOVATION CHALLENGE



BOMISO



Determined

Resilient

Empowered

AIDS-Free

Mentored

Safe



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