

# 2016 Annual Report

*"Children and young people have the power to transform communities if they are given space and opportunities to meaningfully participate in policy dialogue and all governance processes"*



## Regional Network of the Children and Young People Trust (RNCYPT)

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## To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

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### Dear All

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In 2016 we continued to make good progress on our strategy to systematically build and strengthen relationships with various actors in the children and young people's sector. We are enhancing the quality of our programs to deliver more long lasting changes in the lives of children and young people and in particular girls and young women.

Our strategy remains consistent: to ensure that children and young people have a voice, space and capacity to influence governance processes that affect their lives at local and national level. We do this by leveraging a deep understanding of various children and youth led groups and organisations to create innovative solutions which bring about long lasting changes in the lives of children and young people at grass-root level. We are focused and dedicated to bring about innovative ideas that foster a deeper understanding of the importance of involving children and young people in the development of their communities.

#### Mission

To inspire children and young people to have a voice, space and capacity to meaningfully and effectively participate in policy and governance issues at local and national level

#### Vision

A society that values, understands, respects and fulfils the rights of children and young people to participation, survival, development and protection.

#### Values

Accountability, Integrity, Innovation, Partnership, Reliability, Teamwork, Gender Equality

In my statement in last year's I hoped that RNCYPT fifth year (2016) would be more successful compared to the previous years in terms of fundraising and funding programmes to promote the participation of children and young people in governance process at national and local level. It is with great pleasure that I can report successes in both these two aspects that we worked hard towards achieving. We acquired a new project on *"Amplifying the voices of girls and young women in governance"* from African Women's Development Fund and the African Movement continued to provide support for the child and youth participation project ending in 2018. The support has made our programmes more visible and we have managed to make significant changes in various communities in promoting the rights of girls and young women. Great appreciation goes to members affiliated to RNCYPT. We have increased our membership base to over 6000 members with girls and young women having a greater percentage. This is a positive development since we endeavor to see more girls and young women participating effectively and becoming pro-active in advocating for the full realisation of women's rights. I do thank the support from AWDF that contributed to the increase of girl's participation in our programmes.

I would as well want to thank Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children and Terre Des Hommes Germany. We have managed to work together in advancing the rights children and young people and in particular the endless support they provided for the Global Action Month 2016. The support they provided made strides in our work and we managed to reach more vulnerable children and young people.

Furthermore I am happy to announce that we have created official partnerships with a lot of organisations that have shown commitment in supporting some activities of the Trust. We are happy to announce that we now have formal partnerships with local authorities in our programme areas and this development is a catalyst to the work of RNCYPT.

I am also indebted to our Board of Trustees who have continued to develop our capacity in programme delivery, monitoring and evaluation, financial management and fundraising. I do not hesitate to mention that RNCYPT staff have grown in strength and capacity to develop and implement effective projects even with the little resources. I believe with the support of the Board we can do more in our work. Lastly let me thank RNCYPT staff for its commitment and dedication to the work of RNCYPT. They have shown resilience in difficult times and their passion in serving children and young people in Zimbabwe remains above board.

The upcoming year will be challenging for the Trust as we endeavor to extend fundraising on programmes on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Democratic Participation of Children and Young People in Governance (DPCYPG) and Girls and Young Women Empowerment (GYWE) which is the pillar of our programmes in 2017 to 2021. I am very confident that our ability to fundraise will enable us secure resources for our programmes and we call upon donors, private sectors, International organisation to consider partnering RNCYPT. I believe in the capacity of young people in delivering programmes which are cost effective and achieving results at scale. I do hope for the best 2017.

*Executive Director*  
*Regional Network of the Children and Young People Trust*

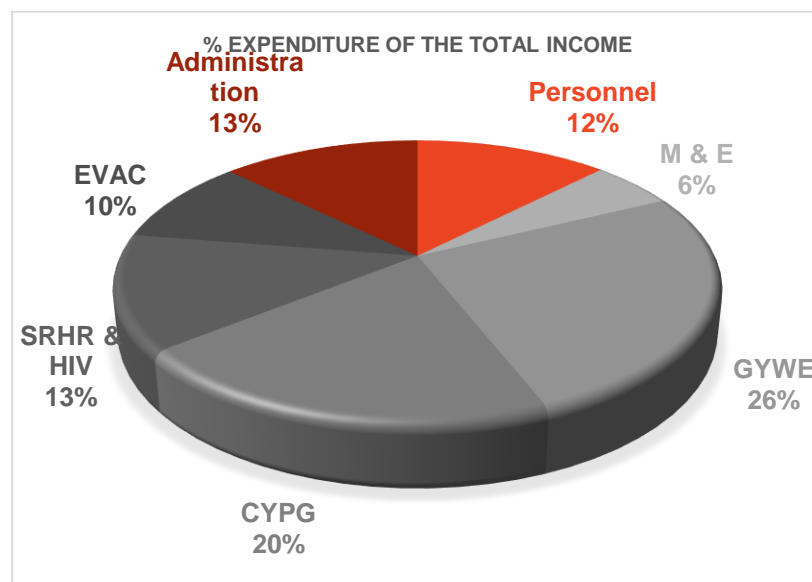
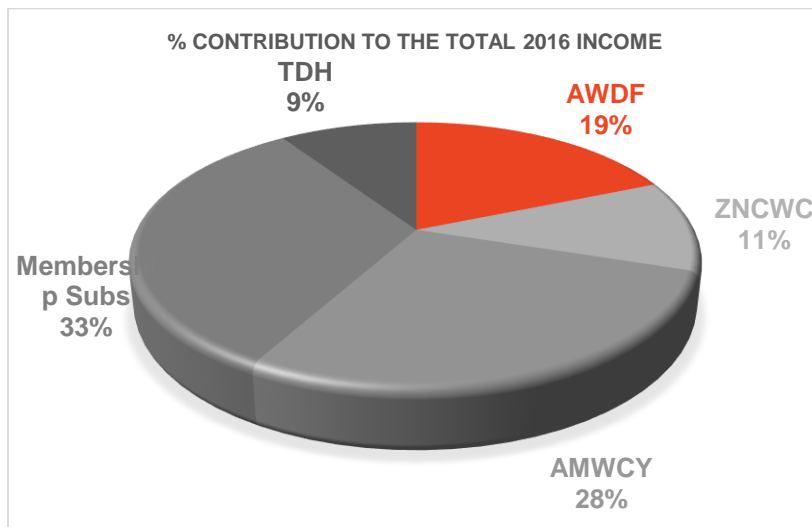
## Financial Summary

Though 2016 was a tough year in terms of acquiring adequate resources for all our programmes; we have managed to raise funds to implement all the programme focus areas and we have reached out to more children and young people than expected. The chart below shows the sources of our funds and how the funds were utilised in our programmes.

Our 2016 income was below expectations; however RNCYPT with the available resources managed to conduct all its programmes and reached the marginalised children and young people. We give thanks firstly to our donors who contributed to the work of the organisation.

Firstly we thank African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) that supported the Amplify the voices of girls project; secondly the African Movement of Working of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY/ENDA Youth in Action), Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) and Terres Des Hommes (TDH) for their contribution to RNCYPT programmes. Lastly we greatly thank members of RNCYPT who contributed a greater percentage through subscriptions. Their commitment will always enable RNCYPT to implement projects even in difficult times.

Our 2016 expenditure was fairly good and we had the bulky of our income supporting Girls and Young Women Empowerment (GYWE) programme which is our key programming area, followed by Child and Youth Participation in Governance (CYPG); then SRHR and HIV and lastly Ending Violence against Children (EVAC). The administration cost consumed 13% of our income with only 12% going to personnel cost. We are proud to mention that we see the bulky of our income 87% inclusive of personnel being utilised on programmes to change the lives of children and young people in communities.



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**To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders**

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## Highlights of Key Achievements

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In 2016, RNCYPT reached an estimated 124000 children and young people (15-24), including more than 78000 children and young people directly. We worked in 9 Districts across Zimbabwe, including the most vulnerable rural communities. Through the tremendous support of our partners, donors, contributors we are making impact in the lives of children and young people in different communities. Thank you for the continued support

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### Testimony



*Picture: 1 Stayce Nyamasoka*

"The greatest part of my life came through being empowered to realise that I have rights as a girl child and I can do more for other girls in my community. It's not easy for a girl child to be recognised and awarded opportunity to lead and influence different process; but I do thank the efforts of RNCYPT in ensuring girls and young women are given an opportunity to realise their dreams and aspirations. My 2016 year was full of joy and happiness and I am proud to be part of the RNCYPT family. Firstly I would appreciate how RNCYPT programmes made me rose to being a leader in my community and stand for girl's rights. I recall when I challenged child marriages in my community that resulted in 11 girls in my community getting out of forced marriages to continue with their education. For me this was great impact in ensuring the rights of the girls are realised. Challenging negative attitude and behaviour from community

members was mount impossible at first but patience and persistence made us sail through to and achieved the buy in that we wanted from community members. I am now a champion of girls and young women's rights in governance process, and SRHR advocate and fight for the eradication of sexual exploitation of girls and young women. My worry is the increase on the number of girls involved in commercial sex work due to a number of push factors. They are exposed to unwanted pregnancies, HIV infection, STIs, and violence. I am happy that RNCYPT has taken a stance in ensuring that interventions reach out to the vulnerable girls and I promise that at community level we will work to support our projects to see better results. I believe in girl's participation in decision making and hope RNCYPT will continue efforts to ensure girls and young women have a voice, space and capacity to influence decision making and take leadership roles to develop their communities. Thanks to RNCYPT and all its funders, I believe your efforts can make our communities better places for girls and young women as well boys and young men. I would final want to say my greatest time was benefiting from the Amplifying the voices of girls and young women in governance project; it did open the close avenues and potential in me and now I can stand for the rights of girls and young women." *Stayce Nyamasoka*



## To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

### *Girls and Young Women Empowerment (GYWE)*

In our endeavor to create equal and safe opportunities for girls and young women as compared to their male counterparts, RNCYPT, under the program Girls and Young Women Empowerment, successfully carried out, *‘Amplifying the voices of girls and young women in governance’*, a ten months African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF) funded initiative. The project reached 7, 635 girls and young women, 5,312 boys and young men of the age group: 18-25; 1, 391 women and 802 men including journalists, senior local councillors, and traditional leaders, senior Members of Parliament among other key stakeholders at both local and national level.

### *Key Results*

- ❖ More than 6000 girls and young women pro-active and confident to articulate their views freely, influence decisions and hold duty bearers accountable.
- ❖ More than 500 girls assuming leadership positions in governance process and have become influential leaders in their communities
- ❖ Improved societal attitudes towards girls and young women’s rights to inclusion and participation are better fulfilled than at the start of the project.
- ❖ Girls and young women have representation and are given a voice by the local governance structures.
- ❖ More than 3000 boys and young men respect and value the rights of girls and young women to participate and support equal representation in governance processes.



*Picture: 2 Mitchell Majora Kadoma Junior Mayor 2016*

“When the voice of the girl child is amplified; she is able to stand and demand her rights especially to be heard in decisions that affect her life. The amplify the voices project made me a proactive young women who for the first time took leadership of the Junior Council as a Junior Mayor. I was able to represent young women in all decision making process and conducted empowerment trainings for other young women in my school and community. Platforms created by RNCYPT were a stepping stone for me. I now believe that young women should not be limited to the private sphere only; but should take leadership positions and influence political processes at all levels. The capacity I now have will make me the greatest women leader in my community and country.



*Picture: 3 Girls and young women after a training*

## Child and Youth Participation in Governance (CYPG)

### Voices of beneficiaries



Picture: 4 Thamsanga Dumela Chinhoi

"The work of RNCYPT remains outstanding for me. I turned from being just a child in the community to being a leader. It's very important for us children and young people to understand our rights and be able to advocate for change in our communities; and today I am proud to say I am an empowered young person who can advocate for the rights of other young people. Mostly I appreciate our participation in policy and governance which has ensured that duty bearers respond to our concerns. We thank RNCYPT and applaud them of the good work".

The focus of the CYPG programme is on ensuring that children and young people are heard in decision making process, children and young people influence local budgets, contribute to policy development processes and are able to hold duty bearers accountable of their actions. The programme focusses on creating awareness on the rights of children and young people as enshrined in various international, regional conventions as well as the constitutional rights of children and young people. The programme reached 63251 children and young people in the year 2016.

### Local governments reached

by the programme began creating platforms for engagement of children and young people in local governance processes. This was done through supporting a children and young people desk within the local government structures where children and young people can bring in their concerns and contribute to developmental process. Local governments have created social media platforms where young people can engage with their ward councillors and make a follow up on progress of the issues raised.

### RNCYPT continued to support child and

youth led groups and provided training on civic engagement, government engagement, policy analysis, evidenced based advocacy to enable young people to be able to influence changes in favour of children and young people in their local communities. The capacity provided on budget analysis, monitoring and tracking enabled children and young people to identify gaps in local council budgets on advancing the rights of girl and young women and they managed to influence council to allocate a least 10% of their budgets to girls and young women's issues. This has resulted in the reached local government allocating an average of 6% of

their budgets to girls and young women's participation and issues affecting their lives.

We provided technical and financial support to two Junior Councils to spearhead advocacy work on Child Friendly Local Governments. The Junior Councils managed to influence development of child friendly communities where children have access to clean water, improved refuse collection and improved sewer systems. The greatest achievement was improved coordination of Child Led Groups and Junior Councils activities especially on bring evidence for advocacy and working with communities in mass advocacy for improved service delivery to children and young people.

### RNCYPT capacitated 87 councillors from three

local governments, Kadoma, Chinhoi and Raffingora, and reached 37 traditional leaders. The training focused on child rights, women's rights and inclusion of girls and young women in local governance processes. Through the trainings 60 councillors and 34 traditional leaders are now champions



of child rights and women's rights in their communities. They have become catalyst in ensuring children and young people participate in developmental processes and in particular creating platforms for girls and young women to participate. Traditional leaders reached launched a campaign dubbed "Hear the voice of the girl child and young women", which focusses on ensuring that girls and young women are given a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

## To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

# Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and HIV

The main focus of the programme is to promote the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) of children and young people. During the year 2016 the programme managed to reach out to **43290** children and young people including those living in marginalised areas such as Hopley in Harare, Zimbabwe. The programme created **6425** children and young people who are championing campaigns on SRHR and HIV prevention in their communities.

**RNCYPT** managed to capacity build **14320** children and young people to have knowledge and understanding of their SRHR and have exhibited the knowledge gained by engaging community members and leaders to understand and appreciate the need to provide comprehensive sexual education to children and young people (10-24 years). The capacitated children and young people influenced **2987** community members to work together with Child and Youth Led Groups in the project areas in campaigning for improved provision of SRHR information, services and resources.

**RNCYPT** influenced local government authorities to develop local by-laws that support provision and improved access to SRHR information, services and resources that are user friendly to children and young people. There local authorities have taken a step and provided centers for Child and Youth Led Groups to establish SRHR Centers being safe spaces for young people to access SRHR and HIV information, services and resources.

The programme created awareness on HIV prevention amongst and distributed more than **46000** condoms to **11709** young people in the target project areas. The programme managed to motivate young people to go for HIV counselling and testing and encouraged safe sex practices among those engaging in sexual relationships. The programme reached **1645** girls and young women involved in commercial sex work and supported them to access free and friendly HIV services through engagement with health workers at community level. The programme supported developed of support groups amongst sex workers and created a buddy system to ensure those infected adhere to treatment and care. The programme supported **3481** young people who are HIV positive to start income generating projects in groups of 20; and helped them with information on where to HIV services including treatment and care. A buddy challenge on adherence was introduced to challenge young people to adhere to treatment and those who successfully complete were awarded with an Income Generating Project start up income. **3481** young people infected with HIV were provided with psychosocial support and counselling.

**5710** children and young people play a pivotal role at community level through advocating for improved SRHR services delivery at community level. The Child and Youth LED Groups have embraced SRHR and HIV programming in their daily work and they conduct weekly campaigns in their communities to dispel myths and misconceptions around SRHR for young people and HIV related issues.



Picture: 5-Children and young people after a training on SRHR and HIV





## Ending Violence against Children and Young People

### Testimonies from Beneficiaries

**Sihle Mandiwana** All thanks to the supporters, directors and facilitators for the training we learned the things that were beyond our knowledge. For us to be good leaders we need knowledge and I personal thank you for that because right now as young as I am I can effectively lead the world, for some of us were born leaders but we did not have the knowledge and strength to walk through but now I can do it...on the fundamentals of sexual reproductive health module I learned that it's not a crime to say NO, to the things you cannot do and you will never lose anything rather you achieve without any problems in life heartbreaks, pregnancies, STIs etc. Again I was given power to spread the news to the world that every child has rights and responsibilities...the right to education, name and nationality, participation and survival and development parents should know, the society and the whole world should know and we as children and youth will spread the gospel for together we can make a change. Finally life is a journey and not a destination I benefited a lot from the journey of life session. In life no matter how hard the situation is u don't need to give up face every challenge and u will make it for I learned that nothing comes softly. The journey of life was challenging and painful to me coz I felt I might not make it. That's how life is when u about to catch it u face so many difficulties but u don't need to up focus until the end. All thanks to the supporting structures I will stand for children and I will stand for women no turning back. Thank you so much and keep on doing the good work.

**Lorraine Vimbai Chambara** all thanks to ZNCWC RNCYPT TDH n its partners for such a life changing conference. I believe my life and that of people from my community will never be the same again. Once again thank you

**Blessing Tafara Musakwa** I learnt a lot...The Conference expanded my scope of intellect as a rising leader...Thanks to Mr. Mandiwana & Team....Keep up the good work guys.

The objective of the programmes is to reduce the prevalence of violence against girls and young women including cases of child early and forced marriages. The programme reached more **16294** children and young people, **5741** community members and more than **200** policy makers at local level including religious and traditional leaders. The programme campaigned strongly against early and forced marriage and engaged religious and traditional leaders to take a lead in campaigning against early and forced child marriages.

**181** cases of child marriages were dissolved in three communities RNCYPT is working in and this was achieved through the support of traditional leaders who took action against the harmful practices. Of the 181 girls and young women, **63** were reenrolled into school and are currently continuing with education.

The programme influenced **642** boys and young men to champion the rights of girls and young women in their communities. The positive result is that boys and young women identify and report

relationships of power imbalance and act as watch dogs by informing community leaders on any form of relationship that puts the girl child at risk of early or forced marriage and dropping out of school. During the year under review boys and young men managed to alarm local leaders of **33** cases of relationships that could put the girl child at risk of early marriage, unwanted pregnancy or STI or HIV infection.



*Picture: 6 Boys and Young men having an open discussion on ending violence against children in particular corporal punishment.*

## To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

### Testimonies from the National Conference

**Brian Sibanda** "I was uplifted and empowered as a rising leader. I can actually rank this as the best conference I've ever attended. The facilitators were so awesome and they were effective in relaying information and keeping us as participants engaged. I'm so glad i attended! Thanks to the sponsors as well as the organizers you guys did a great job. Well-done...from here expect action in our communities!!! #GAM2016"

**Mantate Mlotshwa** "The platform was to me and those youth I've been training since I came back, a reservoir of knowledge, skill and resources for community project we young people are doing. The modules were packed and clearly expressed, and I think that goes a long way to applaud the use of experts in all fields catered for by the module. I also benefited a lot from the team building exercises, they somehow substantiated my view of transformative leadership because it drove in the value of each individual contribution to the effective success of any team effort and strategies. I'm not much of a 5am person but the daily routine of a morning jog, exercises and the journey of life we started at 4am called for discipline and dedication. For those who had a fear of heights I'm sure you agree with me that walking over a dam wall, with water stretching out below you on the right and rocks on the left, was the best way to overcome them. We had so much fun, laughter in between the rigorous nature of our course and so much to learn from each other. I came back home empowered to do more for my community, capacitated to lead and inspired to see myself for what I truly am, an engine of change. I came in empty but walked out filled with a passion and drive to advocate for the rights of the girl child. To the organisers, the sponsors and facilitators, Bulawayo would love to express heartfelt gratitude for an opportunity to empower it's seed because trust me, we won't leave a stone unturned, with this level of training, we will turn the city upside down. Siyabonga, Tatenda, Merci, Thank you.....may you do more for us and other child and youth leaders as you have done this

## Key events and commemorations

**RNCYPT** hosted and participated in a number of commemorations that mark the rights of children and young people. The Day of the African Child with support from ZNCWC, Save the Children-Zimbabwe was organised in Kadoma and Chinohoyi and reached over **500** children and young people including community members and policy makers. The commemorations crated awareness on child rights and spoke against practices that violate the rights of children and young people.



Picture: 7-Day of the African Child in Kadoma and Chinohoyi respectively

Secondly was the **Universal Children's Day** which was commemorated with the theme on ending violence against children; and reached more than **300** children and adults. During the day children spoke against corporal punishments, physical and sexual abuse which was on the increase in Kadoma. They conveyed messages to the community members on ending early and forced marriage.



Picture: 8-Girls and young women communicated the no to child marriages messages

The year ended on a high note with the **Global Action Month** which focused on promoting the ecological rights of children with the theme, **"Let's talk future for ecological child rights"**. Children and young people in different communities created awareness on ecological child rights and engaged local authorities to take action towards ensuring the ecological rights of children are recognised. Children and young people conducted clean up campaigns in their communities as sign of the need for a clean and safe environment.



Picture: 10-Children and young people taking part in the clean-up campaigns during GAM

On the last week of the GAM a National conference of children and young people was organised reaching out to **100** children and young people all over Zimbabwe, with the theme **"Children and Young People Leadership and Community Development Training of Trainers"**. **100** children and young people were capacitated on leadership skills, community development, communication, civic engagement, child rights and project management. The results of the workshop are witnessed by the ability of Child and Youth Led Groups capacity to conduct effective activities in their communities; influencing decisions at local government level and demanding their rights from duty bearers. Below are testimonies from some participants who attended the national.

Picture: 9 -Participants at the National conference





## To our donors, partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

### STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In order to develop capacity of our staff and volunteers; RNCYPT conducted internal capacity development on fundraising, communication, gender and advocacy. The training reached 10 staff members at national office and 5 field coordinators and 5 volunteers. The training enhanced programme delivery and enabled RNCYPT to implement quality programmes at community level.



Picture: 11 Some member of the National staff after an Organisational Development Training: From left Lovemore Nyavanhu, Lydah Gurungo, Fumiso Chigogwana, Nyasha Dick, Felicia Mangwende, Ellen Potsekayi, Osbertina Hove, Raphael Murayi and Joseph Tonderai sitting.

Four members of staff participated in a 7 months training conducted by CIVNET. The training covered key issues on community participation in programme design, organisational leadership, advocacy and policy engagement, proposal development and fundraising, team building among others. The 4 staff members successfully completed the training and were awarded certificates and conducted cascade trainings for other staff members. This enabled the organisation to do a self-review that contributed to changes in the organisation to ensure the programmes are focused and integrated to achieve better results for children and young people in the communities.



Picture: 12: RNCYPT staff after the CIVNET training: from left Raphael Murayi, Felicia Mangwende, Lydah Gurungo and Nyasha Simon

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