



NEWSLETTER

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CSOs Trained to Tackle Corruption Head-On

The Anti-Corruption Commission Zambia (ACC) recently held a transformative three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Southern Province. Concluding on December 18, 2024, in Livingstone, this initiative was designed to enhance the capacity of CSOs in combating corruption, particularly in underserved regions.



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Building Transparency and Accountability in Kazungula

The Healing Balm Foundation conducted a successful two day Training of Trainers (ToT) session in Musokotwane Village, Kanchele Ward, Kazungula District. This training is part of the Building Cultural Accountability Mechanisms - Phase 2 Upscaling project, which seeks to foster greater accountability and inclusivity by empowering traditional leaders, women, and youth to demand better public service delivery.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, participants from various backgrounds traditional leaders, educators, community stakeholders, and local councillors came together to strengthen cultural systems that promote accountability. The training focused on equipping leaders and citizens with the tools and knowledge needed to foster greater citizen participation, transparency, and effective public governance.



Key topics covered during the training included a Human Rights-Based Approach to Service Provision, which emphasized the importance of placing dignity and equity at the center of public services.



Participants learned about Corruption and the Proper Use of Public Funds, with a particular focus on combating corruption and ensuring that public resources are used efficiently and fairly. The training also introduced Social Accountability Tools like Public Hearings and Community Scorecards, which empower citizens to evaluate public services and provide feedback to duty bearers. A significant part of the training was dedicated to empowering vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, to play an active role in governance and public accountability.

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Discussions highlighted the barriers that often hinder these groups from participating and emphasized strategies to overcome them. In addition, participants explored practical methods for engaging duty bearers public service providers and leaders to ensure they are held accountable for their actions and decisions. One of the key outcomes of the training was the development of Community Action Plans.

These action plans outline strategies to tackle local challenges, promote transparency, and improve service delivery. Each plan was designed to guide participants' efforts in creating positive change within their communities. The action-oriented approach was particularly well-received, as it empowered participants to take immediate steps toward building more accountable and inclusive communities.

Participants expressed their enthusiasm about the knowledge and skills they gained. One local youth leader remarked, "This training has opened my eyes to the role I can play in ensuring public resources benefit everyone fairly." A participating sibbuku shared, "As a traditional leader, I now feel better equipped to mobilize my community for positive change."



Southern Province CSOs Take a Stand Against Corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission Zambia (ACC) recently held a transformative three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Southern Province. Concluding on December 18, 2024, in Livingstone this initiative was designed to enhance the capacity of CSOs in combating corruption,

particularly in underserved regions. The workshop aimed to empower CSOs to disseminate anti-corruption messages effectively and implement prevention initiatives in communities where ACC has limited reach. Acting Director General Mrs. Monica Chipanta Mwansa emphasized

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the critical role CSOs play in this endeavour.

"CSOs have robust structures throughout the country to address societal issues. These structures make them vital partners in spreading anti-corruption awareness," she remarked during the closing ceremony.



Mrs. Mwansa highlighted the importance of public education on corruption reporting mechanisms, particularly the newly launched Online Anonymous Whistleblower System (OAWS).

This innovative tool ensures discreet reporting of corruption cases while facilitating interaction with the Commission. She encouraged CSOs to promote OAWS alongside traditional reporting methods.

Reaffirming the government's support for whistleblowers, the Acting Director General assured participants of legal protections for those reporting corruption in good faith

Quoting President Hakainde Hichilema, she reiterated that corruption would not be tolerated: "Those engaging in corruption are on their own."

Representing the participants, Madam Sepiso Mushoke from The Healing Balm Foundation delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, underscoring the collective commitment to fighting corruption.



The fight against corruption begins with self-accountability and transparency. Our proximity to communities gives us a unique advantage, and we must leverage it to mobilize others into this fight," Ms. Mushoke stated.



Adding to this, the Director of The Healing Balm Foundation also delivered a vote of thanks at the end of the intensive three-day training.

Their remarks highlighted the foundation's dedication to fostering integrity and transparency in the fight against corruption. The workshop concluded with participants receiving certificates, symbolizing their readiness to champion



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anti-corruption initiatives in their respective communities. As The Healing Balm Foundation, we are proud to have participated in this empowering event and remain steadfast in our commitment to combating corruption. Together, we can build a fairer, more just Zambia.



Empowering Women and Youth for Accountability in Mukuni Village (Day 1 & 2)

On December 13, 2024, Mukuni Village hosted a successful Training of Trainers (ToT) session under the Building Cultural Accountability Mechanisms - Phase 2 Upscaling project. This initiative, supported by GIZ (German International Cooperation) and co-funded by the European Union in Zambia, aimed to empower women and youths with essential knowledge and skills to advocate for accountability, human rights, and community development. During the first day of training, participants delved into various topics, including human rights,



the monitoring of public funds, and the practical application of social accountability tools. The discussions highlighted fundamental rights such as the right to life, education, and association, with a specific focus on the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities. The role of community leaders in safeguarding these rights and the transformative potential of education to enhance

human rights awareness were key focal points. Additionally, participants gained a deeper understanding of how public resources like Constituency Development Funds (CDF), bursaries, and school grants can be accessed and monitored for the effective use of community development. Practical tools, including the Community Scorecard, Service Charter,

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and public hearings, were introduced to address local challenges like poor infrastructure and limited resources. An action plan was developed by participants, outlining strategies for applying for CDF funding and promoting community involvement in decision-making processes. The day was marked by a strong commitment from women and youths to drive transparency, accountability, and equitable resource access in their communities.



The second day of the ToT session, held on December 14, 2024, shifted focus to combating corruption and improving accountability in service delivery.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) facilitated a critical session on the impacts of corruption and its detrimental effects on development.

Participants explored how corruption undermines essential services and exacerbates inequality by benefiting a select few at the expense of the broader community.

The role of the ACC in Zambia's fight against corruption was emphasized, with discussions on case investigations, law enforcement, system improvements, and public awareness campaigns. Participants were also encouraged to report corruption through various channels, including the ACC's hotline (5980) and the anonymous whistle-blower online platform. They were urged to actively participate in public hearings and community action planning to ensure transparency in service delivery.

Practical tools such as the Community Scorecard (CSC) for assessing services and Action Planning to address local issues were introduced. Public hearings, another tool for fostering dialogue between citizens and leaders, were also highlighted as an essential strategy for community empowerment. The tools aim to enable communities to take ownership of their development and hold leaders accountable, ensuring a more transparent and equitable Zambia.



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■ ABOUT US

The Healing Balm Foundation is a local nongovernmental, not-for-profit and non-partisan organization based in Livingstone along Gwembe street, House #38, next to Great North Road Academy . We are passionate and driven and we have a bigger heart for the community striving to improve their lives through poverty reduction among the marginalized, the youth, women, girls, persons with disabilities and the aged. We endeavour to bring long-term sustainability measures and let the locals take full ownership of the sustainability strategy that would see them throughout their lives thereby reducing the dependency syndrome in our communities. The organization is affiliated and registered with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, it is also a partner with the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The organization has also been nominated to sit on the Ward Development Committees under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in more than four wards of Livingstone with its representation of marginalized groups and youths in more than eight wards. We are working in several areas of Livingstone like; Mulala, Dambwa sit, Highlands, Maramba, Simatobolo and Kazungula, Mukuni among others. We always use the community approach to bring about the desired change such as engaging traditional leaders, rural community churches, and rural community schools and create youth-friendly spaces so that youths especially can freely talk about certain pressing issues such as menstrual hygiene, sexual reproductive health general sanitation.

ABOUT US

To empower and attain an inclusive society were the marginalized youths, women and children including those with disabilities and the aged have equal access to social, economic, educational and moral benefits thus creating a self-sustaining generation.

MISSION

Empowering PWDs, aged, women, Other Vulnerable Children, and the youth out of social marginalization, isolation, and discrimination through income-generating initiatives, skills development activities and provision of access to education for better resource exploitation, management and control for improved quality of life which includes access to clean water and hygiene especially in rural areas. To improve the knowledge and rights of persons with disabilities by teaching them how to advocate for their rights and their inclusion in society through participating freely and enjoying equal rights and policy formulation contributions in

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