



# Zimbabwe Youth Network

## About the Network

VSO's youth work in Zimbabwe has traditionally centred on tackling health-related challenges.

However, with increasing national and international attention on the climate crisis, the focus now also is shifting to the effects of climate change in disaster-prone areas and the roles young people can play in tackling the crisis.

The network has 20 youth volunteers working in Chimanimani District to help raise awareness – and sound the alarm – for climate change issues.

## Climate change awareness

The Youth Engagement Action Team (YEAT) raises awareness for climate change and building resilience through film screenings, radio programs, community dialogues, and participation in district policymaking.

As well as directly addressing climate issues, these initiatives also help to create community cohesion, as people come together to agree and plan their interventions.

The climate change films the team screens are created by local communities, generating a buzz around climate change from the very beginning and through the whole life cycle of the intervention.

Through its efforts, the youth network has directly reached over 200 young people and more than 5,000 community members with important climate change messages.



# The network has reached 5,000+ community members with climate messages

## Climate disaster preparedness

The network is driven by justice – holding not just decision-makers, but also communities themselves accountable in the effort to combat climate change. As a result of their hard work, these young climate champions have gained a permanent seat in the District Civil Protection Unit Climate Change Preparedness Planning Committee.

Climate-related flooding is an increasingly common hazard in countries like Zimbabwe, and especially impacts marginalized groups. The devastation that these disasters leave behind can be significantly reduced through careful preparation.

Youth champions in Zimbabwe have been helping communities build this buffer. Volunteers work with communities to discuss the risks of climate change disasters, and develop community action plans to improve resilience to shocks.

Climate Youth champions were also actively involved in District Disaster Preparedness Planning meetings with all government stakeholders, and as part of the Civil Protection Committee take the lead in providing assistance if disaster should strike.



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