



Zimbabwe: Climate Change

THE SITUATION:

- **68%** of the population is rural and Zimbabwe's economy relies heavily on natural resources; vulnerability to the disruptive effects of climate-induced shocks is high, especially for food security and nutrition – which most directly impacts women and children.
- A **20-year** spike in Global Acute Malnutrition is now being experienced in Zimbabwe
- Mitigation of climate-related risks requires mainstreaming across programmes and partners
- **60%** of the population is under 25, so poor, rural AYP bear the brunt of the effects of climate change, yet their essential participation is negligible with little access to digital platforms
- **61%** of working disabled women rely on agriculture, thus sustainable climate-hazard livelihoods are imperative for resilience

UNICEF in ACTION - AYP viewpoints presented as essential for programme planning:

- Young people who were not previously – or purposefully – consulted, appreciated the engagement and want to fight climate change alongside their communities and private, public and civil societies
- Schools could mainstream climate education into curriculums as a core subject, evolving with time, based on research. Reliable and cheap online E-Learning and/or books on environmental issues, not excluding disadvantaged communities, are needed.
- All young people need an understanding of climate change: its effects, what solutions can be adopted, via the latest technologies and platforms where they are more likely to engage, and creating events/symposiums/initiatives (and hashtag campaigns) to raise awareness, and to contribute and develop their own position papers to feed into GoZ policy documents
- Grants to youth organisations to be activists; running movements, seminars and clubs on climate change are needed
- Access for the voices of those in remotest areas because, in reality, they are the most affected by climate change

VOICES of AYP:

*"The problem is children are not taken seriously"
"Climate change is the next biggest pandemic to affect the earth"*

"We may encounter worse diseases than COVID-19 if we are not going to take drastic measures to stop climate change"

WHAT NEEDS TO BE INVESTED IN, ACCORDING TO AYP?

- Meaningful engagement from the business community to mitigate climate change and the knock-on effects of malnutrition and contextual factors such as gender inequality
- Reforestation
- Educating people and investing towards Zimbabwe going green, i.e., using renewable energy and sustainable ways to reuse and recycle
- Targeting factories and companies that create the most industrial waste, e.g., by imposing stiff penalties for polluting, given such emissions contribute to ozone-layer depletion
- Funding of youth clubs, with internet connections, allowing ideas to be debated then communicated to supporting institutions
- Facilitation of social media and websites for sharing, advocacy and accountability
- Funding startups with ideas that help fight climate change
- Introducing smart energy in rural areas to replace the use of firewood
- Incentives, such as refunding on empty bottles, coupled with proper recycling
- Scholarships for students to study environmentally friendly agriculture and associated fields