



Final Report Template

I. Title Page

- Grantee Name: Mwanasikana Wanhasi
- Project Name: Countering female voter apathy and increasing female political candidates towards the 2023 Zimbabwean elections.
- Reporting Timeline: Final Report (Agreement Start and End Date)
- Date of Submission: 27 October 2023

II. Acronyms List

MW: Mwanasikana Wanhasi

GRIPP: Gender Responsive and Intersectionality in Policy and Practise

WPP: Women Participation in Politics

GBR- Gender balance and Representation

III. Executive Summary/Overview

- Program Overview in a brief narrative form (one page of less)

Mwanasikana Wanhasi, a local NGO in Zimbabwe, undertook a project to counter female voter apathy for the 2023 elections with support from GRRIPP. The project aimed to address the low turnout of female voters and empower women to actively participate in the democratic process which has been evident in Zimbabwe's past elections. Mwanasikana Wanhasi organised a series of awareness campaigns, workshops, and community engagement activities across different regions of Zimbabwe. These initiatives focused on educating women about the importance of their voices and votes in shaping their communities and the nation at large. Mwanasikana Wanhasi collaborated with local community leaders, women's groups, and grassroots organisations to ensure the project's reach and impact. They conducted voter education sessions, providing information on voter registration, the electoral process, and the significance of diverse voices in decision-making.

To address specific barriers that hindered female voter participation, the NGO also tackled issues such as gender-based violence, unequal access to resources, and cultural norms that discourage women from engaging in politics. They facilitated discussions and provided resources to empower women to overcome these challenges and actively participate in the electoral process. Furthermore, Mwanasikana Wanhasi worked towards creating an inclusive and supportive environment for women in politics. They encouraged female representation in leadership positions and advocated for policies that promote gender equality and women's rights.



Through their project, Mwanasikana Wanhasi aimed to inspire and mobilise more than seventy women to exercise their right to vote and actively engage in the democratic process. By countering female voter apathy and empowering women, the NGO contributed to creating a more inclusive and representative democracy in Zimbabwe.

- Country covered by the project

Zimbabwe

- Strategic Objectives (as per project proposal)

1.To increase the number of women participating as voters in Zimbabwe's 2023 elections. (Challenging female voter apathy)

2.To increase the number of female candidates contesting in the Zimbabwean 2023 elections

- Map (list of communities, districts or provinces as relevant) of project area

- 1.Harare
- 2.Bulawayo
- 3.Manicaland
- 4.Midlands
- 5.Mashonaland West and Central

- General overview of activities and approaches

The project implemented by Mwanasikana Wanhasi to counter female voter apathy for the 2023 elections in Zimbabwe involved a range of activities and approaches to engage and empower women. Some of the key activities and their impact are as follows:

1. Awareness Campaigns: The project conducted awareness campaigns in various communities to educate women about the importance of their participation in the electoral process. These campaigns aimed to raise awareness, dispel myths, and address misconceptions surrounding voting rights and the impact of women's participation.

2. Workshops and Talkshops: Mwanasikana Wanhasi organised workshops and talkshops to provide women with essential information on voter registration, the electoral process, and the significance of their participation. These interactive sessions created a platform for



discussion, sharing experiences, and addressing concerns related to women's involvement in politics.

Impact: The workshops and talkshops empowered women with knowledge and built their confidence to participate in the electoral process. They also fostered a sense of community and support among participants.

3. Radio Programs: The project utilised radio programs to reach a wider audience and disseminate information on women's rights, voter education, and the importance of female political participation. These programs featured interviews, panel discussions, and call-in segments to engage listeners and address their queries.

Impact: The radio programs helped reach remote and marginalised communities, providing them with vital information and encouraging them to overcome barriers to participation. They also helped challenge societal norms and promote gender equality through public discourse.

4. Collaborations and Partnerships: Mwanasikana Wanhasi collaborated with local community leaders, women's groups, and grassroots organisations to amplify the impact of the project. By working together, they leveraged resources, shared expertise, and created a united front to address female voter apathy.

Impact: Collaborations and partnerships strengthened the project's outreach and effectiveness. They ensured a broader reach, allowed for tailored interventions, and built a network of support for women's political participation ahead of the 2023 elections.

Overall, the activities and approaches employed by Mwanasikana Wanhasi's project aimed to inform, empower, and mobilise women to overcome barriers and actively participate in the electoral process. By raising awareness, providing knowledge, and fostering community engagement, the project made a significant impact in countering female voter apathy and promoting women's political participation in Zimbabwe.

Main Avatar

- General Summary of Results and Successes

The project implemented by Mwanasikana Wanhasi to counter female voter apathy for the 2023 elections in Zimbabwe achieved several positive outcomes and successes. Here is a general summary of the results:

1. Increased Awareness: The project successfully raised awareness among women about the importance of their participation in the electoral process. Through awareness campaigns, workshops, talkshops, and radio programs, more women gained knowledge about their voting rights and the significance of their voices in shaping their communities and the nation.



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2. Empowered Women: The project empowered women by providing them with essential information and resources to overcome barriers to political participation. Women gained confidence, knowledge, and skills to actively engage in the electoral process and address challenges such as gender-based violence and cultural norms that discourage their involvement in politics.

3. Expanded Participation: The project contributed to an increase in the participation of women in the electoral process. By countering female voter apathy, women were motivated to register to vote and actively participate in elections, ensuring their voices were heard and their votes counted.

4. Community Engagement: The project fostered community engagement and support for women's political participation. Through collaborations and partnerships with local leaders, women's groups, and grassroots organizations, a network of support was created, amplifying the project's impact and empowering women at the grassroots level.

5. Policy Advocacy: Mwanasikana Wanhasi advocated for policies that promote gender equality and women's political participation. By raising awareness and advocating for change, the project contributed to creating a more inclusive and representative democracy in Zimbabwe.

Overall, the project achieved significant results by increasing awareness, empowering women, expanding participation, fostering community engagement, and advocating for policy change. These successes contribute to a more inclusive and democratic society in Zimbabwe, where women's voices are heard and their political participation is valued.

Organisational Development;

The organisation managed to improve and increase its capacity to implement advocacy initiatives through the funding support from GRIPP. This increased its reach in both beneficiaries and partners. The organisation managed to secure an additional funding of \$10000. The grant was used towards advocacy for a disability friendly election in Zimbabwe. This involved advocacy on election material and voter education. The project trained forty young women who performed duties of "Election Observers".



- Major Challenges, Constraints and Lessons Learned

Major Challenges

The organisation encountered several challenges in its implementation phase.

1. Limited resources: The organisation faced challenges in the form of lack of flexible funding and resources to sustain the work. While the organisation was supported to be implemented, the organisation faced problems in catering for administration costs. With the organisation being a Youth-Led, this was a major constraint under this funding which was also coupled with late funding disbursements.

2. Resistance to change: Promoting women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe can be met with resistance from traditional or conservative groups who may be opposed to gender equality or women's empowerment. Zimbabwe's societies are still rooted in patriarchy and this affected the project's flow. Behavioural change still remains a huge task for most human rights groups in Zimbabwe.

3. Lack of political will: The government and political parties in Zimbabwe lacked the necessary commitment to promote and support women's participation in politics. This hindered the implementation of policies or initiatives aimed at increasing women's representation.

4. Gender-based discrimination: Women involved in politics faced discrimination, harassment, and gender-based violence during the 2023 elections. These challenges could potentially discourage women from actively participating in political processes and discourage the organisation's efforts.

5. Lack of awareness and confidence: Many women may lack awareness of their rights and opportunities in politics or may lack the confidence to engage in political processes. Providing education, training, and mentorship programs can help overcome these challenges.

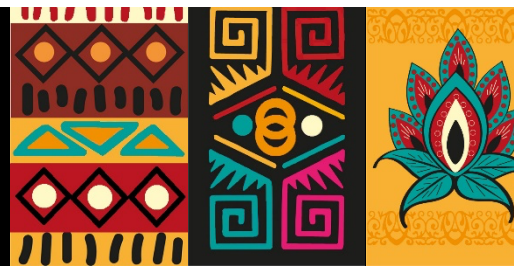
7. Political and electoral systems: The structure and design of political and electoral systems can present challenges for women's participation. Barriers such as discriminatory laws, party biases, and limited quotas or affirmative action measures can hinder progress.



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IV. Summary Table of Indicators including numbers targeted and results reached/achieved. Please note this table should represent the targets as established in your grantee agreement and the results reached over the **total project**.

Target	Indicator/result	Means of verification
Female representative	Anna Sande as councillor	MW Success story
Election observer	Female election observers on the election day	MW presentation at the GRIPP Colloquium
Reaching more than 250 ladies through workshops	Conducted more than 10 workshops throughout the country	Participants' registers
Promoting voter education	Radio programming	Radio Transcripts

V. Project Implementation Summary by Strategic Objective

- Project activities implemented during the project in its entirety should be summarised by strategic objectives and should include: activities/approaches planned and completed overall achievements, major challenges/constraints, responses and lessons learned. Results should include all indicators as agreed upon in the project contract(s).

Mwanasikana Wanhasi implemented the GRRIPP supported project under hostile conditions in a polarized state where tensions and emotions run high during an election season. From the onset of the project, there was intimidation as the title of the project was presumed to have political connotations however the project was non partisan and rather an inclusive and result oriented project that could help reduce apathy in Zimbabwe particularly women. Mwanasikana Wanhasi's projected targets included conducting voter education workshops, registering more female voters, female elections observers and a female candidate in the election amongst the beneficiaries of the project. All of the targets were reached and Mwanasikana Wanhasi is proud to have achieved the targets under a hostile environment. The challenges faced included intimidation from different spheres such as local leaders, the police and some political parties that felt they were being infringed by the continuation of the project. Furthermore the cholera outbreak delayed the project to be completed on time as some gathering were to be postponed to allow the health practitioners to do their work in affected areas hence Mwanasikana Wanhasi would not offer catering services during the workshop but rather opted



to give out cash to the participants for their lunch and transport purposes. Mwanasikana Wanhasi learnt the significance of working with community leaders as they know the protocols to follow and process to exacerbate the implementation of the project to meet certain deadlines.

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VI. Sustainability and Impact

- Sustainability and/or transition (describe implementation of activities undertaken to ensure project sustainability/transition at end of project).

1. Mwanasikana Wanhasi implemented capacity building initiatives, including training programs, workshops, and mentoring opportunities, to enhance the knowledge and skills of local women leaders and activists. This empowered them to continue advocating for women's political participation even after the project concluded.
2. The organisation facilitated networking and collaboration among various stakeholders, such as women politicians, civil society organisations, and government agencies. This fostered ongoing partnerships and collective efforts to sustain the project's objectives beyond its duration.
3. Mwanasikana Wanhasi engaged in policy advocacy, advocating for gender-responsive policies and legislation that support women's political participation. This work laid the foundation for long-term impact, ensuring that sustainable policy changes were in place even after the project ended.
4. The organisation conducted awareness campaigns through media outreach, public events, and community mobilisation efforts to educate the public about the importance of women's political participation. These campaigns aimed to ensure that the project's message continued to resonate with the broader population.



5. Mwanasikana Wanhasi implemented a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, measure impact, and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data and evidence of the project's effectiveness, the organisation strengthened its case for sustaining the project's activities or replicating them in other contexts.

6. The organisation actively sought partnerships, grants, and donations from various sources to ensure financial sustainability. By diversifying their funding base, Mwanasikana Wanhasi increased their financial stability and continued their work beyond the project's lifespan.

7. Mwanasikana Wanhasi worked towards institutionalising the project's activities within existing structures or creating new mechanisms to sustain the initiative. This involved collaborating with government agencies, political parties, or establishing dedicated platforms or organisations to continue the work on women's political participation.

VII. Appendices

- Comprehensive proof of activities organised by strategic objective* (proof of activities should be guided by previous submissions and should include sign in sheets, agendas, press statements, social media posts, partnership agreements, blogs, media coverage, presentations, pre/post-tests, and photographs etc. as stipulated per activity) Please include details including the name of persons in image, date, activity, and location for all photographs.



Success Stories Template

Success Stories



Anna Sande, a project beneficiary swearing in ceremony after the recently held 2023 Zimbabwean election



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In a vibrant community known as Epworth, an organisation called Mwanasikana Wanhasi launched GRIPP project aimed at increasing women's engagement in local politics. They implemented a range of activities to empower women, enhance their leadership skills, and encourage their active participation in political processes.

One of the project's inspiring success stories revolved around a young woman named Anna Sande. Anna, a driven and passionate advocate for social change, had always been interested in politics but felt discouraged by the underrepresentation of women in her community's political landscape.

Mwanasikana wanhasi provided Anna with comprehensive training on public speaking, campaign management, and policy development. They also connected her with experienced women politicians who served as mentors and sources of inspiration. Through these opportunities, Anna gained confidence and honed her skills, enabling her to step forward as a candidate in the local council elections.

Anna's campaign focused on pressing issues such as environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and community development. With the unwavering support of Mwanasikana wanhasi, she ran a dynamic and inclusive campaign, engaging with voters, organizing town hall meetings, and leveraging social media to amplify her message.

On election day, Anna's hard work and dedication paid off. She emerged victorious, securing a seat on the local council, and becoming the first woman in Epworth's history to hold such a position. Her triumph not only inspired other young women in the community but also challenged traditional gender norms and perceptions.

As a council member, Anna actively championed policies that promoted gender equality, women's rights, and inclusive decision-making. She collaborated closely with mwanasikana wanhasi to implement initiatives such as mentorship programs, leadership workshops, and awareness campaigns to encourage more women to participate in local politics.

Anna's success story ignited a wave of transformation in Zimbabwe. Her presence as a capable and dedicated woman in a position of influence shattered barriers and paved the way for other women to pursue political leadership roles. The efforts of mwanasikana wanhasi, combined with Anna's resilience and determination, fostered a more inclusive and representative local government.

This success story exemplifies the profound impact an organization's work can have on women's participation in politics. Through empowering and supporting women like Anna Sande, organizations like mwanasikana wanhasi can drive positive change and contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive society.



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