



*AWET BCFs assisting with Risk Communication and Community Engagement in schools*

## **Covid-19, Prevention and Control Measures in Schools**

To avoid the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in schools and the community, as well as to protect the safety of students and school employees while at school, numerous activities and requirements should be assessed and implemented. Early childhood development, higher learning institutions, residential schools, and residential schools, and specialized institutions should all have provisions.

World Health Organization recommends several measures to ensure the safety of pupils, school staff as well as the community at large. Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust (AWET) with support from UNICEF Zimbabwe, has been engaging with several line ministries to carrying out numerous recommendations from WHO, that is measures at the community level: early detection, testing, contact tracing, and quarantining of contacts; investigating clusters; ensuring physical separation, hand and hygiene practices, and age-appropriate mask use; and safeguarding vulnerable groups. Community-led actions, such as eliminating false rumors, are also helpful in lowering the risk of infection.

AWET Behavioral Change Facilitators in several districts have been sensitizing the importance of hygiene and daily practices at schools and classroom level in several districts across Zimbabwe as back to school is underway starting with exams classes. Exams for O and A levels have resumed, despite an increase in #COVID\_19 ...continue to pg2



## **Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust Newsletter**



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## EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON GIRLS AND WOMEN

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the physical and emotional health of girls, as well as their schooling and the economic circumstances of their families and communities. Changes like this raise the danger of child marriage, and the epidemic will put most of the girls at risk of becoming child brides over a period of 10 years.

Apostolic Women empowerment Trust (AWET) is working in several districts across Zimbabwe sensitizing community; addressing and shifting social norms that cause sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices (HP) among women and girls.

AWET is engaging with girls and women from the Apostolic Community, through Districts Focal Persons (DPFs) we have managed to sensitizing the risk of child marriage. In Mangwe focus group discussions (FGDs) has shown the risk of child marriage increases through various pathways, including school closures and interruptions in services, and economic shocks, said Sibongile Makuyana.

"Economic insecurity might lead to a child marriage as a solution for a family to get out of debt. Our community engagement meetings (FGDs) have revealed that education is a protective factor against child marriage. As a result of the COVID-19, the "Shadow Pandemic" has been a driving force for girls to marry because school is no longer an option (School Closures). Disruptions in Sexual Reproductive Health (SRHR) services have a direct impact on teen pregnancy and, as a result, child marriage," said Makuyana.

The number of girls who have been married since the beginning of the pandemic is alarming, as rise in school drop outs in marginalised areas is persistent, pre COVID data can be utilised to predict the impact of the pandemic on child marriage in the near future... to pg 4

...continued from pg1 infections.

For a safe and healthy exam environment, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and AWET are encouraging all schools and exam centers to strictly follow the Standard Operating Procedures put in place by the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Also, in areas of high COVID-19 transmission, AWETs' BCFs have been spreading the word around on the importance of physical distancing inside and outside classrooms. Maintain a gap of at least 1 meter between individuals of all ages in any classrooms that are in COVID-19 hotspots districts. Increase desk spacing and staging recesses, breaks, and lunchbreaks, restricting the mixing of classes and age groups; contemplating smaller classes or rotating attendance patterns; and maintaining sufficient ventilation in classrooms.

Furthermore, it is vital to communicate with parents and pupils: to promote collaboration and support, schools should keep students and parents informed about the measures being implemented. In addition, school-based interventions, such as immunization check-ups and vaccination catch up programs: ensure that key services, such as school meals and mental health and psychosocial assistance, are maintained or expanded.





## AWET# COVID-19 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





## #ChildMarriage is Rape



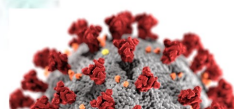
Gender-based violence should be eliminated in all its forms. Now is the time to unite together to put an end to violence against women. Together we can encourage, change and work towards a future where everyone is safe, equal, and respected.

We can not only imagine a society free of gender-based violence, but we can also make it a reality. It all starts with you and me taking the first step towards making it happen! So let's work together to make our society a lot safer for everyone.

We must all take a strong stand against [#ChildMarriage](#). We allow violation of our girls if we remain silent and do nothing. What can you do in your community to prevent and end child marriages? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD  
**08080443 AWET TOLLFREE**

## Wear Your Mask Correctly

The Corona Virus Delta Variant is easily spread. Make sure you put your mask on appropriately. Individuals who have been vaccinated have a possibility of becoming infected.



Stay informed about **COVID-19**; text Hi to 2019

text hi to the WhatsApp number  
+263 714734593



...continued from pg2 These projections can be made by examining existing patterns as well as historical information non the effects of educational disruption, economic shocks and programme efficacy on this harmful practice.

The pandemics' entire impact is not unknown, as AWET we are taking steps now to protect girls and women which will have long-term advantages. These include addressing social issues, and ensuring that health and social services for girls and women are adequately funded and accessible.

With the support of Unicef, through Spotlight Initiative running under the Sustainable Development Goal 5 the world pledged to eliminate child marriage by 2030. This commitment extends to the 10 million girls whose futures are now jeopardized, as well as the 100 million girls who were at risk of becoming child brides prior to the outbreak.

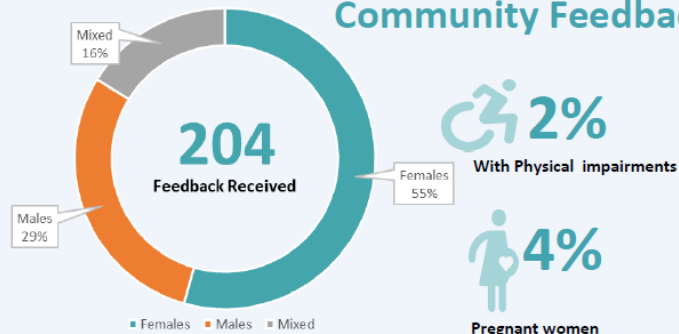


**1 in every 3 women in Zimbabwe experiences violence**

# Community Feedback Mechanism

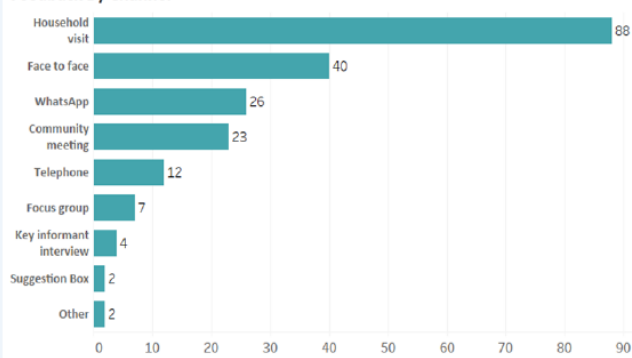


## Community Feedback Tracker Week 53

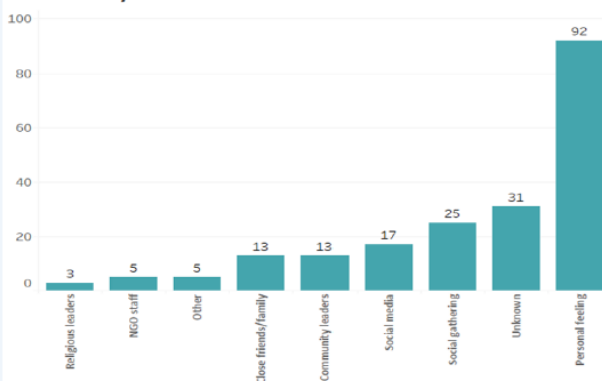


Type of feedback	No of Feedbacks
Sensitive comment	4
Questions	36
Rumours	48
Suggestions	69
Appreciation	47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>204</b>

Feedback By Channel



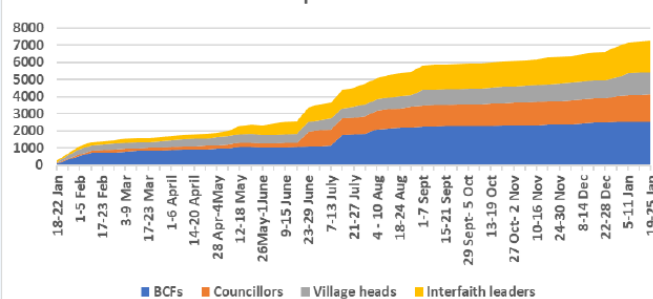
Feedback By Source



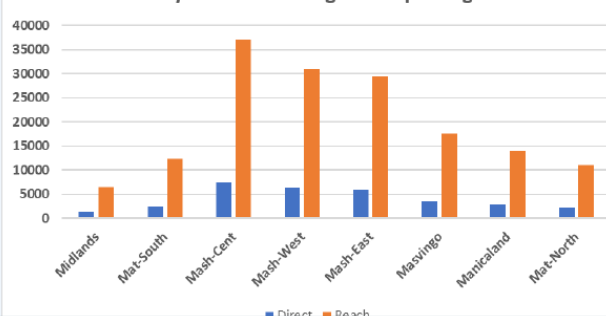
## Week 53



Cumulative local capacity covered over a 53 week period



Reach By Province During The Reporting Week



Cumulative number of people reached with IPC over a 53 week period

