

# NEWSLETTER

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## Masithethe Intergenerational Dialogue

Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust ActUbumbano BROT furdiewelt and FaithtoActionet have been engaging the youth in an intergenerational dialogue #Masithethe meaning #LetsTalk; this was a safe space for them to talk about #SRHR sensitive matters with their faith leaders.

In order to build interfaith and intergenerational partnerships for young and older generations to collaboratively bring about change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Southern African region, Faith to Action Network is collaborating with ACT Ubumbano and Brot für die Welt. This initiative engages with religious leaders of all ages, with a focus on congregational youth leaders.

AWET has begun conducting discussions with boys and girls and religious leaders on topics including gender-based violence, mental health, and menstrual health in partnership with Plan international Zimbabwe through the SAGE Program in Manicaland. The multi-age conversations promote SRHRS and work to eradicate the period poverty that many young girls in the apostolic community experience...*continue to pg 3*

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Debra Mpofu AWET Programs Manager presenting during the Masithethe Intergenerational Dialogue

## SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR): INCREASING CAPACITY AND ADVOCATING FOR ADOLESCENT DYNAMICS IN MANICALAND THROUGH INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE.

In Manicaland, the legal, policy, and practice environment for adolescent SRHR presents a mixed picture that frequently permits personal, cultural, social, religious and other beliefs to restrict young people's sexual and health rights as well as their positive sexual experiences. Moreover, there are frequently silences regarding historical sexual practices and sexualities that foster a sense of disconnection between generations with regard to gender, sex and sexualities.

Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust with the support of Plan International Zimbabwe through the SAGE Program conducted intergenerational dialogue on sexual reproductive health in Mutasa and Chimanimani. The main aim was to create an open platform where Religious leaders and adolescents could speak out about reproductive health. #SRHR #menstruationmatters#mentalhealth #maternalhealth #disabilityinclusion#drugabuse.

In light of this, the SAGE Program sees a chance to connect young and older people so they can learn about one another's sexual and gender lives and stories. These intergenerational discussions will assist in the creation of new, sexually positive narratives that can be used to questions regarding the interactions between religious leaders and young people using SRHR services. With this knowledge, community-based religious leaders might be inspired to learn new skills that will help them in their SRHR interactions with young people.

These conversations included the notion that religious leaders will be better able to connect with their own communities if there is more open discussion and contact between younger and older individuals. This will inspire religious leaders to approach their work with a more holistic view so that their interactions with adolescents, which are influenced by the concept of life history and experiences, more free and accepting.



Members from the Apostolic during an Intergenerational Dialogue in Chimanimani

"THESE INTERGENERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WILL ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF NEW, SEXUALLY POSITIVE NARRATIVES THAT CAN BE USED TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE USING SRHR SERVICES."





*...continued from pg 1* Menstrual Stigma and lack of access to sanitary products are two examples of period poverty.

Menstruation related stigma, particularly in rural areas, is a problem. This project aims to break down the taboo in many communities that prevents parents from discussing menstruation hygiene and health with their children, which contributes to period poverty. As a result, young girls are compelled to learn from and obtain knowledge from their peers, which may be inaccurate and pose health hazards.

During their menstrual cycle, many girls experience difficulties frequently. Most often, people encounter a lack of access to hygiene products. Girls often use rags and papers during their periods, which puts them at risk of getting infections that could affect their reproductive system, having leaks, and feeling generally uncomfortable.

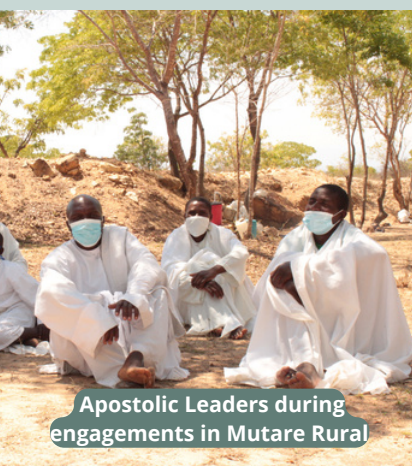
The recently underprivileged kids in Shamva received at least 1250 sanitary packets from AWET with support from UNICEF Zimbabwe. The goal of AWET is to make sure that no girl is denied her human rights because of a monthly bodily function. Plan international asserts that open discussions on sexual and reproductive health should take place with both the young and the elderly. Over 1200 adolescents from Manicaland rural areas have been contacted by AWET, and they should be participating in these discussions. AWET Programs Manager Debra Mpofu added during one of the engagements that; "Boys have a responsibility to safeguard girls from all types of harassment, including social, emotional, physical, and sexual assault. Because boys play a crucial role and need to be educated, these activities would not be successful if they were excluded.

## COVID-19 FACTS ON THE GO

Children aged 12 and above can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. In an effort to go [#ZEROCVID](#), more and more sites are increasing their appointment availability, and more vaccines are being sent to providers in your area every day. [#DoItAll](#) [#WearaMask](#) [#WashyourHands](#) [#KeepPhysicalDistance](#) [#GetVaccinated](#)



BCF assisting Health workers in COVID-19 vaccination Mangwe District



Apostolic Leaders during engagements in Mutare Rural

## AWET ENGAGES APOSTOLIC SECT LEADERS IN MUTARE RURAL

Religious leaders' vast networks and close contacts to the community help them to play a significant part in the fight against the HIV epidemic.

Reports from the community suggest that although many factors influence adherence to ART medications, claims of "faith healing" or "miraculous healing of HIV" are a significant obstacle to achieving the 95-95-95 worldwide goals for HIV control. Thus, 20 religious leaders from various Apostolic Sects were engaged by AWET with assistance from USAID through PEPFAR for Bocha in Mutare Rural...*continue to pg 5*



# COVID-19 COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS







...continue from pg 3 The faith and community initiative materials to spread New Messages of Hope and Justice for Children were developed before the community sensitization meeting. The talks on how important it is for religious leaders to establish "life-giving" theologies that support HIV adherence among their congregants were made possible by the materials co-designed by AWET and partners.

The apostolic community thrives in Mutare Rural, making it crucial to work strategically with religious leaders to address structural issues that have long been linked to the spread of HIV. PEPFAR and its implementing partner AWET used this occasion as an opportunity to distribute the New Messages of Hope and Justice for Children material. Additionally, AWET facilitated talks on the responsibility of religious leaders in ensuring that their congregations have access to basic health services like viral load testing, gender-based violence prevention, cervical cancer screening, and treatment.

Additionally, it was underlined that religious leaders play a crucial part in encouraging and counselling their congregants and members to take their medications as prescribed. "In Zimbabwe, the Apostolic Sect accounts for 32%. As leaders, we should utilize our "power" to end the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, reshape social norms, and encourage moral behaviour. According to AWET Programs Manager Madzimai Hope Dunira, "Each of us here plays a crucial part in controlling the HIV epidemic, and we should set an example in our communities.



Greeting from

## **APOSTOLIC WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TRUST**

The Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust consists of a group of unified women who provide long-term vision and direction for the needs of all women by exploring the characteristics or spiritual disciplines needed for women to grow spiritually. The goal of this team is to show women the pathway for living for God, focusing on all women of all ages and stages in the Christian walk.

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