



## AWET exhibits at the National Disability Expo 2022

The Apostolic women Empowerment Trust participated in the National Disability Expo in Marondera from September 6-8, 2022, together with other United Agencies in Zimbabwe, with the theme “Building a disability inclusive and participative society: Leaving No Person and No Place Behind.

Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust exhibited at 2022 National Disability Expo to link with thousands of people with disability and service providers as well as presenting a range of informative and interactive presentations delivered by industry experts.

AWET MEAL Officer Mr Makwanya highlighted what the organization exhibiting, AWET continuously delivered information on its products that transform Apostolic and interfaith communities and people with disabilities (#PWD). People who are toured AWET expo table received informative and educative materials on HIV, measles, COVID-19, Gender Based Violence, Child Protection, and disability inclusion.

“The Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust consistently disseminates information about the products it provides for the benefit of the people with disabilities, the interfaith, and apostolic communities. Informational and educational materials on HIV, measles, COVID-19, gender-based violence, child protection, and disability inclusion are distributed to visitors to the AWET expo table,” said Luke Makwanya...*continue to pg 3*

**For Every Child,  
Right to Information**



**REMOVE  
COMMUNICATION BARRIERS**



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[www.awet.org.zw](http://www.awet.org.zw)

For Every Child, Right to Health

SIGNING IS ANOTHER  
WAY OF COMMUNICATING

## Child Protection Trainings

@AWET Apostolic is conducting refresher Child Protection training in 13 districts, as part of capacity building for Behavior Change Facilitators to handle #child\_protection issues, articulate the law, and address social norms and resistance ingrained in communities with a particular lens on the apostolic communities. #EndChildMarriage #ItTakesAWorld #EndVAGW #EndSGBV #placesofworship #everyone



@AwetApostolic

Child Protection Trainings helps  
communities escape Child Marriage

Millions of children continue to be harmed by the harmful tradition of child marriage, which still exists today. Even while it has been less prevalent over time, it is still present in some marginalized communities. Over the years, child marriage has significantly declined in Zimbabwe. Child marriage is not permitted under the laws that the government has established. Nevertheless, despite steadfast attempts to end child marriage and steady improvement in most parts of the nation, the fight is still far from over. Some community members are still marrying off their daughters behind closed doors.

In 13 districts, Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust has been delivering Child Protection training with support from UNICEF Zimbabwe. In turn, these trainings will equip 1560 Behavior Change Facilitators with knowledge of child protection issues, that is; being equipped to deal with child protection issues, and address social norms and resistance in communities.

Thandolwenkosi, AWET's District Focal Person (DFP), resides and works in communities in the Mangwe District. She is one of the 13 DFPs across the nation who are sensitizing locals about the terrible consequences of child marriage and child protection issues. Few parents still agree to marriage proposals for schoolgirls without telling them, and occasionally they even start planning secret weddings.

She says in her narration, "The continuation of child marriage perpetuates the cycle of poverty. This immoral behavior prevents children from realizing their greatest potential. As a result, we have learned that it is essential to involve church leaders, line ministries, and people of the community in the cause of ending child marriage in communities."...continue to pg 4





*...continued from pg1* The National Disability Expo 2022 featured exhibitions of knowledge products, technologies, services, craft, and talents from the Zimbabwean government, people with disability, organizations of people with disabilities, the UN and other partners. Disability inclusion in all spheres of development and issues surrounding the National Disability Policy took center stage.

On behalf of Zimbabwean President, Mashonaland East Minister of State Province Affairs and Devolution Hon. Munzverengwi official launched the Expo. As the nation works toward the National Vision 2030, the Ministered reaffirmed the government's commitment to removing the obstacles faced by people with disabilities and making sure that no one is left behind.

"People with disabilities should be treated with dignity since they are human beings working to exercise all of their rights. The government of Zimbabwe will always walk the walk and improve the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities in national development, guided by vision 2030, the National Development plan, the National Disability Policy and the applicable legislation," said Honourable Minister Munzverengwi.

Senzeni Mutevedzi, the chair of the National Disability Expo, praised the government, the UN, OPDs, and other stakeholders, stating that the event would significantly help address problems faced by women with disabilities because they are the most vulnerable in society.

"Women who have disabilities are often marginalized. People with disabilities have the power to end the poverty that is directly related to their condition if they are empowered, supported, and inclusion policies are in place. Democracy must improve if people with disabilities are to advance," said Chair of the National Disability Expo.

## AWET joins development partners in Measles Vaccination Drive



The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined forces in August 2022 to support the Measles Supplementary immunization Activities in Zimbabwe. To assist WHO and the Zimbabwean government in conducting surveys for the monitoring of the measles campaign, 1026 AWET volunteers were mobilized and deployed across 40 districts in less than two weeks.

Zimbabwe launched an emergency measles vaccination campaign, vaccinating and revaccinating more than two million children under the age of five. With assistance from World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC)...*continue to pg4*




*...continued from pg3* Girls cry for days and then sit there helplessly wondering what their future may hold. While they do not want their parents to be disappointed, they also do not want their lives to be irreparably wrecked. Some people spend days attempting to accept their situation before deciding to bring their cases to AWET, the community or schools they attend to.

“I remember a training on how to report incidences of child marriage through the toll-free number that I gave to communities in Mangwe. Communities in my district have apparently reported cases of child marriage.”

The AWET National MEAL Officer, Luke Makwanya, advises callers on how and where to report cases. "We have been getting a lot of calls from Mangwe District regarding incidents of child marriages, and I always take the time to explain to them the health and psychological impact of child marriage on children's future lives. "We kindly explained to community members who called the impacts of child marriage on children and also directed them to the necessary services they should seek right away to get aid," the statement reads, said Luke.


*...from pg 3* To the appropriate provincial health departments and district health management teams, AWET offered Social Mobilization support. Regardless of their prior vaccination history or illness, the campaign's goal was to vaccinate all children under the age of five with one dose of the measles vaccine.

More than two million children under the age of five received vaccinations against the deadly measles disease as a result of the Measles Supplementary Immunization Activities carried out in Zimbabwe from August to September 2022, with a great deal of help from AWET Volunteers. The AWET volunteers assisted in observing the campaign in 40 districts across all for provinces, as well as in difficult-to-reach areas like the apostolic communities. -- Dr Gasasira WHO Representative to Zimbabwe...*continue to pg 6*



## Measles

Don't let your child catch measles, get them vaccinated at your nearest health facility







**Measles is a serious illness especially for children. Your child could have measles if they have:**

- A high fever
- Cough
- Running nose
- Rash
- Sore red watery eyes
- Diarrhoea

**If you suspect that your child has measles, DON'T delay to visit your nearest health facility**

**For more information ask your village health worker or visit your nearest facility**



# Disability Expo in Pics



# Measles Outreach Campaign in Pics





...continued from pg4 Even in the most marginalized communities, Behavior Change Facilitators (BCFs) AWET Volunteers promoted engagements thanks to their knowledge of the local languages, social dynamics and cultural awareness. Through the participation of AWET volunteers in the vaccination campaign, Who was able to reach a large number of families nation wide and vaccinate more than 20 million children, resulting in an 84% success rate.

The effective collaboration between UNICEF and WHO in Zimbabwe is evidence of the AWET volunteers dedication to their cause. Partner organizations can successfully achieve the project's goals and contribute to their regional and global mandates thanks to the quick deployment and technical proficiency of national volunteers.

Measles is a seriously contagious illness that can be fatal in children but is prevented by vaccination. Additionally, 1026 AWET volunteers who served as District Focal Persons for the large measles campaign in August were deployed with AWET and were crucial to its successful execution. I sincerely value the AWET volunteers' contribution and hope that we will continue to gain from their invaluable fieldwork experience in difficult circumstances. ---AWET National Public Health Officer Palmer Dutiro.

**NOTHING  
FOR US  
WITHOUT US**



DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY



unicef  
for every child





*Apostolic Women  
Empowerment Trust*

EMPOWER A WOMAN PROTECT A CHILD

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Sep 26 2022  
**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF  
SIGN LANGUAGE**

"Sign languages unite us"

## Sign Basic Number Line



BASIC NUMBER LINE

0	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	

AWET TOLL FREE 0 8 0 8 0 4 4 3