
SHAMWARI YEMWANASIKANA

GIRLS' PULSE JULY 2023



Hello Shamwari!

Here is another edition of Girls' Pulse, and we are excited to share what Shamwari Yemwanasikana has been doing in all districts of operation throughout the month of July.

Our Director attended this year's Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, and we are excited as this was a great networking opportunity for Shamwari Yemwanasikana.

We have some exciting news about our Mhoro Shamwari centre in Murewa, and thrilled to share what our flagships have been doing.

Enjoy!

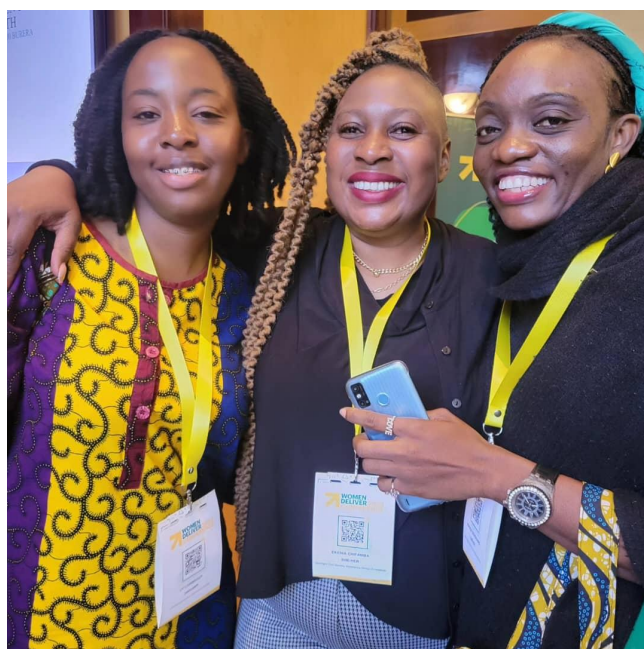
**Shamwari
Yemwanasikana at
Brookside
International School in
Damofalls**

WOMEN DELIVER 2023 CONFERENCE

Shamwari Yemwanasikana Director, Ekenia Chifamba, attended the Women Deliver 2023 Conference from 17 to 21 July 2023. The Women Deliver 2023 conference is currently one of the world's largest conferences on gender equality, health rights and well-being of girls in the 21st century. This year's conference was held in Kigali, Rwanda, and over 6 000 people attended physically and virtually. The conference convened thousands of decision makers from diverse fields, including civil society, government, the private sector, and international agencies, alongside women's rights organizations and movements, youth led, LGBTQIA+ organizations, and advocates representing the inter-sectional identities for girls, women and underrepresented populations in order to identify solutions, bolster accountability, and

drive change.

The theme of this year's Women Deliver Conference was on Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions. The main drive of the conference was to enable inclusive and co-created spaces that foster solidarity for sustainable solutions and gender equality. Woman Deliver 2023, with sexual and reproduction health and right as the main drive, this was a great opportunity for our girls, as it centered on inter-sectional feminist principles, to address compounding issues impacting girls and women from climate change, to gender based violence, to unpaid care work and collectively identify and action evidence-based solutions.



MHORO SHAMWARI ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DEMONSTRATION CENTRE, MUREWA

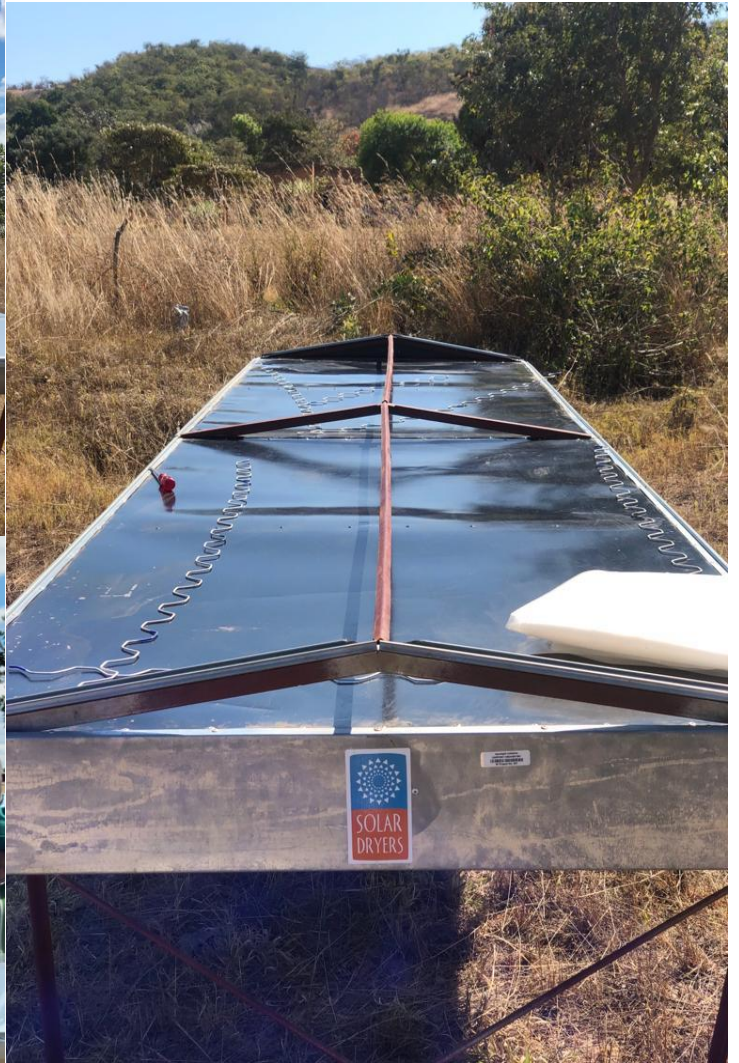
On Wednesday 12 July 2023, Shamwari Yemwanasikana received a solar dryer from the UNDP through the Spotlight Initiative, and this was placed at our Mhoro Shamwari Girls Economic Empowerment and Demonstration Centre in Murewa. The official handover ceremony was attended by stakeholders from Murewa district, including the District Development Coordinator, officials from the Ministry of Women Affairs, local traditional leaders, and representative from the AGRITEX office. Girls from Zhombwe Primary School were also part of the delegation, representing all the girls in Murewa.

Mhoro Shamwari centre was established to economically empower young women and girls through skills and entrepreneurship training. The centre aims to build capacity of girls who are socially and economically disadvantaged, by assisting these girls to improve their livelihoods through offering tailor-made vocational training opportunities and enhancement of local opportunities for holistic economic development.

This is in line with one of the organization's four strategic pillars, which speaks on the sustainable livelihoods through supporting and promoting sustainable development initiatives in communities that we work in so as to alleviate poverty.

The Director for Shamwari Yemwanasikana, Ekenia Chifamba, expressed her appreciation for the support that Murewa community gives to the women and girls. She spoke on how girls are falling prey to forced and early child marriages, commercial sexual exploitation, early and unintended pregnancies, and sex trafficking due to economic hardships, and urged the parents to protect their children. She emphasised on the importance of economic sustainability projects and encouraged families to work together to build their nation, as it is everyone's responsibility.

The solar dryer will be utilised for drying fruits, vegetables, meat and other fresh produce for preservation. This dryer is a game changer, as it allows the girls to preserve their produce from the centre (lately tomatoes) and sell in the commercial market. The dryer will also generate income on its own, as community businesses who need its services can use it for a fee. This initiative will be completely run by girls and women from the community development committees for Shamwari Yemwanasikana in Murewa.



SYS FLAGSHIPS

Our flagship programs are a key asset and unique innovation that mainly focus on mentoring, these platforms include the use of professionals in building relevant skills and capacities of the girls. These signature programs have contributed immensely to molding girls' assertiveness and improving learning outcomes on a national scale.

Dandaro Revasikana is our girl-child-centred model that focuses on the empowerment and education of the girl child on issues that affect them. It is a safe space for girls to discuss sensitive issues that have an impact on their well-being. Through this platform, girls have been meeting to deliberate on the challenges they are facing as well as suggest solutions to their challenges. The platform has been successful in empowering the girl child as well as providing support so that they will reach their full potential.

Our Dandaro sessions are both physical and online. This month, topics covered included drug and substance abuse, sexual abuse, teen pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and STIs.



Our physical Dandaro sessions in Chihota district are done at our Donhodzo Healing House, which is an alternative shelter to survivors of violence, but also serves as an SRHR hub. The centre offers comprehensive information on SRHR and is also a safe space for teen mothers to leave their babies during the day when they need to go to school, and our community development committee members take care of the babies until the mothers return. The houses are also spaces where the girls can do their homework and schoolwork in a supportive environment, which is rarely common for girls who fall pregnant whilst at school.

The inclusion of men and boys through our Dare Remachinda (Men's and Boys' forums) in communities has been our programming effort to bridge the gender inclusion gap. This approach encourages men and boys to abandon harmful stereotypes, address underlying gender norms, embrace respectful, healthy relationships, and support the human rights of all people, everywhere.

This month, our Dare Remachinda in Chihota district has been using sport as an advocacy tool, and to raise awareness on gender-based violence, and child marriages. They have been hosting soccer tournaments and have been successful in engaging community members as gender champions.



Bullying must be recognised, understood, and taken seriously. As part of our advocacy initiatives, we had a church engagement with United Apostolic Faith Church in Mufakose Harare. We engaged with Sunday School children aged between 5-13 years, and we spoke on bullying at school, and even at home among siblings. We spoke on kindness and empathy, and the importance of being each other's keeper. The children expressed the importance of educating parents and teachers on how to identify, and also respond to cases of bullying.



Activities

Shamwari Yemwanasikana conducted a condom distribution in Chitungwiza, as an initiative under our Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) pillar. Issues of safe sex are misunderstood as promoting sexual activities among adolescents, and sexual reproductive health is perceived with high negativity, stereotypes and misconceptions which minimise help seeking behaviours and weaken social support systems concretising into social ignorance.

This initiative helped demystify issues surrounding practising safe sex, and opened a dialogue with community to discuss how they can support young

people to protect them against HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies. From this community engagement, we gathered that the conversation around SRHR is highly conservative in Zimbabwean societies, leaving adolescent girls with no support system as they face issues like teenage pregnancy, STIs, sexual relationships, depression, and other underlying factors related to mental health and SRH. Most adolescents suffer stigma and discrimination when they try to seek services at health care facilities, and communities are not supportive enough for them to be able to share their stories, let alone seek further help.



Our team in Murewa joined other stakeholders in the district for the monthly nationwide cleanup campaign to raise awareness and promote action on waste management and environmental protection. The campaign mobilised communities, businesses, schools, and local stakeholders to participate and adopt best practices for reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. The campaign did not only improve the sanitation and health of the Murewa district, but also fostered a culture of environmental stewardship and responsibility among all citizens.



Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Advocacy, Research, and Learning (MEARL) lead, Siphon Mpfu attended a CSO and Champions Capacity Building workshop by HIVOS, YETT, GenderLinks and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe under the Women and Youth Inclusion for Equality program at Rainbow Towers, Harare. The workshop unpacked the importance of organisational growth, and the role the executive board plays to ensure the organisation is moving with its strategic plan. Our board member, Tanatsa Muparadzi, was there to represent the SYS board, and three of our girls from our Dandaros were representing our girls from all districts of operation, because

Anything for the girls without the girls is not for them.



Consultancy

Shamwari Yemwanasikana is working with the City of Harare Council to review their Gender and Inclusion Policy. The policy also covers Social Safeguarding, Gender and Inclusion standards and guidelines. This exercise also highlights the inclusion of gender perspectives in all council policies, to ensure the best service delivery for citizens of Harare.

Shamwari Yemwanasikana does consultancy for innovation and effectiveness, and we offer capacitation in organization structuring, strategic planning, institutional policy designing, project designing, board structuring and induction, corporate governance training, and other

institutional development services. We also do corporate event designing and planning. We offer the following services:

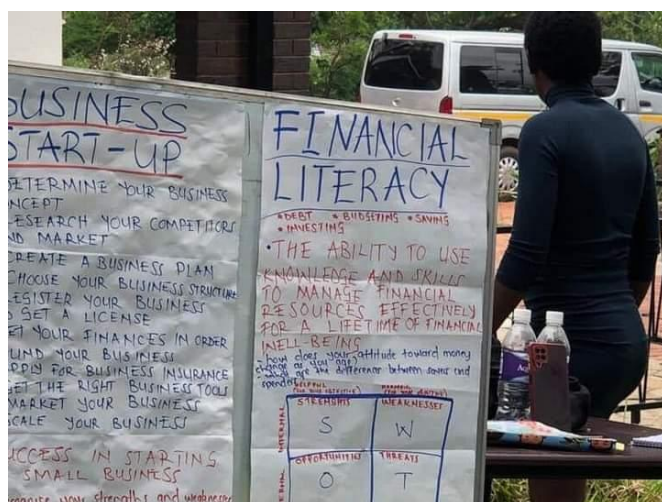
- Institutional policy development (e.g. gender policy, child safeguarding policy etc.)
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Corporate governance training
- Networking
- Institutional capacity assessments
- Events planning (e.g. breakfast meetings, round tables, luncheons)
- Community engagement



Third Quarter Fundraising

Shamwari Yemwanasikana has been supporting teen mothers in various districts through our sustainable livelihoods pillar. These girls have been trained on small business management, financial literacy, marketing etc. They are now ready to start their own sustainable livelihoods projects that they will entirely manage. This quarter we are fundraising for these projects to kick-start, and we will be profiling our girls and their potential projects.

The girls in groups of 5-10 have picked their projects, and we will be profiling each group. Join the cause by giving your resources, time, wisdom and mentor-ship. Let's help our girls get back on her feet. Follow our social media pages for more info.



The girls from Chihota District are starting a Reusable Sanitary Pad making project. This group has 15 girls, and they are hoping to use the proceeds from this project to subsidise their school fees and other essential needs.

For this project, these are the resources required:

- 5 manual sewing machines
- Sewing threads and needles
- Cloth (fleece, and waterproof material)
- 5 scissors
- 3 Tape measures
- Waterproof material
- Fasteners
- 3 working tables



Sustainable Livelihoods

Through our Sustainable Livelihoods pillar, we aim to support and promote sustainable development programs in communities that we work in so as to alleviate poverty. We envision a society with resilient and empowered girls and young people with improved livelihoods; entrepreneurship and employability skills and options.

Shamwari, we are excited to announce that our Dandaro girls from Chitungwiza and Harare were trained on detergent making, and our detergents

are on the market. In stock, we have

- Dishwashing liquid
- Multi-purpose cleaner
- Toilet cleaner
- Foam bath
- Petroleum jelly



We also do dignity kits with

- towels
- sanitary pads (reusable/disposable)
- buckets
- soap
- panties



Please get in touch through our social media pages or the contact info provided in this newsletter

That's all for now Shamwari. Tune in next month for another edition of the Girls Pulse. For more info;



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