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WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER



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Building Resilient Communities Through Sustainable Livelihoods

In January 2026, Women in Communities (WICO) hosted a successful training workshop at its offices in Gweru, targeting peri-urban women farmers. Fifteen women participated in a free bee farming training session facilitated by Mr. David Mukomana, founder of Organo7 and Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa President.

Each participant received a certificate and a complimentary beehive after the workshop. Encouragingly, some farmers have already reported the presence of bees in their hives, marking a positive start to their beekeeping journey. This initiative is proudly sponsored by the Global Green Fund (GGF) and aims to strengthen sustainable livelihoods for women.

● Tools With a Mission (TWAM) Supporting Skills Development

Through our collaboration with Tools With a Mission (TWAM), WICO is improving access to essential tools for young people with vocational skills. This support empowers them to launch income-generating ventures using their expertise.

WICO envisions establishing a Vocational Training Centre in Shurugwi to address local skills gaps. This initiative will help reduce youth involvement in risky artisanal mining and early marriages among adolescent girls, while promoting entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Women In Communities Zimbabwe implemented a project designed to address Gender Based Violence - GBV in the workplace and tertiary education institutions.

The main emphasis was the establishment of referral pathways and bringing awareness of GBV to the workforce.

[Read More on our website](#)



SRHR Awareness at Mupangayi Secondary School

WICO continues to promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among young people. In partnership with the National AIDS Council (NAC), we conducted a session on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) for students at Mupangayi Secondary School in Tongogara Rural District, Shurugwi.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, we facilitated peer health education training for school prefects. These initiatives empower adolescents with knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing

[Read More on our website](#)



Her Voice, Her Body, Her Rights



Gender Based Violence – GBV

Responsive Support

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the workplace remains pervasive yet significantly underreported. Many survivors endure abuse in silence due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and weak reporting systems. This not only harms the mental health and wellbeing of survivors but also undermines productivity, safety, and dignity within workplaces and tertiary institutions. Women in Communities Zimbabwe (WICO) is responding to this challenge through a targeted program that provides psychosocial support, awareness raising, and strengthened reporting mechanisms for GBV in the workplace.



Special Feature International Women's Month

Women in Communities Zimbabwe (WICO) proudly participated in the March, International Women's Month solidarity celebrations held at Chachacha Business Centre in Shurugwi, in line with this year's theme: "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls." The event was organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, with support from the Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, in collaboration with WICO.

A key highlight of the celebrations was the gastronomy competition, which featured 17 participants from different wards showcasing their culinary skills, creativity, and appreciation of Zimbabwe's cultural heritage. Winners received prizes such as cooking pots, food containers, and gas tanks, while the overall winner will advance to district, provincial, and national levels, as announced by the First Lady, patron of the competition.

In line with the theme, WICO continues to empower women in Shurugwi through sustainable livelihood initiatives, including nutrition gardens, fisheries, and beekeeping projects. These efforts are helping women enhance food security, generate income, and take meaningful action in building resilient and inclusive communities

WICO's Active Participation in Civil Society



Member Organisation Representatives

RKV/Pinnacle Dubai 2026

Our Executive Director, Rebecca Chirenga, in January 2026, attended the World Patient Alliance (WPA) Conference in Dubai, where she engaged with global stakeholders on fundraising strategies for African patient groups. The conference provided an opportunity to build partnerships, share experiences, and explore sustainable funding approaches to strengthen patient-led initiatives across the continent.



Priscillar – WICO Programs Officer

World NGO Day

WICO participated in the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) World NGO Day commemorations held under the theme, "Celebrating People-Driven Transformation: Adapt, Innovate, and Empower for Resilience and Sustainable Impact." The event was held at the Village Lodge in Gweru. Priscillar engaged with fellow civil society actors to share experiences, strengthen collaboration, and explore innovative approaches for building resilient communities and achieving sustainable impact.



Member Organisation Representatives

Communicating for Impact Training

Communications Officer Upenyu Sithole participated in a training hosted by the SIVIO Institute under the We Are One fundraising platform, focusing on Communicating for Impact. The training strengthened skills in strategic storytelling, audience engagement, and message framing to amplify gender-based violence (GBV) advocacy. Through this engagement, WICO is enhancing its communication approaches to raise awareness, mobilize support, and drive meaningful community action against GBV.

Looking Ahead

WICO remains dedicated to empowering communities through sustainable livelihoods, youth development, and health awareness programs. Together, we are building resilient, informed, and economically empowered communities.

OUR PARTNERS

