

WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



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Building Violence-Free Workplaces Through Collaboration

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, WICO brought together Government, private sector and Civil Society stakeholders in Gweru to advance the fight against GBV in the workplace. The programme is supported by Sivio Institute under the "We are One" fund platform.

The engagement included a Workplace GBV Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, designed to generate evidence that can inform practical and effective interventions. The meeting also marked the official launch of the WICO GBV Information and Support Chatbot, now available through WhatsApp and the WICO website. Evidence. Collaboration. Action. Together, we are building safer, more inclusive and violence-free workplaces.

Innovation for GBV Support:

Accessing reliable GBV information and support has never been easier. WICO has launched its AI WhatsApp GBV Information & Support Assistant, a confidential, free and easy-to-use platform designed to connect individuals with trusted information and available support services.

[Read More on our website](#)

● Strengthening WICO's Psychosocial Support Services

WICO extends heartfelt congratulations to our Executive Director, Rebecca T. Chirenga, on successfully attaining a Certificate in Basic Counselling Skills and Mental Health from Midlands State University.

This achievement further strengthens WICO's capacity to provide quality free psychosocial support services to survivors of GBV and individuals facing challenging circumstances. Rebecca's continued commitment to learning and professional development reflects WICO's commitment to ensuring that survivors and communities receive compassionate, appropriate and quality support. Congratulations, Rebecca!



Investing in Young People's Futures Through SRHR

WICO conducted an SRHR Impact Assessment at Mupangayi Secondary School, highlighting the positive changes that can happen when young people are equipped with accurate, age-appropriate information.

Together with the Soul City Institute of Justice, WICO continues to support adolescents with knowledge that enables them to make informed decisions, understand their rights and build healthier futures.

Empowering young people with information today helps create healthier, more resilient communities tomorrow.

[Read More on our website](#)



Her Voice, Her Body, Her Rights



Hope and Faith Centre in Mkoba, Gweru,

Promoting Inclusive SRHR for Persons with Disabilities

Disabilities (PWDs) on Sexual and Reproductive Health rights.

The discussion explored challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing information, services and support, while highlighting the importance of inclusion, dignity and equal access to SRH services. The engagement also addressed stigma and discrimination experienced by many persons with disabilities within their families and communities.

WICO extends special appreciation to Amai Bhebhe for her dedication to caring for persons with disabilities while their parents and guardians are away.

Every person deserves dignity, respect, information and equal access to services.



● Special Feature

Taking Inclusive Conservation to the Regional Level

WICO was honoured to participate in the Regional Geospatial Forum for Inclusive Biodiversity Action in Nairobi, Kenya.

The forum brought together women, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and youth to strengthen their participation in conservation planning and decision-making. Discussions focused on strengthening the capacity of communities and underrepresented groups to use geospatial data and tools for biodiversity monitoring, reporting and evidence-based policy engagement.

WICO was represented by Executive Director Rebecca Tendai Chirenga, who contributed to discussions on inclusive conservation and sustainable biodiversity management.

This engagement reinforces WICO's commitment to ensuring that women, communities and young people are not only beneficiaries of conservation initiatives, but active participants in shaping sustainable solutions.

WICO's Active Participation in Civil Society



WCOZ Member Organisation Representatives
WICO Joins the Women's Summit

WICO was proud to participate in the Women's Summit and the launch of the State of Women in Zimbabwe 2026 Report at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC).

As the venue turned orange, WICO stood alongside partners and stakeholders in reaffirming its commitment to advancing women's rights, gender equality and a future free from gender-based violence. The event provided an important platform for dialogue, reflection and collective action towards improving the lives of women and girls across Zimbabwe.



Gweru Informal Traders – WICO Offices

Standing Together Against Gender-Based Violence

WICO, in collaboration with the Gweru Residents & Ratepayers Association, hosted a Workplace Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Workshop for informal traders at WICO's Gweru CBD offices.

The interactive workshop explored different forms of workplace GBV, practical strategies for creating safer and more respectful working environments, and the collective responsibility of preventing violence. Participants were also introduced to WICO's GBV response services, including free psychosocial support, medical referrals and trusted referral pathways for survivors. Together, we are empowering communities to build workplaces where everyone can work with dignity, safety and respect.



Beneficiaries – Mufiri, Shurugwi

A Day of Learning, Sharing and Empowerment

WICO participated in a valuable knowledge exchange visit with MASO Zimbabwe, bringing together women from Mufiri Garden in Shurugwi and women participating in the Grandmothers Project supported by MASO in Midlands Province. The exchange created an opportunity for women to share experiences, practical ideas and innovative approaches to strengthening livelihoods and building resilient communities.

The women demonstrated the power of peer learning, collaboration and collective action in creating sustainable economic opportunities and improving the wellbeing of families and communities. When women share knowledge, communities grow stronger.

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

