

QUZ CHALLENGE 2024/6th Adition

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU Africa University
A4C Action for Choice

BUSE Bindura University of Science Education

CSO Civil Society Organization

CUT Chinhoyi University of Technology

DStv Digital Satellite Television
DSA Drug and Substance Abuse
GBV Gender Based Violence
GSU Gwanda State University
GZU Great Zimbabwe University
HIT Harare Institute of Technology

HIV/AIDS Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

HSTV Heart and Soul Television

LEAD Leadership Explorations and Development

LSU Lupane State University

MSUAS Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences

MSU Midlands State University
NAC National AIDS Council

NCC National Coordinating Committee

NUST National University of Science and Technology
SADC Southern Africa Development Community

SAIH Norwegian Students and Academics International Assistance Fund SAYWHAT Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team

SDG Sustainable Development Goals
SEAL Sahwira Events and Lifestyle

SRHR Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

STI Sexually Transmitted Infections

SQC SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge

TB Tuberculosis

UZ University of Zimbabwe WUA Women University in Africa

ZNFPC Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council

ZTN Zimbabwe Television Network

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1. Introduction

This report presents an account of the 2024 SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge, the 6th edition. The program is a unique competition that facilitates a clash of intellectual brilliance amongst students within tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe. It was hosted on 27th and 28th of May 2024 at the SAYWHAT Studio of Choice in Harare. A total of 12 universities, drawn from all the provinces in Zimbabwe participated in the competition. It is organised by SAYWHAT with support from the Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe as part of the broader Action for Choice Program Implementation. The two-day unique challenge coincided with celebrations of the Menstrual Hygiene Month celebrated internationally on the 28th of May.



2. The Past-Present- Strides Thus Far

The SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge has become a flagship event annually since its birth in 2019 under the implementation of the Action for Choice Project with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe. Under this program, young people have a unique opportunity to engage each other, and test the depth of their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, gender, human rights, and other socio-cultural issues that intersect with young people's health and wellbeing. The unique challenge has been held at the state-of-the-art Studio of Choice, constructed with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Zimbabwe in response to SAYWHAT virtual programming brought forth with the advent of the corona virus pandemic.

This year's Quiz Competition was held under the theme "A Decade of Action: Students Unpacking and Pushing for Global Goals." The theme is inspired by SAYWHAT's ambitious goal to build a solid youth movement that can actively participate in local to global level advocacy for implementation of sustainable development goals. This year, University of Zimbabwe was crowed champions after an exciting final round with the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) which went far into a sudden death. Previous winners of this competition are as follows: -

| 2023 | National University of Science and Technology |
|------|---|
| 2022 | Harare Institute of Technology |
| 2021 | Great Zimbabwe University |
| 2020 | Midlands State University |
| 2019 | Harare Institute of Technology |

In 2024, SAYWHAT partnered with Faith Wear and UNICAF, which is the second time SAYWHAT has partnered with the Private Sector in the competition. In a speech presented at the award ceremony, the SAYWHAT Board Chairperson expressed deep satisfaction towards this development, and she expressed her desire to see the partnership thrive beyond the Quiz Competition.

Another key milestone of the competition is its continued growth from a localised competition to a regionally recognised youth driven event that is now broadcasted on DSTV. Cumulatively, the competition reaches over a million of young people in the SADC region each year presenting a strategic opportunity for development and private sector organizations to collaborate with SAYWHAT to engage the youths and achieve their respective goals. Different online media houses also cover the event as it continues to be highly popular among young people and other stakeholders in Zimbabwe.

3. The Quiz Structure

SAYWHAT adopts the Round Robin format for its quiz competitions. Under this format, teams are afforded a fair chance on equal footing to compete against each other until a champion emerges. The format is unique in that, it allows for students' knowledge to be tested following SAYWHAT's various youth-focused information sharing interventions in tertiary institutions. At the same time the competition allows SAYWHAT to appreciate the existing information gaps and inform future programming. The competition is held over five rounds; each round with a set of 10 questions distributed across five themes.

The themes for the 6th edition of the SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge were: -

- 1 **Sustainable Development Goals** a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, a call to action.
- 2 **ICPD30 and Addis Ababa Action** a contemporary rights-based approach to sexual reproductive health that guides interventions today with the Addis Ababa Action plan that establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Maputo Protocol- a comprehensive and progressive instrument for women's human rights as it guarantees extensive rights to African Women and girls with progressive provisions on reproductive health and rights, harmful traditional practices such as child marriages and female genital mutilation.
- 4 **United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis** a platform meant to track progress and identify gaps and attendant solutions to accelerate progress towards ending the TB epidemic by 2030.
- Eastern and Southern African Ministerial Commitments- an agreement of signatory countries on the need to scale up systematic sexuality education and youth friendly sexual reproductive health services in the region.

4. Quiz Questioning Structure

- Abbreviations
- Definition of Terms
- General Knowledge
- True or False questions
- Pictorial questions



5. Objectives of the Quiz Competitions

- To analyse the cognitive abilities of students in retrieving SRH and GBV information.
- To facilitate transferring of accurate information on sustainable development goals and related regional health rights frameworks.
- To inspire existing SRH curriculum

To inspire existing SRH curriculum review by both civic society organizations and college authorities as the competition through provision of a reliable source to analyze SRH and GBV information adequacy, comprehensiveness, and relevance



6. Participating Colleges

A total of 12 Universities competes in the quiz challenge. All twelve participating universities were represented by two participants - one male and one female to achieve gender parity. The participants representing these universities were seconded by college authorities and focal persons. The following universities participated in the 6th edition of the Quiz Challenge.

- Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE)
- Chinhoyi University of Science Education (CUT)
- Great Zimbabwe University (GZU)
- Gwanda State University (GSU)
- Harare Institute of Technology (HIT)
- Lupane State University (LSU)
- Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences (MSUAS)
- Marondera University of Agricultural Science and Technology (MAUST)
- Midlands State University (MSU)
- National University of Science and Technology (NUST)
- Women's University in Africa (WUA)
- University of Zimbabwe (UZ)

7. The Quiz Competition Proceedings

Group Stage

Round1 Theme: Sustainable Development Goals

Round 2 Theme: Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitments

Round 3 Theme: United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis

The following are results from the first three rounds: -

Table 1: Group Stage Results (Round 1-3)

| Institution | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 | Total Scores |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| UZ | 100 | 100 | 80 | 280 |
| NUST | 70 | 50 | 50 | 170 |
| MUAST | 50 | 40 | 60 | 150 |
| HIT | 50 | 40 | 60 | 150 |
| MSUAS | 50 | 60 | 40 | 150 |
| GSU | 70 | 30 | 40 | 140 |
| CUT | 50 | 40 | 50 | 140 |
| BUSE | 40 | 60 | 40 | 140 |
| MSU | 50 | 30 | 50 | 130 |
| WUA | 60 | 30 | 30 | 120 |
| GZU | 50 | 20 | 50 | 120 |
| LSU | 30 | 20 | 40 | 90 |

The teams with the least points - MSU, WUA, GZU and LSU were eliminated from proceeding to the semi- finals in the quiz challenge.

7.1. Analysis of the results

The participating teams scored a high average score of 55.8% on the Sustainable Development Goals theme of questions showing the potential within young people that can be harnessed by leaders to shape our future and the 2030 global agenda.

Limited knowledge on TB and ESA Commitments: Student's scores however significantly dropped to 43.3% Lupane State University scoring far below average at only 20% in the ESA commitments section. At 49.1% average score, TB proved to be yet another difficult topic

with University of Zimbabwe scoring only 80% after getting all the answers correct in the previous sections. This shows that there is limited knowledge on the topics. This shows the need to investments more on TB and youth focused sexuality education to improve student's knowledge base. Comprehensive manual on TB awareness which cover topics that include but not limited to TB treatment and care, services, transmission, and other subject areas can be developed and contribute to youth-focused information sharing.

Limited knowledge about government systems and structures: Several students could not correctly answer questions about government structures and representatives. In one of the episodes, none of the 4 universities on the panel knew about the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education in Zimbabwe, Honourable Torerai Moyo noting a key gap that needs to be addressed through creation of interface meetings were students can engage with their duty bearers. In addition, there is need for Programs to orient students on the government systems and strengthening structures to improve the advocacy base for the organisation.

The need to improve marketing and publicity of the SAYWHAT's SMART Learners Hub: While the SMART Learners Hub, a virtual comprehensive sexuality education platform was designed to benefit students, some of the students proved to be unaware of the platform. More publicity and marketing of this critical information resource platform can increase students' knowledge about their reproductive health and improve positive health outcomes for young people.

Lastly, while some of the participating students appeared to have rigorously prepared for the quiz, some of the students appeared to be rather confused and unprepared to tackle the challenge. There is an opportunity to learn the preparation methods from the higher performing universities and share tactics with the low performing institutions.

7.2. The Semi- Finals

Eight Universities battled it out in the semi-finals with four of them being eliminated at the end of this more challenging phase. The questions focused on the Maputo Protocol, and the International Conference on Population and Development.

Table 2: Results for the semi finals

| Institution | Semi-final results | Total Score |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| UZ | 90 | 90 |
| NUST | 80 | 80 |
| MUAST | 50 | 50 |
| MSUAS | 80 | 80 |
| HIT | 30 | 30 |
| GSU | 40 | 40 |
| CUT | 40 | 40 |
| BUSE | 30 | 30 |

The teams with the least points in the semi-finals – HIT, GSU, CUT and BUSE were eliminated from proceeding to the final round of the quiz challenge.



7.2.1. Observations and Recommendations

Wide gap between the top four and the bottom four: The top 4 teams scored a cumulative total of 300 points, while the bottom four only manged 140 points. This huge margin represents a major gap that needs to close in terms of supporting the institutions to be equally competitive. While Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology was participating only for the second time, the institution scooped the 4th price. This shows that with more investment, the program can become more competitive if all the universities are at the same wavelength in terms of preparation and dedication to excel in the challenge.

More awareness raising programs on local, regional, and international policy frameworks: With the limited marks scored in the semi-finals, it is evident that the students' consciousness of the regional and international policy frameworks that have a bearing on their health and economic aspirations is limited. The depth of the students' knowledge on the Maputo Protocol proved to be very minimal and yet this is one of the policies that should form the foundation of students' advocacy messages especially in their quest to hold duty bearers accountable. Consciousness of the policies that are signed and ratified by Zimbabwe at regional and international level will assist the young people to hold duty bearers to account and track implementation towards achieving the set goals. Currently, there is an information gap on students' knowledge of these policies, which can be addressed through public policy awareness sessions like public lectures. More awareness on public policy matters is a strategic necessity.



As the competitions drew to a close prior to the final round of the unique challenge, the Swedish Ambassador in Zimbabwe, his excellency Ambassador Per Lindgarde graced the occasion and weighed in on the importance of such initiatives. He applauded the quality and passion of participants present. He commended the national quiz as a platform that provides a conduit for young people to empower themselves and motivate their minds to conceive ideas and expand their knowledge day by day. He noted that, the 2024 national guiz challenge theme is a clarion call to activate young people in contributing to the attainment of sustainable development goals. Ambassador Per Lindgarde further stressed that such competitions ensure young people engage in meaningful conversations that will shape and inform policy formulation. As he concluded his remarks, he extended his appreciation to all the young people for the time and effort invested in the competition and commended SAYWHAT for hosting the 6th edition that ensures sustainable development focusing on SRH.

The Finals 7.4.

These were held in the presence of his excellency, Ambassador Per Lindgarde, the SAYWHAT NCC Chairperson, SAYWHAT Executive Director, the SAYWHAT Board Chairperson, among other dignitaries. Four universities battled it out for supremacy - NUST, UZ, MSUAS and MUAST. The competition was stiff with close calls as shown by the results on table 3 below. However, it is important to acknowledge the resilience and tenacity of MUAST, a predominantly agricultural institution who participated for the second time in the quiz challenge during the 6th edition. Below are the results.

Table 3

| Institution | Round/Final | Total Score |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UZ | 90 | 90 |
| NUST | 90 | 90 |
| MSUAS | 80 | 80 |
| MUAST | 70 | 70 |

7.5. Award Ceremony

With a tie between NUST and UZ, the two teams went in a sudden death, where they proved their intellectual prowess successfully providing correct answers on a variety of questions that were set for this tough phase. NUST crowned champions in the previous edition defended their trophy however, the University of Zimbabwe became the 6th Edition SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge winner in the exciting and highly competitive finals.

The top four teams were awarded for their excellent results. The price handing ceremony was presided over by the SAYWHAT Executive Director Jimmy Wilford, SAYWHAT NCC Chairperson and Ambassador Per Lindgarde. Focal Persons from respective institutions represented were present and received gifts on behalf of their universities.

As part of these celebrations, the following awards were received:

- 4th Place (MSUAS) students received certificates of participation.
- 3d Place (MUAST) the institution received a printer and the students received certificates of participation, medals, and smart phones.
- 2nd Place (NUST) the institution received a projector, and the students' received certificates of participation, medals, and tablet computers.
- 1st Place (UZ) the institution received a printer, the roving trophy and the students' received certificates of participation, medals and laptops.

8. Culture Night Dinner & Menstrual Hygiene Month Celebrations

The Quiz Challenge ended with a night of celebrations to commemorate the Menstrual Hygiene Month (MHM) as well as culture night dinner in recognition of Africa Day. It was held under the theme #PeriodFriendlyWorld. The combined events were held at Cresta Oasis Hotel in the Central Business District of Harare. Miah C. Tsinakwadi, the incumbent National Coordinating Committee welcomed the students to the dinner event. The Chair acknowledged the presence of Mr Dhlamini from the Parliament of Eswatini who presided over the handover ceremony of Certificates of Participation to students. As the young

people enjoyed their hearty meals, there was a panel discussion on the importance of MHM. The following were the deliberations:

- One in ten girls miss school due to excessive period pain thereby compromising the attainment of SDG 4 on quality education. This ignited a discussion on the need for support systems and more education programs on menstrual health to not only the girls but men and policy makers as well.
- Young men through SAYWHAT Mugota/Ixhiba Forum have joined the agenda on MHM as advocates to educate and inculcate communities through awareness campaigns and distribution of sanitary wear. This has helped to reduce the stigma around menstruation. This is also complemented by initiatives from the SAYWHAT Web for Life movement that engage in outreach programs that train young ladies to make reusable pads and donate sanitary wear to marginalized communities.
- Panellists noted that there is need to collaborate with church leadership to address the stereotypes and society's limited knowledge on Menstrual Health and Hygiene.
- The panellists' shared visions of men and women collaborating to ensure every woman has free access to menstrual hygiene services and an inclusive environment that promotes fundamental freedoms and equality between men and women.
- The government must provide sanitary wear to young women, especially those in secondary schools and those who belong to the lower tiers of the economy who cannot afford them. A participant noted that some of the most disadvantaged women resort to the use of cow dung wrapped up in stockings as sanitary wear, which is degrading for the young ladies.
- There is need to rope in educationalists i.e., teachers to disseminate information in schools regarding menstrual health.
- Young men should take a more active roles in menstrual health issues, a call to action that also resonates with the theme of the 6th edition quiz challenge.





9. The Quiz Challenge in the Media

Mainstream Media

The 2024 SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge received wide coverage within from local media attributing to the continued growth of the Challenge, as it has become an initiative that young people and the media look forward to in each calendar year.

Below are some of the links to various articles that covered the 2024 Quiz Challenge.

- https://healthtimes.co.zw/2024/05/27/saywhats-sixth-quiz-edition-roars-to-life/
- https://healthtimes.co.zw/2024/05/28/uz-wins-2024-saywhat-quiz-challenge/
- https://www.herald.co.zw/uz-wins-saywhat-quiz-competition/
- https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7jU64uICTJ/?igsh=NXhnOWNrMnNua20=
- https://youtu.be/ECs7gzXWXR8?si=8xZvsAUqW sZK1y2

Social Media

The Quiz Challenge was also covered across all mainstream social media platforms, triggering a sharp increase in engagement and reach, especially on the SAYWHAT Facebook page. During the SAYWHAT Quiz Challenge Week, the SAYWHAT Facebook page had a cumulative total reach of 50,000 with a daily average reach of 10,000 which peaked to a 2024 all-time high of 342,600 impressions, 118,800 reach and 11,600 on content interactions. The high engagement rate received during the week provided proof of the competition's popularity within the youth community in Zimbabwe and beyond.

























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