

Annual Report 2024

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About SAYWHAT

Our Vision

Generations of healthy and empowered young people (students, youth, adolescents and children) across Africa

Our Mission

To promote students, youth, adolescents, and children access to health and education rights, services and commodities across Africa

Our Values

- Ensuring all interventions are purposeful, with a strong focus on young people
- Embracing youthful energy by being cheerful, vibrant, and intelligent.
- Taking full responsibility for our actions, interventions, and use of resources
- Committing to swiftly and positively addressing young people's needs
- Adapting and integrating new technologies to enhance our outreach efforts.

How We Work

- Empowering young people to have agency and skills to participate in meaningful public health, education, and child safeguarding programs.
- Building knowledge and providing information that enables young people to respond to their health and education needs.
- Influencing college and community-based, national and sub-regional policies and structures which are responsive and that address the continued health and education challenges of young people.
- Strengthening partnerships and our capacity to deliver health, education, and child protection services and commodities for young people.



A Letter from Our Board Chair

It is with great pride that I present the 2024 Annual Report, marking 21 years of unwavering commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of young people. What began as a student-focused movement has evolved into a dynamic platform that serves children, adolescents, and youth across different stages of growth, ensuring that no young person is left behind.

Over the years, we have expanded our scope beyond Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to embrace broader public health, education, and child safeguarding concerns. In 2024, our dedication led to the successful integration of SRHR interventions with emerging challenges such as climate change, drug and substance abuse, and mental health, positioning SAYWHAT as a key partner for local governments and development agencies.



We strengthened partnerships and increased our work from six to ten funded projects, with programs being implemented in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and our parent country, Zimbabwe.

Additionally, during the 5th edition of our Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference (SARSYC), youth representation from 13 African nations reflected our expanding capacity and influence in health and education advocacy. This operational growth underscores the trust placed in SAYWHAT by partners, demonstrating our ability to lead, collaborate, and drive collective impact, and reflects our broader strategic Pan-African vision.

Despite systemic barriers and dwindling resources within development work, students and youth influenced national policies and global conversations. They advocated for national health and education budgetary improvements and contributed to the 30-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD30). Through the Gaborone Declaration, young people amplified their perspectives on gender equity, education, TB, HIV, and emerging public health challenges ultimately feeding into the Pact for the Future, a global commitment to accelerate sustainable development beyond 2030.



These strides we made in 2024 lay a stronger foundation for future transformation, ensuring SAYWHAT continues to serve as a catalyst for progress. We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, funders, stakeholders, and most importantly, the young people who fuel this movement. Together, we march forward with renewed energy, purpose, and innovation, shaping a future where every young person is empowered to thrive.

Benevolence Taguta
Board Chairperson, SAYWHAT



A Letter from Our Executive Director

As we close another remarkable year, 2024 stands as a defining moment where SAYWHAT's vision, outlined in the 2021–2050 Strategic Framework, is transforming from ambition to reality. Our expansion beyond SRHR and student-focused interventions is now visible in the breadth of our programs, research, and advocacy, embracing public health, education, and child safeguarding as key pillars of our work.

This evolution is reflected in the diversity of initiatives we implemented throughout the year, reinforcing our role as a catalyst for change in young people's health and education rights within Zimbabwe and across From TB, SRH, and GBV programming to drug and substance abuse interventions and the strengthening of youth-led community-based organizations in advocacy and governance, SAYWHAT's expanded portfolio in 2024 is a testament to our growing capacity to bridge critical gaps at local, national, and regional levels.

In addition, the SAYWHAT Call Centre (Toll-Free 577) in Zimbabwe continued to play a pivotal role in child safeguarding and youth support. Throughout the year, the Call Centre received 12,601 calls a 16% increase from 2023. In collaboration with the Department of Social Development, the ZRP Victim Friendly Unit, and over 50 clinical service providers in Zimbabwe, we achieved a case resolution rate of approximately 14% ensuring direct intervention for young people vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse, requiring psychosocial support, and seeking referrals for drug-related problems, mental health, and SRH needs. This growing portfolio reflects the full spectrum of youth health and development issues while demonstrating our capacity to facilitate access to essential health care. We remain committed to nurturing this critical vehicle and ensuring its long-term sustainability as a core pillar of our public health and advocacy framework.

In 2024, private sector partners strengthened our work, amplifying SAYWHAT's flagship events and advocacy efforts. Companies such as Nyaradzo Group, UNICAF, and Faith Wear proved the power of cross-sector collaboration in youth development. As we look ahead, the intersection between development work and private sector engagement must continue to grow, ensuring that the young people we serve today are equipped to become tomorrow's innovators, problem-solvers, and decision-makers.



Despite these advancements, 2024 was not without its challenges. The conclusion of the Action for Choice Project, which ran for six years, marked the end of an era presenting operational sustainability challenges but also reaffirming the critical need for continued investment in youth health and education advocacy.

A key solution was SAYWHAT's Professional Development Program, which enabled young people to volunteer, train, and grow within the organization, despite financial constraints. Through student attachments and graduate trainee placements, we trained and mentored 24 young professionals across multiple disciplines, equipping them with valuable experience that prepares them for future careers. This program is a testament to SAYWHAT's resilience proving that while resources may be limited, the commitment to youth empowerment remains unwavering.

As SAYWHAT moves forward, sustainability and impact remain key priorities. Our vision to become a Pan-African movement by 2050 is gaining momentum, and while challenges may arise, this movement will not falter.

SAYWHAT flagship events remain our strongest advocacy tool, ensuring uninterrupted youth engagement with policymakers, even amid resource constraints.

We look forward to establishing SAYWHAT Chapters in the countries where we have hosted SARSYC leveraging the success of five editions of the conference to deepen regional collaboration.

We will continue to strengthen our digital advocacy footprint through SAYWHAT Studio of Choice in Zimbabwe, providing young people a platform to express themselves and drive conversations that matter through art, storytelling, and media.

We will continue to evolve, strengthen our advocacy, and ensure that young people's voices shape the policies that define their lives.

SAYWHAT will remain resilient, determined, and focused on the future.



Jimmy Wilford
Executive Director, SAYWHAT



A letter from Our NCC Chairperson

Young people are not just the future; they are the present. In 2024, young people across Southern Africa stood at the forefront of advocacy, research, and activism, ensuring that our voices shaped policies, influenced conversations, and drove meaningful change. As the 2024 National Coordinating Committee (NCC) Chairperson in Zimbabwe, I am honoured to have led SAYWHAT movement, building on the success of my predecessors, amplifying the perspectives of students, youth, adolescents, and children, and championing innovation in health and education advocacy.



As young people we led grassroots campaigns, ensuring existing and emerging issues such as TB, drug and substance abuse, climate change, and mental health challenges remained a priority within SRH and child protection programming. Our voices echoed during orientations, health fairs, and community outreach initiatives, where we capacitated our peers on their health and education rights, creating demand for essential healthcare services. Through podcasts, talk shows, quizzes and debate challenges, we took ownership of digital advocacy, proving that change is driven from within the movement. Our content reached millions amplifying our influence across borders.

I would like to acknowledge the online SRH course, SAYWHAT Smart Learners Hub launched in 2023, which continues to be a knowledge hub assisting us in peer education and informed advocacy. Looking ahead, we must enhance this platform to reflect emerging public health concerns affecting our sexual and reproductive health including drug and substance abuse, climate change, and mental health to improve our knowledge base, peer education capacity, and informed decision-making.

In 2024, we also solidified youth-led inquiry as a powerful force in advocacy proving that we as young people can be both knowledge creators, and change-makers. Building on the first research book published in 2023, we launched two additional research publications - A SADC Regional Perspective by Young People on COVID-19 and Breaking the Cycle: Overcoming Drug and Substance Abuse Among Young People in Zimbabwe. The publications are not just academic papers, they are reflections of our lived experiences, offering firsthand insights and tangible solutions to critical challenges in our communities.



We stepped onto national, regional and global stages platforms including our own National Students Conference in Zimbabwe, Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference and the World Conference on Lung Health. These spaces validated that youth voices backed by evidence-based advocacy are being heard reinforcing SAYWHAT growing influence beyond student circles and into policy discussions at higher levels.

Additionally, we harnessed film, visual arts, and storytelling as dynamic mediums of advocacy. The sequel to our first short film, Choices (2023), premiered in 2024, deepening conversations on youth health and education rights. Choices 2 tackled the complex intersections of drug and substance abuse, mental health, and SRH, reflecting the realities that we face daily. We also elevated conversations around legal and safe abortion and reproductive rights through paintings and pencil drawings, pushing this critical topic into public discourse. Through these creative initiatives, culture became an instrument of influence, shaping public awareness and policy development.

These initiatives reaffirm that activism must not be seasonal, it must be constant, relentless, and youth led. The past year strengthened our resolve to lead, innovate, and demand change. As young people we are more than participants, we are the architects of progress, shaping a future where health and education rights are non-negotiable. We will continue to push boundaries, strengthen advocacy platforms, and grow SAYWHAT's movement across Africa.

Our voices will not fade.

Our actions will not slow down.

The future belongs to us, and we will shape it.

Miah Charlayne Tsinakwadi

Chairperson, 2024 National Coordinating Committee (NCC), SAYWHAT





Our Board & Secretariat



Our Transformative Projects

1. Action for Choice (A4C) Phase 2

Implemented from August 2021, A4C 2 strengthened youth-friendly SRHR and GBV interventions across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces. It expanded digital information access, peer education, and creative advocacy through art, storytelling, and media. Service provision was enhanced via SAYWHAT Call Centre (Toll-free 577), while young people gained influence through research publications, structured advocacy platforms, and engagement with national and regional decision-makers. As the project concluded in 2024, its legacy remains in strengthened youth networks, policy shifts, and sustainable health advocacy structures.

2. Asingade Campaign

Implemented from June 2024, across six provinces in Zimbabwe - Harare, Bulawayo, Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, and Masvingo the Asingade Campaign aimed to promote awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to safe and legal abortion services for adolescent girls and young women. Through strategic advocacy, university lectures, art-based storytelling, and media engagement, the campaign informed key stakeholders about legal frameworks and referral pathways. Additionally, young researchers were empowered to generate evidence-based insights through structured research, strengthening policy discussions and shifting narratives around reproductive health rights.

3. Girls Education Advocacy in the Region (GEAR)

Implemented across Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, the GEAR Project has advanced inclusive and equitable education for adolescent girls in rural and farming communities. Phase 1 (2021–mid-2024) strengthened gender-responsive policies, financing, and civil society advocacy. As it concluded, GEAR 2.0 launched, ensuring continuity, deeper engagement, and sustained impact through multi-country education commitment tracking.

4. Increasing Public Financing for Family Planning in Zimbabwe

Implemented from August 2024, the project strengthens public financing for family planning, ensuring improved political commitment and accessibility, particularly for adolescents and young people in Zimbabwe. Through coordination forums, advocacy meetings, and high-level consultations, we engaged



policymakers to prioritize family planning in the national budget. Additionally, young advocates were trained as FP champions, leading policy briefs, position papers, and media campaigns to amplify awareness and influence investment in Family Planning services and commodities.

5. Leadership Exploration And Development

Implemented across Zimbabwe's ten universities since 2022, the LEAD Project strengthens student-led advocacy for SRHR in higher education. It empowers marginalized students including young women, students with disabilities, and those living with HIV through leadership training, governance structures, and evidence-based activism. Students push for gender-responsive policies, sexual harassment protections, and inclusive curricula ensuring higher education is safe, equitable, and accessible for all.

6. People Who Use and Inject Drug (PWUIDs), HIV Prevention and Rights Advocacy

Launched in April 2024, the PWUIDs HIV Prevention & Rights Advocacy Project strengthens access to HIV prevention, treatment, and support services for PWUIDs in Zimbabwe targeting Harare and Bulawayo provinces. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, National AIDS Council, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), the project enhances service linkages, combats stigma, and drives legal reforms to protect this key population. Complementing the Harm Reduction Pillar within the National Drug Master Plan (2021–2025), we empowered KP Champions and community health workers to deliver inclusive, rights-based healthcare without discrimination.

7. Reproductive health Education and Advocacy Project

Implemented across tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe under the UNFPA's CP8 Programme Cycle, the project equips students with knowledge, skills, and access to SRHR, HIV prevention, GBV services, and mental health support. We focused on strengthening integrated health services, peer education, and multimedia outreach. Additionally, we incorporated climate change as a key focus area, ensuring young people understand its intersection with health and well-being. Through advocacy, service provision, and community engagement, the project fostered informed decision-making and equitable access to essential health services.

8. Sexuality Education for Transformation (SET)

Launched in 2022 and continuing into 2024, the SET project is implemented across Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, mobilizing youth-serving organizations to advocate for adolescent girls' and young women's access to SRH services in rural communities. The project strengthens



youth-led evidence generation, policy advocacy, and inter-country peer learning to advance SRHR. Through digital campaigns, storytelling, and technical working group engagement, SET challenges stigma, promotes comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), menstrual health management (MHM), and youth-friendly SRH services, ensuring girls and young women make informed health decisions.

9. Youth Collective Action for Social Transformation (YCA4SoTra)

Launched in September 2024 in Zimbabwe, YCA4SoTra strengthens youth participation in governance and policy dialogue. Implemented across 10 districts, the project mobilizes youth-led CSOs to advocate for rights, engage in decision-making, and push for systemic change. Through advocacy, movement-building, and institutional capacity strengthening, the project ensures young people influence Zimbabwe's development agenda particularly youth governance, economic empowerment, climate resilience, and digital inclusion.

10. Young People Organized for Universal Access to Tuberculosis and HIV Services (YOUTHS)

Implemented across all 10 provinces in Zimbabwe, the YOUTHS Project under Stop TB Partnership CFCS Round 12 strengthens young people's participation in TB and HIV response mechanisms. In collaboration with National TB Program, we mobilized youth in tertiary institutions to advocate for equitable service delivery, policy reforms, and improved health financing. Through community-led monitoring and gender-sensitive programming, we ensured young people actively shaped TB and HIV policies and services, reducing mortality and morbidity among adolescents and youth.



Our Operational Growth

Over the years, SAYWHAT has evolved from a student-led SRHR movement into a dynamic force for health and education advocacy across Africa. While our commitment to youth empowerment and sexual and reproductive health remains unwavering, 2024 marked a significant expansion in our scope. With the successful integration of climate change, drug and substance abuse, and maternal health into our work, we took bold strides towards achieving our multi-sectoral advocacy approach outlined in our 2021–2050 Strategic Framework. The following layered timeline evolution illustrates how SAYWHAT has expanded beyond its original SRHR mandate, growing into a movement that embraces emerging health and education concerns while strengthening its presence across Africa.

At the inception of SAYWHAT's 2021–2050 Strategic Framework, our work primarily centred on:

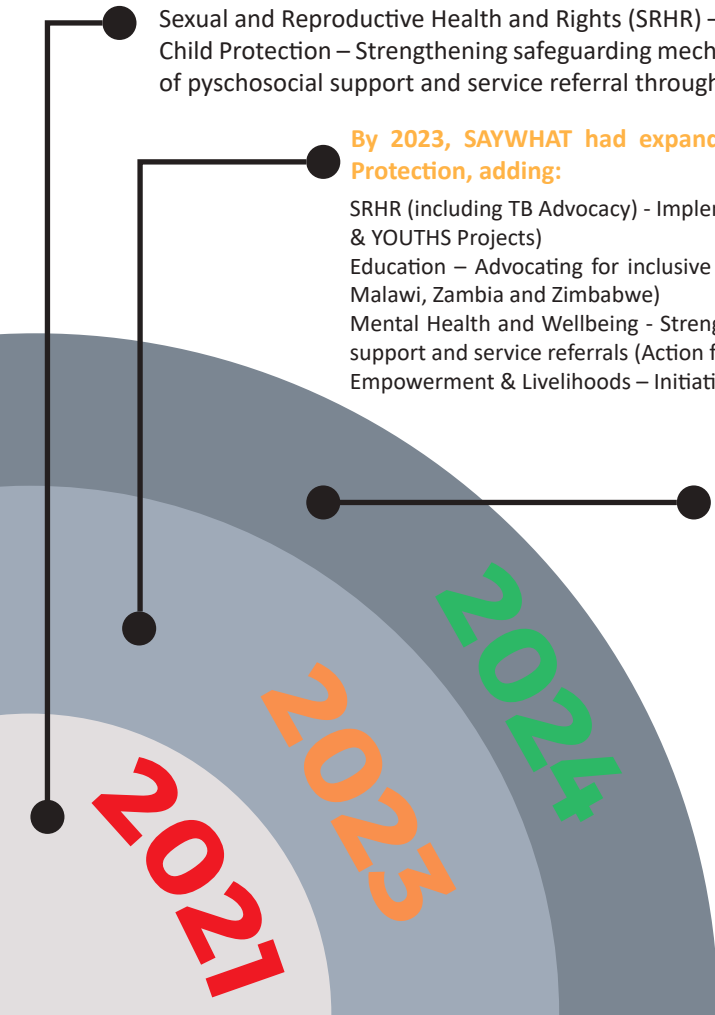
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) – Advocacy, service delivery, and knowledge-sharing on youth SRHR.
Child Protection – Strengthening safeguarding mechanisms to protect young people from abuse and exploitation, provision of psychosocial support and service referral through SAYWHAT Call Centre (Toll-free 577).

By 2023, SAYWHAT had expanded its regional scope & interventions beyond SRHR and Child Protection, adding:

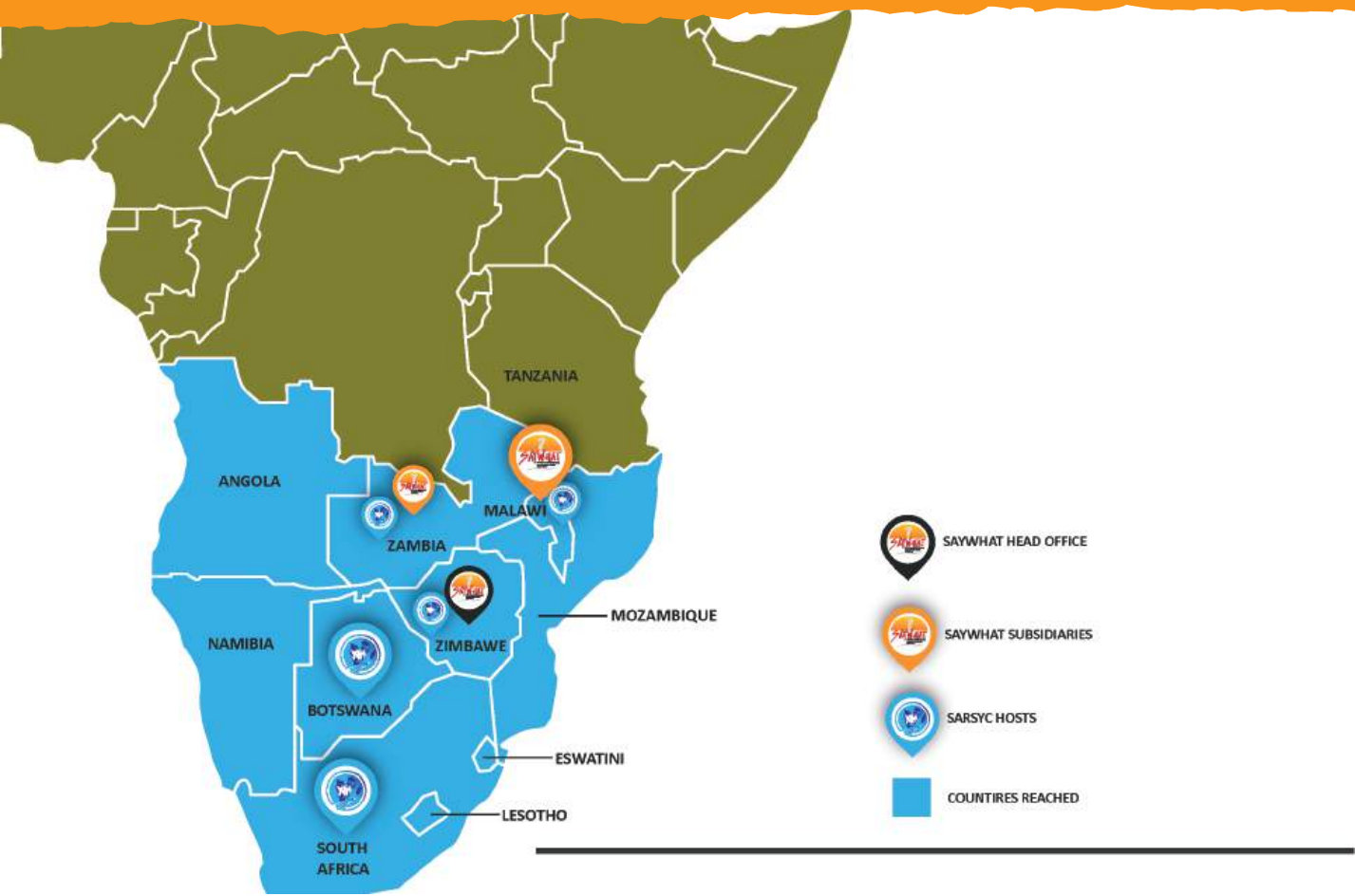
SRHR (including TB Advocacy) - Implemented in Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe (A4C, LEAD, SET & YOUTHS Projects)
Education – Advocating for inclusive and equitable education policies across Africa. (GEAR Project implemented in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe)
Mental Health and Wellbeing - Strengthening SAYWHAT Call Centre (Toll-free 577) through provision of psychosocial support and service referrals (Action for Choice and REAPS projects)
Empowerment & Livelihoods – Initiatives focused on youth economic resilience through art advocacy (A4C Project)

2024 marked a pivotal year where SAYWHAT integrated additional emerging health priorities, launching projects that addressed:

Drug and Substance Abuse – Strengthening harm reduction and response initiatives (People Who Use and Inject Drugs HIV Prevention & Rights Advocacy Project)
Maternal Health – Advancing reproductive health and family planning accessibility (Asingade Campaign & the Increasing Public Financing for Family Planning in Zimbabwe Projects)
Climate Change – Exploring the impact of climate change & integration in education and SRHR discussions. (GEAR 2.0, REAPS, & YCA4SoTra Projects)



While we have solidified our position as a youth-centric advocacy platform addressing broader public health concerns reflecting our adaptability and growing Pan-African footprint, there are still key areas awaiting deeper integration into our programming - Disaster & Emergency Preparedness (Strengthening youth-led crisis response and resilience-building mechanisms) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (Expanding advocacy around chronic health conditions affecting young people). As SAYWHAT continues to evolve, we remain committed to addressing these additional pillars, ensuring a holistic approach to youth health and education by 2050. Our movement will not slow down, it will keep growing, innovating, and transforming young lives across Africa.



Our Impact

Students & Youth Organizing and Leading

Empowered students and youth remain the heartbeat of SAYWHAT's movement, mobilizing their peers, shaping advocacy efforts, and driving meaningful change in health and education. In 2024, student leaders took ownership of training, outreach, and evidence-based advocacy, strengthening public health awareness, SRHR education, and policy engagement.

Peer Education-Led Campus Orientations – As new students joined tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe, trained peer educators facilitated campus-wide orientation sessions, introducing their peers to public health, SRHR services, SAYWHAT's resource centres, and the Call Centre (Toll-Free 577) for essential health support.



670 trained peer educators & 43 trained peer counsellors in Zimbabwe

Notably, SAYWHAT achieved a breakthrough by extending its peer education program to the Catholic University of Zimbabwe, solidifying its presence in three of the four faith-based universities in the country (alongside Reformed Church University and Solusi University). This expansion marks a significant leap in



Pictured: Jimmy Wilford, SAYWHAT Executive Director during a peer education training at the Catholic University of Zimbabwe.



dismantling barriers to SRHR programming within conservative spaces, reflecting growing institutional trust in SAYWHAT's approach. By integrating peer-led education into faith-based environments, SAYWHAT is fostering safe, informed spaces for students demonstrating that health and faith can coexist in advancing student well-being.

Community Champions Mobilization & Engagement – Students and youth actively organized and mobilized their peers through community dialogues, marches, roadshows, health fairs / expos, and awareness drives, across Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe fostering engagement in public health and social justice issues.



The National Condomize Campaign, held on International Condom Day, reinforced SRHR awareness by normalizing condom use, while No to Drugs Campus Campaigns strengthened student-led efforts to combat substance abuse through informed discussions and prevention strategies.



Pictured: Students from Chinhoyi University of Technology in Zimbabwe on an anti-drug awareness march

Campus Wellness Days and sporting events, including the annual Agricultural Colleges Sports Gala, the Mai Hondo Tournament and the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) integrated health advocacy into recreational activities, creating an interactive approach to well-being.

Our flagship mobilization initiatives further deepened student engagement. The Orathon, held during the 16 Days of Activism in Zimbabwe, symbolizing solidarity in the fight against GBV saw young men and women merging their routes to complete a 16km run together, emphasizing unity and shared responsibility.

Similarly, the biennial Creative Reproductive health Arts Festival for Transformation (CRAFT) merged artistic expression with health engagement, using poetry, drama, public speaking, and music to amplify SRHR awareness.

Virginia Muwanigwa, CEO Zimbabwe Gender Commission delivering a powerful address during Orathon emphasizing the shared responsibility in violence prevention, the gender-neutral nature of victimization, and the importance of leveraging existing constitutional and legal frameworks for protection.



102,252 | young people were reached in Zimbabwe with 258,226 condoms distributed

11,067 | young people were reached across Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia with 15,779 condoms distributed

Partnerships Driving Service Access – Through strategic collaborations, with development agencies and health service providers, student and youth actively mobilized demand for essential health services ensuring SAYWHAT advocacy translated into direct interventions benefiting students and youth nationwide. Marches, Health fairs/expos, and awareness drives became critical platforms for connecting young people to life-saving healthcare with real-time access to:

- Male circumcision for HIV prevention.
- Cervical & breast cancer screening to promote early detection.
- HIV testing & counselling, alongside PREP & PEP services for HIV prevention.
- Family planning consultations & commodity access to empower reproductive health choices.
- Drug & substance abuse counselling, offering essential support for addiction recovery.
- GBV counselling, providing safe spaces for survivors.
- Blood pressure (BP) & diabetes screening, reinforcing preventive healthcare access.



2024 FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS GALA

SERVICES AVAILABLE

- BP/Diabetes checks
- Drug & Substance abuse awareness
- GBV awareness
- HIV and Condom promotion
- Career guidance
- Many more Health services offered

LET COMMUNITIES LEAD

THINK YOU'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO HIV?

STOP SUBSTANCE ABUSE

FREE FREE FREE
Everyone is invited

KNOW YOUR STATUS

25 May 2024 | Somhlolo Stadium, Lupane
TIME: 06:00HRS—15:00HRS



NEW START
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION CENTRES CARE

CAMPUS WELLNESS DAY

SOCCER AND NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

Marymount Teachers College • Mutema Teachers College • Mutema Polytechnic • Namicaland State University Of Applied Science • Mutema Women's University In Africa • Magamba Vocational Training Center

15 MAY 2024 **9AM TILL 4PM**

FREE ENTRY

MARY MOUNT TEACHERS COLLEGE GROUNDS

Male Circumcision, Cervical Cancer Screening, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV Testing and Counselling, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Screening and Counselling, Family Planning and Drug & Substance Use Counselling.



SAYWHAT & JIBILIKA PRESENTS

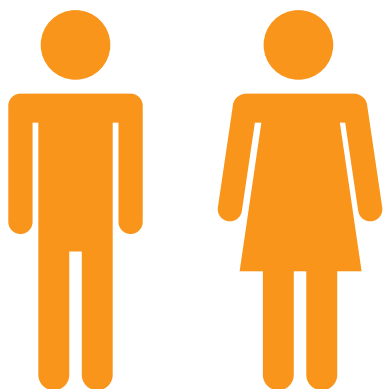
CRAFT 2024
ESTIVAL

HEALTH SERVICES ON OFFER DURING THE EVENT

1. YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
2. LEGAL ADVICE
3. PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT
4. FAMILY PLANNING AND CONTRACEPTIVES
5. STI TREATMENTS
6. TB SCREENING
7. DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION
8. MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION

22 11 2024
HARARE GARDENS
9AM - 5PM | FREE





18,123

Young people accessed services in Zimbabwe

2566

young people accessed services across Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia

Research-Driven Advocacy & Published Knowledge

Through SAYWHAT Young Researchers Initiative, students produced 18 research papers in 2024, critically examining youth health and education challenges across Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This achievement was made possible through mentorship from distinguished academics, Prof. Jephias Matunhu, Dr. Rongedzayi Fambasayi, and Prof. Choolwe Muzyamba who provided invaluable guidance in shaping SAYWHAT's research agenda and fostering academic rigor.

The evidence-based insights generated through this initiative strengthened engagement with policymakers, shaping advocacy campaigns and influencing policy discussions on critical issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate change, and education.



Research Publications

SAYWHAT maintained a strong commitment to amplifying student voices in decision-making spaces through published research. The first cohort (2022) contributed to the foundational research book, *Empowering Young Voices: Unveiling the Hidden Realities of Young People in Zimbabwe* (2023). The second cohort (2023) produced further research that culminated in the 2024 publications:

- A SADC Regional Perspective by Young People on COVID-19
- *Breaking the Cycle: Overcoming Drug and Substance Abuse Among Young People in Zimbabwe*

Meanwhile, the latest research efforts from the 2024 cohort will be published as part of upcoming research books in 2025, further strengthening SAYWHAT's research footprint.



Pictured from left: Mr. S. Mhlanga, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth Empowerment Development and Vocational Training in Zimbabwe receiving 2024 research publications from Jimmy Wilford, SAYWHAT Executive Director

Youth-Focused Knowledge & Information Sharing

Students and Youth took charge of public discourse, digital engagement, and knowledge-sharing, ensuring youth voices shaped critical health and education conversations across traditional and digital platforms. In 2024, youth-led initiatives leveraged mass media, studio productions, interactive discussions, and digital storytelling transforming public health messaging into actionable advocacy.

Rapid Media Response & Public Discourse – Students and youth actively monitored emerging issues, engaged campus and national radio stations such as Star FM in Zimbabwe, Chisomo radio in Malawi, and One Love in Zambia, and responded to key youth concerns. With over 20 radio programs throughout the year, student leaders tackled pressing topics such as:

- Drug and substance abuse and youth-driven harm reduction strategies.
- The age of consent to sex and the complexities of age of access to health services.
- GBV and consent, ensuring informed discussions on relationships and health.
- The unmet SRHR needs of adolescent girls & young women, addressing rising teen pregnancies.
- Promoting Toll-Free 577, ensuring youth access to reliable health information.
- Shortages of TB medication, amplifying treatment accessibility concerns.
- The HIV Transmission Bill & Climate Change Bill, breaking down youth policy perspectives.
- Suicide prevention and mental health, tackling stigma and intervention gaps.

Expanding Conversations via social media – Beyond radio, students leveraged X-Spaces to engage youth audiences in critical discussions. Three high-impact sessions explored:

- The age of consent debate, unpacking legal and ethical considerations.
- Love & suicide, addressing emotional health and relationship pressures.
- Summit of the Future, amplifying youth contributions to the global Pact for the Future.

Amplifying Youth Voices Through Writing – Students and youth actively contributed articles to SAYWHAT's newsletter, The Observer, using writing as a tool for education, advocacy, and public discourse. Across three published issues in 2024, student-led pieces covered pressing topics in SRHR, mental health, youth governance, and education, providing an avenue for young writers to engage peers and influence conversations. Additionally, SAYWHAT released press statements on major health and education commemorations & flagship events, ensuring youth perspectives influenced mainstream discussions. Blog articles also provided deeper reflections and analyses, expanding conversations beyond traditional media platforms and amplifying youth engagement across digital spaces.

Interactive Knowledge Platforms: SAYWHAT's Flagship events – National Quiz Challenge and Speak & Solve Initiative (SASI) Debate solidified student learning, competition, and knowledge sharing. The focus in 2024 was on advancing Global Goals #StudentsForGlobalGoals. Students explored Sustainable Development



Goals (SDGs) alongside key regional and global policies, including the Maputo Protocol, ESA Ministerial Commitments, UNHLM on TB and ICPD30. Through Debate students' teams offered policy recommendations, presenting youth perspectives on existing and emerging health challenges. Out of 12 state universities in Zimbabwe, University of Zimbabwe (UZ) claimed both trophies for the first time in 7 years, reinforcing the influence and prestige of these national competitions.



Pictured from Left: Stephen Nyamushongonyora, UZ Focal Person, Per Lindgärde, Swedish Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Behilda Mugwanyu, UZ student and quiz participant, Miah Tsinakwadi, 2024 SAYWHAT NCC Chairperson, Kelvin Bepete, UZ student and quiz participant, and Jimmy Wilford, SAYWHAT Executive Director



Pictured from Left: Stephen Nyamushongonyora, UZ Focal Person, Ms. Miranda Tabifor, UNFPA Representative in Zimbabwe, Kimberly Malima, UZ Student and debate participant, Courteney Jongwe, Debate Mistress, Methembe Mthimkhulu, UZ Student and debate participant, Dr Joachim Kwaramba, UZ Dean of Students, and Benevolence Taguta, SAYWHAT Board Chairperson

Creative Advocacy Through Film & Music - SAYWHAT continued to empower students, youth, adolescents, and children through storytelling, music, and visual media, ensuring that public health messages resonated beyond traditional platforms. Expanding on our 2nd edition of the biennial Creative Reproductive health Arts Festival for Transformation (CRAFT) its incubation launched Choices 2, a sequel to Choices (2023) short film, which explores the intersection of drug and substance abuse, SRHR, and GBV. This film served as a compelling advocacy tool, fostering dialogue and awareness among young audiences.





Pictured from Left: Tsitsi Mukombgwe, Choices 2 Cast and out of school youth, Isheanesu Mhuri, Choices 2 cast and Student from Gwebi Agricultural College in Zimbabwe and Simpiwe Masuku Choices 1 cast, and out of school youth - at the launch of Choices 2 during the 2nd edition of CRAFT in Zimbabwe

Alongside film production, students and youth leveraged music to educate and inspire change, releasing three theme songs that emphasized responsibilities expected from young people by parents and guardians, encouraging young people to refrain from risky behaviours and thinking twice before engaging in harmful activities, reinforcing critical decision-making. As part of SAYWHAT's commitment to mentorship and youth creativity, seasoned artists Willom Tight and Leo Magozz guided young musicians through the production process. These tracks were widely distributed via YouTube, Apple Music, Spotify, and TikTok, allowing youth to engage, recreate, and share these messages in their own way.



Through film and music, students and youth ensured SRHR, and public health education extended into cultural and entertainment spaces, strengthening youth-driven advocacy in innovative ways.

Expanding Digital Learning – Following the 2023 launch of SAYWHAT’s Smart Learners Hub, student engagement skyrocketed, with 7,050 enrolments in 2024 affirming youth demand for structured SRHR and public health education.

While successful marketing efforts expanded platform reach, challenges remained in ensuring course completion rates matched enrolment figures. Limited access to data and Wi-Fi emerged as a key barrier, restricting some students from fully engaging with courses despite the enrolment being free. Additionally, with core SRHR content already covered in peer education manuals on campus, insights from student feedback highlighted an opportunity to broaden course offerings, incorporating more diverse public health modules to enhance learning impact and relevance. These lessons will inform future improvements, ensuring accessibility and content expansion align with youth needs.

Leveraging Social Media Ambassadors for TB Awareness and Digital Engagement – SAYWHAT leveraged social media skits to educate young people on TB symptoms, its curability, and the availability of free screening services. Popular influencers Lorraine Guyo, Theophilus Gabriel Chigumira (aka Mai Klifford), and Leroy Zaware (aka Comic Elder) were engaged to develop engaging and relatable skits, combating misconceptions and stigma associated with TB. The digital campaign reached 325k people promoting early detection and treatment.

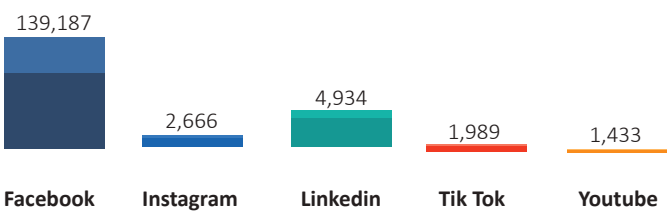
Mass Media & Digital Reach – Our engagement across radio, television, and social media expanded significantly in 2024, collectively reaching 1,161,917 unique individuals. This included 300,000 listeners from radio programs, 478,798 television viewers, and 374,119 distinct interactions across digital platforms.



Social Media Report

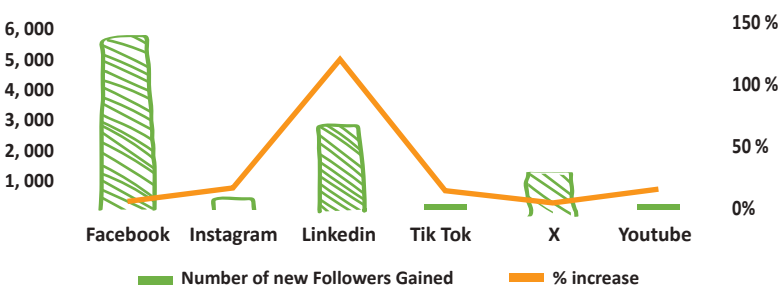
SAYWHAT leveraged social media as a key tool for youth engagement, fostering interaction across Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube. Throughout 2024, these platforms collectively reached an average of 149,209 unique users monthly, reinforcing their role in digital advocacy and youth mobilization.

MONTHLY AVERAGE REACH



While engagement remained strong, audience growth varied across platforms. Facebook led in reach and expansion, growing by 5,606 followers (9% increase), further solidifying its strategic value for future digital sustainability. LinkedIn recorded the highest percentage growth (122%), reflecting expanded professional engagement. SAYWHAT will leverage this momentum, integrating policy-focused discussions and thought-leadership content to maintain growth.

Follower Growth from Jan to Dec



To strengthen interaction on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, SAYWHAT will explore tailored content formats, including short-form video storytelling, SEO strategies, cross-platform sharing, and interactive video formats. These efforts aim to boost youth engagement, enhance visibility, and increase traction across these platforms.

Monetizing Digital Engagement: Facebook as a Strategic Asset

With Facebook emerging as SAYWHAT’s most impactful platform, we will explore monetization strategies to diversify funding streams. Leveraging high engagement rates, this initiative seeks to enhance financial sustainability for youth-led advocacy efforts while expanding digital outreach. SAYWHAT aims to mobilize resources through advertising, sponsored content, and crowdfunding models, ensuring continued impact in youth programming._____





Advocacy and Campaigning

SAYWHAT continued to strengthen youth-led advocacy in 2024, ensuring students, youth, adolescents, and children had meaningful platforms to engage decision-makers on the policies and legislation that shape their health and education rights. Through high-impact conferences, national budget hearings, legal reforms, and creative activism, young people amplified their voices, pushing for systemic change and influencing policy at national, regional, and global levels.

Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference (SARSYC) – July 2024 marked the 5th edition of SARSYC, a biennial youth-led advocacy event convened by SAYWHAT and hosted in Botswana in partnership with the University of Botswana. The conference brought together 255 delegates, including 190 students and youth representatives from 13 African countries - Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

At the conference, young researchers presented their research abstracts during the Research Indaba, showcasing critical insights into health and education challenges. The Web for Life Network Symposium and Mugota/Ixhiba Young Men's Forum provided dedicated spaces for young women and men to discuss gender-specific issues affecting their well-being. Additionally, discussions explored ICPD30, public health and emerging technologies, climate change, and its impact on health and education, and the inclusion of SDG4 (Quality Education) in the Pact for the Future, ensuring youth perspectives were heard on global development priorities.

The conference culminated in the Gaborone Declaration, a powerful youth-driven policy document outlining youth demands on gender equity, education, TB, HIV, and emerging public health challenges. The declaration was submitted to H.E Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General, SADC PF at the conference and fed into the Pact for the Future, reinforcing global commitments to sustainable development beyond 2030.





Pictured: Students and youth handing the Gaborone Declaration to H.E Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General SADC PF Secretary during SARSYC V in Botswana

Improvements on National health and Education Budgets – Across six provinces in Zimbabwe, students and youth participated in public budget hearings, advocating for stronger investments in health and education. Youth voices challenged policymakers to align national funding with the Abuja Declaration (15% health budget benchmark) and Dakar Declaration (20% education budget benchmark).

Young people submitted position papers during the hearings and the Parliament of Zimbabwe Youth Consultative Conference and specifically pushed for an increase in the TB budget, recognizing TB as Zimbabwe's leading infectious killer. They also advocated for a 3% budget allocation for contraceptives, calling for cost recovery frameworks in domestic investment for family planning. By year-end, Zimbabwe's health and education budget increased to 13% and 18% of the total national budget respectively. This increase marked a significant step toward strengthening Zimbabwe's commitment to youth health and education, reflecting the growing influence of student-led advocacy in shaping national priorities. While progress was made, continued engagement remains crucial to ensure further alignment with global commitments and sustained investment in youth well-being.





Advocacy on Child Protection – SAYWHAT continued its push to safeguard all children under 18 from sexual exploitation and abuse, reinforcing the definition of childhood under Zimbabwe’s Constitution. In 2024, youth advocacy led to the revision of the age of consent to sex from 16 to 18, ensuring broader legal protection under the Criminal Laws Amendment (Protection of Children and Young People) Act. This legislative shift is not only a victory for child protection but also a critical step toward securing education opportunities for adolescent girls who often drop out of school due to teenage pregnancies and forced marriages, because of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The strengthened legal framework helps reduce barriers to education, ensuring that more girls especially in rural and farming communities can remain in school and pursue their academic and career aspirations without facing harmful interruptions. However, continued advocacy remains essential to ensure effective enforcement, public awareness, and support systems, ensuring that the fight against child exploitation directly translates into improved educational outcomes for vulnerable young people.

Age of Consent to Health Service – Young people actively engaged policymakers and parliamentarians on the age of consent to access health services, following the legal reforms in the Criminal Laws Amendment Act in Zimbabwe. A key clause introduced a probation officer assessment for cases involving a three-year age gap, ensuring that minors engaging in sexual activity with peers within this range undergo evaluation to determine potential exploitation or abuse. Recognizing that young people are sexually active, youth-led advocacy on the Medical Services Amendment Bill was strengthened pushing for unrestricted access to health services and removing parental or guardian consent requirements, which often serve as barriers to timely medical support.



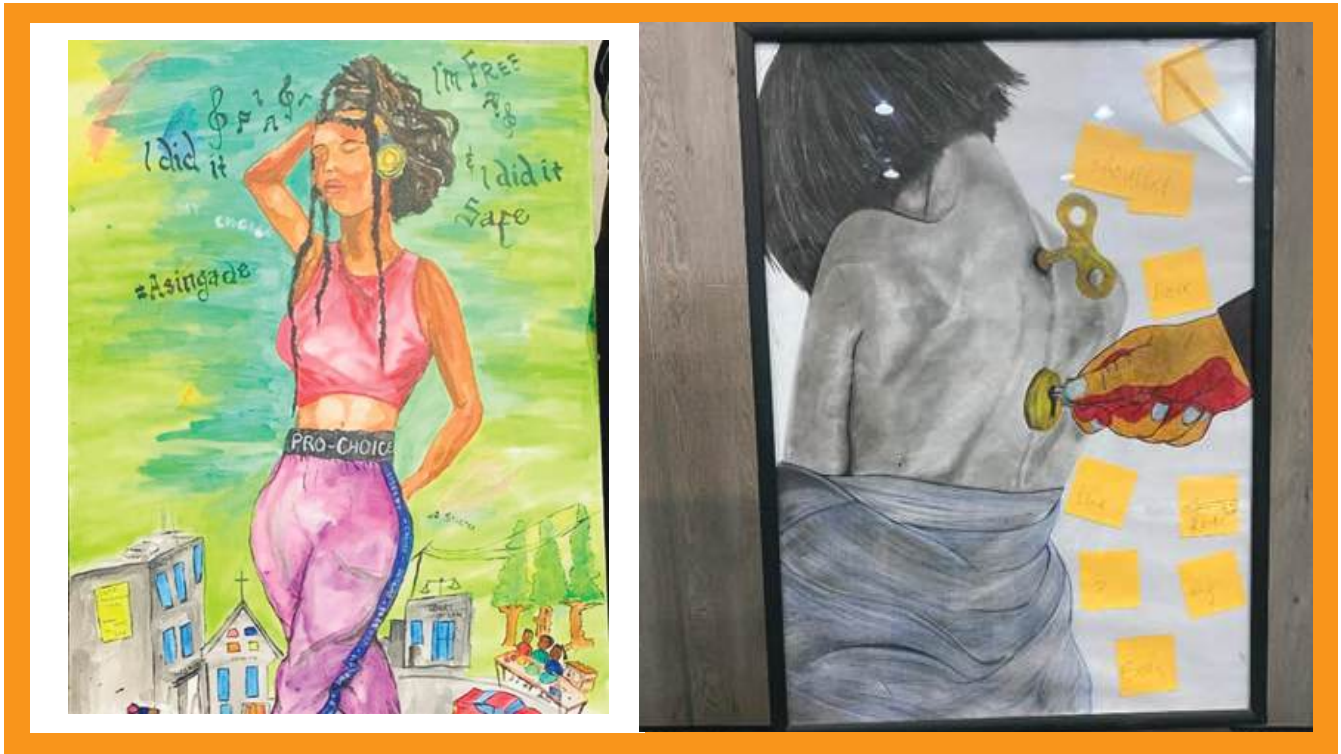
Pictured from Left: Hildaberta Rwambiwa, SAYWHAT Programs Assistant, Miah Tsinakwadi, 2024 Chairperson, SAYWHAT National Coordinating Committee, Dr. Douglas Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Childcare Zimbabwe, Isabella Michael, SAYWHAT Advocacy Specialist, and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Childcare Zimbabwe at Programme of the Portfolio Committee on Health and Child Care, Sensitization workshop on Medical Service Amendment Bill

These discussions are critical to education access, particularly for adolescent girls in rural and marginalized communities, where pregnancy-related school dropouts remain prevalent. Without accessible healthcare, young girls impacted by sexual exploitation and unintended pregnancies face severe disruptions to their education. Ensuring unhindered access to health services enables them to stay in school, receive necessary medical care, and continue learning without forced interruptions.



While discussions progressed in 2024, no definitive policy changes were made, reinforcing the need for continued youth-led advocacy in 2025. Sustained engagement will be crucial in pushing policymakers to enact supportive legal frameworks, ensuring that access to health services and education go hand in hand.

Safe and Legal Abortion Advocacy – SAYWHAT took bold steps in expanding awareness on safe and legal abortion access, conducting public lectures in universities and communities to educate young people on existing legal regulations. In addition, students and youth developed art pieces – pencil drawings and paintings visualizing personal autonomy, reproductive rights, and the impact of safe procedures that protect adolescent girls and young women’s lives. These artworks were launched during a Gallery Night and dissemination continued during health fairs and conferences.



A landmark ruling in Zimbabwe declared Section 2(1) of the Termination of Pregnancy Act unconstitutional, paving way for expanded abortion access for minors and victims of marital rape. This legal breakthrough was a historic win for young people, reinforcing their reproductive rights and agency over their bodies and its impact also extends beyond health advocacy, it directly influences girls’ access to education. Teenage pregnancies and limited access to safe abortion services force many adolescent girls out of school, especially

in rural and farming communities. By ensuring progressive legal frameworks, SAYWHAT's advocacy helps prevent educational exclusion caused by pregnancy-related stigma and lack of healthcare options. However, further legislative engagement remains necessary to ensure full policy reform, securing academic opportunities for adolescent girls and young women impacted by reproductive health challenges.

TB Advocacy – Young people also participated in the National TB Conference in Zimbabwe, developed the Youth-Focused TB Rights and Literacy Manual, in collaboration with the National TB program, which is set to launch in 2025, and participated at the World Lung Conference where 1 SAYWHAT TB champion presented an abstract complemented by SAYWHAT best practices in youth-led TB Advocacy. These engagements highlighted the growing influence of youth voices in shaping TB advocacy, yet they also underscored the need for sustained representation of students and young people in global health and education spaces. Moving forward, ensuring youth participation in international decision-making platforms will be crucial in advancing policies that are responsive to young people's realities.



Pictured in the middle: Elliard Kupfuma, SAYWHAT TB Champion with other conference delegates at the World Conference on Lung Health in Bali, Indonesia



National Students & Youth Conferences – Closing the year in December, SAYWHAT hosted the National Students Conference in Zimbabwe, under the theme: “Students Thriving and Achieving Results (STARS) – Transforming Health and Education Outcomes.” Meanwhile, in Malawi, SAYWHAT convened the National Youth Conference, running under the theme “Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps, Building Futures in Adolescent and Youth SRHR.”

Both conferences provided critical platforms for young people to review their advocacy progress, engage decision-makers, and set priorities for the upcoming year, tailored to the specific national contexts in Zimbabwe and Malawi. A key similarity was the Research Indaba, which took place in both countries, allowing young researchers to present findings, reflect on advocacy impact, and strengthen evidence-based policy dialogue.

While Zimbabwe’s conference featured the Web for Life Network Symposium and Mugota/Ixhiba Young Men’s Forum, facilitating gender-specific discussions, Malawi’s convening focused more on peer-driven solutions and multi-sector collaborations, bringing together a diverse network of youth organizations tackling barriers to SRHR access and governance.

Additionally, Zimbabwe’s conference hosted the Forum of College Authorities on Students’ Sexual reproductive health (FOCASS), a crucial engagement between SAYWHAT and college decision-makers, setting the stage for reviving student advocacy structures disrupted by COVID-19. This conversation set the stage for prioritizing movement resuscitation efforts in 2025.

The National Students Conference also served as the platform for SAYWHAT’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the election of the new National Coordinating Committee, ensuring continued youth leadership in advocacy efforts. The newly elected National Coordinating Committee will lead SAYWHAT’s youth advocacy agenda in 2025, ensuring continued representation and policy engagement.



Meet Our 2025 National Coordinating Committee in Zimbabwe



Leniel Tapiwa Gava
Chairperson
Student of Public Management and
Governance at Midlands State University



Natasha Musabayane
Vice Chairperson
Student of Science Education at
Hillside Teacher's College



Esnath Mashanda
Treasurer General
Student of Secondary Teacher Education
at Belvedere Technical Teachers College



Ancella Chingombe
Gender Secretary
Student of Social Work at
Bindura University of Science Education.



Destiny Masimba Kabasa,
Organizing Secretary Student
of Logistics and Transport Management
at Great Zimbabwe University

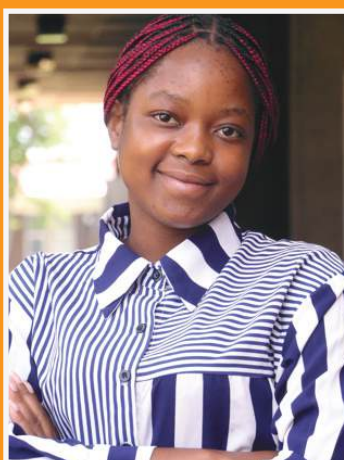


Kelvin N. Bepete
HIV & SRHR Secretary
Radiology student at the University of
Zimbabwe's

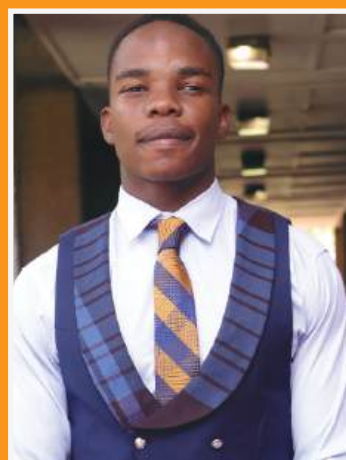




Peniel J Kododo
Information and Advocacy
Student of Water Resources and
Irrigation Engineering at Mutare
Polytechnic



Tanaka Chiza
Membership Secretary
Student of Secondary Teacher Education at
Masvingo Teachers' College.



Tsungirirai Manyame
Programs, M & E Secretary
Student of Agriculture at Gwebi
Agricultural College



Sharer Sheanesu Zindove
Committee Member
Student of Development Students at Lupane
State University.



Chioneso Elizabeth Mtakiwa
Committee Member
Student of Chemical and Processing
Engineering Manicaland State University of
Applied Sciences.



Christine Mabande
Committee Member
Student of Agriculture at Mlezu College of
Agriculture

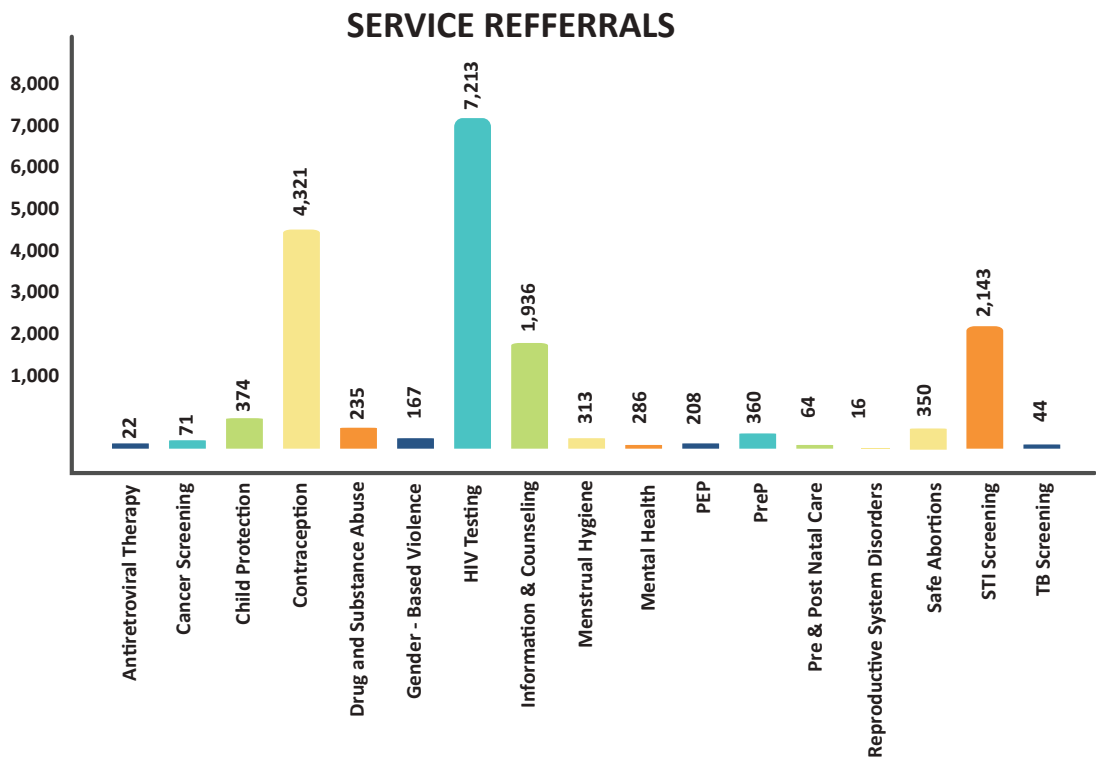


Health & Child Protection Services

Ensuring access to healthcare and safeguarding mechanisms remained a priority in 2024. We strengthened mental health support, harm reduction strategies, and reproductive health accessibility bridging critical gaps in care while mobilizing service providers to respond to pressing youth health challenges.

Toll-Free 577 - Throughout 2024, SAYWHAT Call Centre served as a critical lifeline for students, youth, adolescents, and children reporting abuse, and those seeking psychosocial support and healthcare. A total of 12,605 calls were received, reflecting the growing demand for accessible and youth-friendly health services.

Notably, 1,424 calls, approximately 11.3% of total calls came from adults, demonstrating an expanding reach beyond youth and reinforcing SAYWHAT’s role in supporting broader community health and advocacy efforts. Call Centre Officers collaborated with over 50 clinical service providers, ensuring seamless referrals for specialized care. In cases where young people faced financial barriers, SAYWHAT voucher system provided financial assistance, covering essential health services for vulnerable individuals.



Case Management – Recognizing the complexity of some cases, the Call Centre Officers worked closely with the Department of Social Development and the Zimbabwe Republic Police Victim Friendly Unit to facilitate home assessments where necessary. As a result, 2,469 cases, approximately 14% of all calls received required detailed case management interventions, reinforcing the importance of integrated support systems in addressing youth vulnerabilities.

Harm Reduction Initiatives for People Who Use and Inject Drugs - To enhance the overall well-being and quality of life for People Who Use and Inject Drugs, SAYWHAT established a drop-in centre in Harare that aim to provide holistic care, offering counselling, harm reduction resources, and direct health interventions to mitigate the health risks associated with drug and substance abuse. Looking ahead, a second Drop-In Centre will be launched in Bulawayo in 2025, ensuring broader service accessibility for this key population. By facilitating safe, stigma-free spaces, the initiative seeks to empower young victims of drug and substance abuse with knowledge, tools, and support mechanisms for improved health outcomes.



SAYWHAT in the Media

SAYWHAT's transformative impact in youth health and education advocacy has gained widespread recognition, resonating far beyond grassroots communities and policy circles. In 2024, our programs, initiatives, and advocacy efforts were spotlighted across major media outlets in Zimbabwe and beyond, reinforcing the significance of our work in shaping public discourse and influencing decision-making. National broadcasters such as ZBC TV and BTV amplified our voice on airwaves, while leading print and digital publications including Herald, H-Metro, NewsDay, The Health Times, Harare Times, The Sunday Mail, Southern Eye, documented key moments in SAYWHAT's journey.

Other regional outlets such as the Pan-Afrikanist, the Observer and Africa News24 further showcased SAYWHAT's growing footprint across Southern Africa, highlighting our cross-border efforts in youth advocacy, governance, and public health. These extensive media features not only validate SAYWHAT's role as a youth empowerment leader but also serve as a platform to amplify young voices, ensuring their challenges and aspirations remain central to national and regional conversations. Below are a few notable articles that captured SAYWHAT's progress and advocacy milestones throughout 2024.



Youth harness art for social change at Craft festival

BY SINDISO DUBE

THE Swedish ambassador to Zimbabwe, Per Lindgärde, has commended the recently held CRAFT festival in Harare as a platform for young people to engage with issues affecting them and find lasting solutions through arts.

The Creative Reproductive Health Arts Festival for Transformation (Craft II) is an annual festival organised by the Student and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team (SayWhat) in partnership with Jibikila Dance Trust and through the support of the embassy of Sweden in Harare.

The festival took place last Fri-

day at Harare Gardens, running under the theme; *Voices Unleashed: Addressing Drug and Substance Abuse, SRH, and GBV through Art*.

"Over the years, I have learned of Zimbabwe's rich cultural history and how art has been a constant mechanism in addressing the challenges of different times," said Lindgärde.

"From Oliver Mtshali's song *To-dii*, which called for collective action against HIV and Aids to 'iThemba', a song created by the winners of the last edition of Craft, which inspires hope in young people amidst the various gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health challenges they face.

"The theme of this festival resonates deeply with Sweden and is a poignant reminder to us all that these issues are not isolated.

"They are interconnected challenges that require a holistic approach, and it is commendable to see young people harnessing art not just as a form of expression but a powerful tool for social transformation."

"Art has the unique ability to transcend boundaries, evoke emotions, and inspire action. This festival provides a platform for young voices to be heard, for stories to be told, and for communities to come together in understanding and solidarity.

"Through the performances, I

challenge everyone here to examine the realities in our communities and reflect on how we can influence change within our respective spheres.

"Through art, we can craft a drug-free Zimbabwe, end gender-based violence, and ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of students and youth are realized."

SayWhat executive director Jimmy Wilford announced that they will be launching CHOICES 2, a drug and substance abuse-themed short film.

"This edition of CRAFT places a strong emphasis on community engagement, and we have prepared a variety of interactive performances that encourage participation from

all age groups and backgrounds, encompassing film, music, dance, and poetry," said Wilford.

"Significantly, we will be launching CHOICES 2, a drug and substance abuse, SRH-GBV themed short film developed and created by young talents through the Action for Choice mentorship programme.

"CHOICES 2 and each piece of art you will encounter during this festival tells a unique story, a reflection of the myriad experiences and perspectives from the youth in Zimbabwe.

"Let's celebrate the diversity of artistic expression and be reminded of the power of collaboration and inclusivity," he added.

SAYWHAT Showcases Visual Arts to Tackle Teen Pregnancy and Unsafe Abortion

By Kudza Pembele

THE students and youth working on reproductive health action team (SayWhat) recently hosted a Saturday Night event in Harare's University to spotlight challenges linked to teen and adolescent pregnancies. The event highlighted legal, financial, and cultural barriers to safe and healthy pregnancies, and showcased the work of artists and activists who are working to address these issues.

The Saturday Night event, titled 'The Future We Want' (a play on the words 'The Future We Want'), featured a diverse array of interactive experiences, including music, dance, and visual arts. The event was held at the University of Zimbabwe, where students and youth are actively engaged in discussions about reproductive health and rights.

Speaking at the event, Grace Chirwa, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, highlighted the importance of addressing the needs of young people and ensuring they have access to the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future.

"We are committed to supporting young people in their journey towards a better future," she said. "It is our responsibility to ensure that they have the tools and resources they need to succeed."



Hara, Joniah Makumbane

commented: "Addressing these challenges is a real challenge. It's not just about the physical aspects of sex, but also about the emotional and social aspects. We need to create a supportive environment for young people where they can feel safe and confident in their decisions."

"The current laws are outdated and do not take into account the needs of young people. We need to update them to reflect the realities of our society."

Hara, Makumbane created the play, *The Future We Want*, which explores the challenges young people face in making decisions about their future. The play is a powerful tool for education and advocacy, and it is being performed in schools and community centers across the country.

"We need to create a supportive environment for young people where they can feel safe and confident in their decisions. We need to ensure that they have access to the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future."

"We need to create a supportive environment for young people where they can feel safe and confident in their decisions. We need to ensure that they have access to the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future."

and is working to address these issues. Through these performances, the students are raising awareness and inspiring action to address these challenges.

"We need to create a supportive environment for young people where they can feel safe and confident in their decisions. We need to ensure that they have access to the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future."

WINDHOEK OBSERVER

Home Latest National Money Energy Sports Opinion Podcasts



Mosha Magalala in Gaborone, Botswana

The 1st edition of the Southern African Regional Students and Youth Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SARSTV) ended in Gaborone, Botswana, on Friday, with the delegates challenging authorities to act on health issues affecting them.

In a communiqué dubbed the 'Gaborone Declaration', which was adopted at the conclusion of a three-day conference held from 17-19 July 2024, the participants urged SADC member states to promptly address the issue of new HIV infections among young people and key populations.

They emphasised the importance of strengthening domestic funding and expanding comprehensive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.



Powering Youth-Led Organizations Across Africa

Over the years, SAYWHAT has not only empowered individual young leaders but also strengthened youth-focused civil society organizations, ensuring the sustainability of youth-led advocacy. A prime example of this is the GEAR Alliance, where SAYWHAT has played a leading role in capacitating up to 10 youth-focused organizations across Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. While GEAR Alliance did not begin in 2024, this year marked a critical milestone, as participating organizations expanded their digital footprint and strengthened their resource mobilization strategies, moving toward greater independence.

A testament to this progress is Girls Activists and Youth Organization (GAYO) in Malawi, which successfully secured three independent grants, demonstrating the growing self-sufficiency of youth-led organizations under the GEAR framework. This shift not only enhances localized advocacy but also ensures that young people across the region have the tools and networks necessary to sustain long-term impact.

In 2024, SAYWHAT also deepened its focus on community-based youth advocacy through the Youth Collective Action for Social Transformation (YCA4SoTra) project in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training and Zimbabwe Youth Council. A key milestone achieved this year was the shortlisting of 40 community-based youth-focused/led civil society organizations in Zimbabwe for capacity-building in governance and advocacy. Unlike many national advocacy efforts that concentrate in metropolitan hubs, YCA4SoTra intentionally reached rural and marginalized districts, including Beitbridge, Binga, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Gwanda, Kariba and Matobo, ensuring grassroots voices are heard.

These shortlisted organizations convened at a Youth Indaba, where young leaders conducted a root cause analysis of the challenges youth face in their communities. This process provided critical insights into the barriers hindering progress and allowed youth leaders to collaboratively identify the support mechanisms needed to address these challenges.

By strengthening organizations at both regional and grassroots levels, SAYWHAT is ensuring that youth movements not only survive but thrive amplifying voices, driving policy change, and shaping Africa's future.



Partner Appreciation

Development Partners: Investing in Student and Youth Leadership & Advocacy

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the donors and funding partners whose continued investment enabled SAYWHAT to drive transformative change for students, youth, adolescents, and children. Their support empowered us to strengthen health and education advocacy, amplify youth voices, and expand access to critical services.

SAIH



Sweden
Sverige



EDUCATION OUTLOUD
advocacy & social accountability



Stop TB Partnership



This project is funded by
the European Union



Beyond direct funding, SAYWHAT also benefited from collaborations with civil society organizations and service providers who contributed to our work in various ways. While there are too many to name individually, we extend collective appreciation to all partners who strengthened our impact through technical support, strategic collaborations, and shared advocacy efforts.



Private Sector Partners: Expanding Engagement & Innovation



Supporting SAYWHAT’s Quiz and SASI Debate Challenges, helping expand reach and engagement.



A special mention for sponsoring SAYWHAT Quiz and Debate Challenges as well as the Faith, Love & Hope Tour, which featured musician and author Tony Chihota, whose book, The Beginning, explores surviving drug and substance abuse. Chihota actively participated in health fairs across campuses and communities, spreading the anti-drug campaign message.



Pictured: Tony Chihota & his dance crew performing during CRAFT 2 in Zimbabwe

SAYWHAT values these partnerships and looks forward to continued collaboration with both development and private sector allies ensuring sustained growth, impact, and youth-led advocacy in the years ahead.



Safeguarding Training in the Private Sector

Strengthening Workplace & Community Safeguarding Measures - In 2024, SAYWHAT expanded its safeguarding initiatives beyond youth-led advocacy, engaging the private sector in critical training on workplace safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse. Recognizing that young people entering internships, attachments, volunteer programs, and graduate traineeships face vulnerabilities in professional spaces, SAYWHAT trained three organizations on effective safeguarding frameworks namely Saint Gobain, West Property, and Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA).



Employees at Saint-Gobain Undergoing Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Training

Beyond workplace protection, these trainings acknowledged the broader responsibilities of professionals who interact with children and adolescents in homes and communities, reinforcing comprehensive child safeguarding principles. This marks a significant milestone in SAYWHAT's growth as a trusted institution, extending its expertise beyond student spaces into corporate and professional environments.

Professional Development Program

SAYWHAT's Professional development program fosters a volunteer network for young people designed to equip students and youth with practical experience, skills development, and community engagement opportunities. By integrating recent graduates, in-school students, community volunteers, and international participants, the program fosters collective change and ensures lasting impact in youth-led development.

Throughout 2024, SAYWHAT's Professional Development Program provided hands-on learning and skills enhancement for 24 young people, equipping them with practical experience across key disciplines. These emerging professionals contributed to SAYWHAT's work in Programs, Human Resources, Finance and Administration, Communications and Advocacy, SAYWHAT Call Centre, and Monitoring and Evaluation. By integrating structured mentorship and real-world application, the program strengthened capacity-building efforts while fostering the next generation of youth advocates, administrators, and development practitioners.



Income Statement

The following income statement outlines SAYWHAT’s financial performance for 2024, detailing revenue sources, expenditures, and resource allocation to key programming areas. While total expenditure exceeded 2024 revenue, SAYWHAT strategically utilized reserve funds and multi-year grants to sustain program implementation and service delivery.

2024 REVENUE	
SAIH	\$ 108,452
STOP TB	\$ 50,745
UNFOUNDATION	\$ 32,048
UNFPA	\$ 97,348
NAC (GLOBAL FUND)	\$ 105,235
SAVE THE CHILDREN (EU)	\$ 273,148
OXFAM IBIS	\$ 257,472
EMBASSY OF SWEDEN	\$ 393,526
AMPLIFY CHANGE	\$ 428,954
PAMOJA RAES	\$ 39,012
UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	\$ 98,312
TOTAL	\$ 1,884,252
2024 EXPENDITURE	
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,045,043
PROGRAMS EXPENSES	\$ 1,495,139
TOTAL	\$ 2,540,182



Awards & Recognition

In 2024, SAYWHAT's dedication to youth-led health advocacy and rights-based programming was recognized through two prestigious awards, solidifying our influence in global and national spaces.

Stop TB Community Award for Ending TB Stigma Advocacy – SAYWHAT was honoured for its commitment to raising awareness and challenging TB-related stigma through youth-centred advocacy. This recognition came after SAYWHAT submitted a powerful poetry piece, crafted by one of our CRAFT alumni - Denzil Whata, showcasing the lived realities of young people affected by TB. The award highlights the power of creative expression in driving conversations around health equity and stigma reduction.

STOP TB COMMUNITY AWARD 2024



**Students And Youth
Working on Reproductive
Health Action Team (SAYWHAT)**

Humana
People to People
Foundation



Stop TB Partnership

In recognition of men as role models in fighting GBV and promoting Gender Equality – Our Executive Director, Jimmy Wilford was awarded a certificate of Championship by Shamwari yemwanasikana with support from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Zimbabwe, Men Engage, and Embassy of Canada to Zimbabwe. This award serves as a powerful recognition of leadership and advocacy affirming SAYWHAT's commitment to fostering safer and more equitable communities as well as the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing gender disparities at societal and policy levels.

These awards are a testament to the dedication of our members, partners, and advocates, further motivating SAYWHAT to continue driving impactful change across youth and child-centred advocacy. As SAYWHAT continues its journey into 2025, we remain committed to strengthening youth-led advocacy, expanding access to essential services, and championing student empowerment in public health and education. With dedicated partners, an engaged network, and unwavering determination, we look forward to another year of transformative impact.







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