



# ANNUAL **REPORT** 2021



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## ACRONYMS



ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
CAB	Child Advisory Board
CCW	Community Case Workers
CPS	Child Protection Society
CWD	Children with Disabilities
ECD	Early Childhood Development
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HTS	HIV Testing Services
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IDTR	Identification, Tracing and Reunification
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission
SDC	School Development Committee
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
STELA	Smart Tablet Early Learning Assessment
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infections
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children
VL	Viral Load

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON


It is with great honour and humility that I acknowledge the immense journey we have travelled as Child Protection Society (CPS) during the year 2021, our second year implementing our Strategic Plan 2020-2024. I am humbled to be presenting the 2021 Annual Report for CPS, the journey has not been easy during 2021 but looking over our shoulders I can confidently say our work tells a story, a story of determination, perseverance, and dedication.

CPS continued to work tirelessly implementing the Strategic plan 2020-2024, the organization coordinated activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health and Child Care and civil society organizations. Working with a dedicated staff at CPS, activities were rolled out during the difficult era where the World at large was greatly hit by the Covid 19 pandemic.

2021 was the most difficult year as Covid 19 cases spiked which resulted in lockdown restrictions, dwindling of funds and slow pace of activities. The pandemic greatly affected CPS programming as activities had to be postponed whereas demand for services remained high. However, CPS considerably appreciates the continued support for funding partners who offered ongoing technical and financial support which enabled the organization to remain operational during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Board Chairperson  
Moses Mapanda

## WHO WE ARE

<p><b>WE ARE A NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANIZATION WHICH ENVISIONS TO SEE A CHILD FRIENDLY SOCIETY WHICH FACILITATES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL POTENTIAL OF EVERY CHILD</b></p>	
<p>We are a local non-governmental organization registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social welfare under PVO number : PVO 07/67</p>	<p>We provide access to child protection, quality education, health and nutrition services to 42 districts across the 10 provinces.</p>
<p>We empower caregivers of children we assist so that they can adequately cater for their families' needs.</p>	<p>We are operating in all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe</p> <p>We are a dedicated, caring, transparent, accountable, respectful, team offering quality services.</p>
<p>We work towards ensuring that children living with HIV have access to treatment and are retained in care receiving adequate support</p>	<p>We give a second chance to education for children who had dropped out of school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>We LOVE the Children, YOU CAN SEE US IN A CHILD'S SMILE</b></p>
<p>We empower adolescents and youths with skills and knowledge so that they can champion their Sexual Reproductive Health &amp; Rights.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY</b></p> </div> <p>We facilitate systems strengthening of communities and service providers.</p>

## INTRODUCTION

Following the pandemic in 2020, 2021 was the year in which a level of control over the number of COVID-19 cases was beginning to be seen, with inroads made with COVID-19 vaccinations. The organization implemented COVID-19 response initiatives focusing on child protection in quarantine centres, residential care facilities and supporting children on the streets who were vulnerable to COVID-19 infection. Further, CPS mainstreamed COVID-19 infection, prevention and control mechanisms in its regular programming through the provision of Personal Protection Equipment, WASH materials, COVID-19 education and management of mobilized numbers as per national guidelines. In terms of results, the organization managed to reach desired targets in child protection, education, health, and livelihoods. The following is an account of program progress in the year 2021.

## CHILD PROTECTION

### ***Training of CCWs on Foster Care and Kinship Care***

A total of 993 CCWs (572F, 421M) were trained on alternative care and placement during 2021 in 42 districts. The training focused on case management highlighting the importance of tracking children in foster care and those re-unified with their relatives. The training equipped CCWs with knowledge and skills to coordinate community case management, awareness raising on child protection monitoring and reporting. Topics covered included their surveillance, identification, referral, case follow-ups and support to separated and unaccompanied children and those at risk of separation. Assessment done during the training indicated that the CCWs were knowledgeable of the case management system and required reminders of their role in child protection despite other adult social protection roles that they play in their communities. This was evidenced by the percentage of case resolution which was harvested for cases that were identified.

### ***Strengthening case management through capacity building of Escorts***

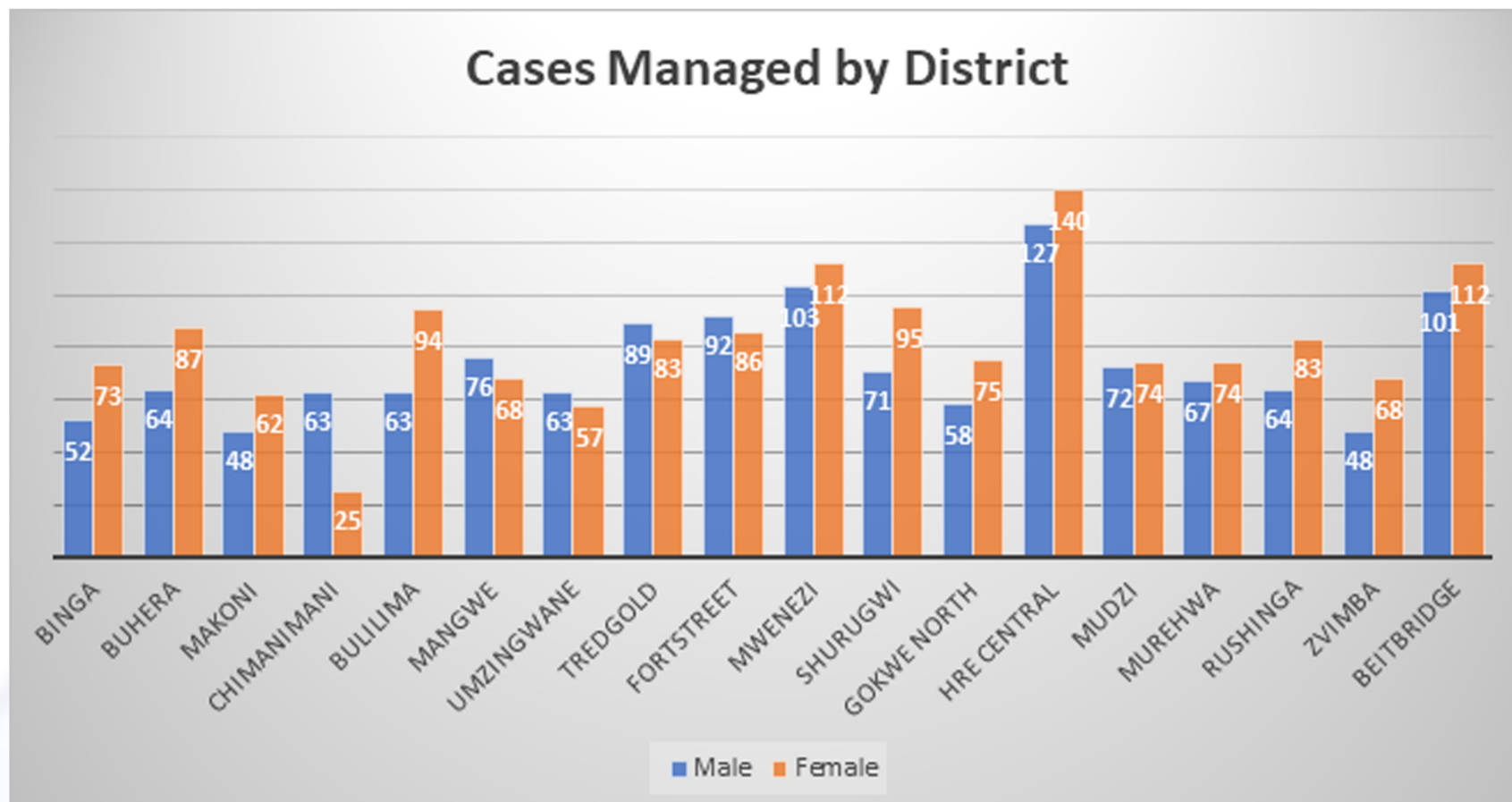
A total of 376 (238F;138M) escorts were imparted with knowledge and skills on alternative care and placement. The training was facilitated by DSDOs in collaboration with CPS in 42 districts across the 10 provinces. The trained enabled CCWs to coordinate child placement in places of safety, coordination of family tracing and reunification of UASC and minor survivors of sexual gender-based violence.

### ***Training of Foster Parents on Foster Care and Kinship Care***

A one-day training was facilitated reaching 1444 (1240F;204) foster parents which enhanced their knowledge and skills in parenting as well as parent to child communication. The training was facilitated by a facilitator from the Department of Social Development as they are the custodians of children and have standard requirements that the foster parents should follow when living with children in foster care. Foster parents were sensitized on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

### ***Identification, family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied separated children***

A total of 2789 (1468F; 1321M) cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), were identified and managed. CPS scored 91% case resolution for cases that were identified, family tracing and reunification was successful for 2536 children that were identified. Working with Community Case Care Workers increased efficiency in family tracing efforts that were done during 2021. Community awareness campaigns that were conducted by Chiefs and social soccer tournaments on entry points and unaccompanied children yielded positive results. The cases were captured in the district caseloads and CPS database to ensure that the cases were tracked to completion. The cases that were identified were returnees from Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. 95% of the children that were assisted did not have birth certificates, CPS is worked with the Department for Social Development to assist the children to obtain birth certificates as they come from less privileged families.



Age	Statutory		Total
	Male	Female	
Age under five	122	167	289
5 - 9 years	201	217	418
10 - 14 years	311	414	725
15-17 Years	687	670	1357
<b>Total</b>			<b>2789</b>

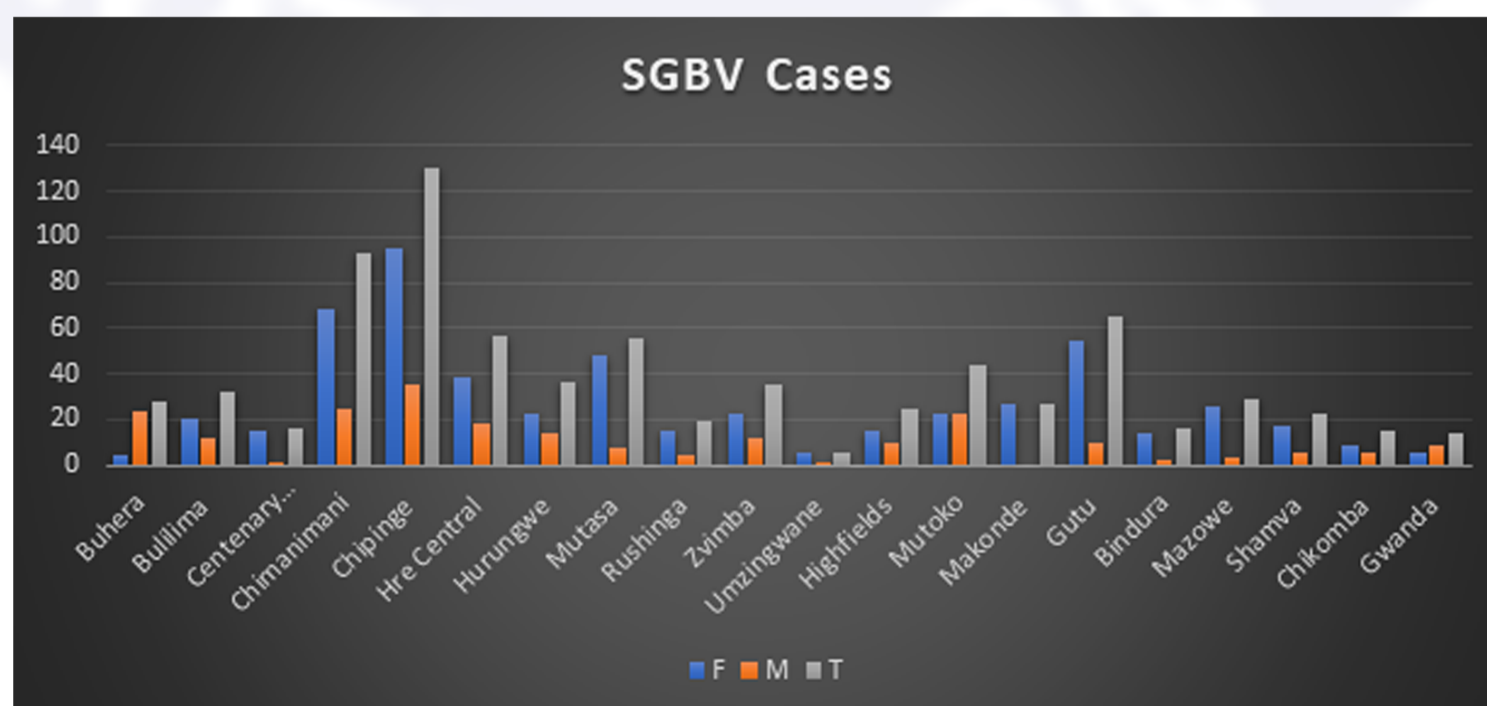
Case managed by age disaggregation

#### Strengthening case management of children in conflict with the law in Zimbabwe

A total of 122 (39F;83M) cases identified in Binga, Buhera, Gokwe North, Harare Central, Highfields, Kadoma, Murehwa, Mudzi, Mwenezi and Umzingwane. Collaboration with the Department for Social Development yielded positive outcomes in ensuring that cases were managed and followed up to completion. 122 children were successfully reunified with their relatives upon successfully case conference and engagement with their caregivers.

#### Identification, family tracing and reunification of minor survivors of sexual gender-based violence

A total of 751 cases (539F;212M) of sexual gender-based violence were identified during 2021. 495 survivors (342F;153M) of SGBV were placed in foster care and reunified with their families upon case resolution. The majority of SGBV cases identified are from Chipinge (22%), Chimanimani (17%) and Hurungwe and Gutu (7%). 100% of these cases were case managed by CPS and other stakeholders who include DSW, ZRP and the courts. All cases that needed medical attention particularly sexual abuse cases were attended to. Survivors of SGBV were supported with start-up packages upon placement in foster care to enable them to cope very well. Follow ups were done to support all the children that were in the district caseloads.



### **Systems strengthening of the Department for Social Development**

68 (42F;26M) staff members from the DSD's office were trained on foster care and kinship care and case management of UASC. The training enhanced the capacity of DSDOs to coordinate case identification, family tracing, foster care placement and reunification of cases for UASC and minor survivors of SGBV. The training also prepared DSDOs to cascade the training to other staff at district level through on-job sensitization. DSDO from Mwenezi confidently said; "The training strengthened my capacity to do the best, I managed to do a self-reflection of myself, exploring the mistakes I made when I interacted with children on the move and minor survivors of SGBV. Given the knowledge I have now, I will ensure that the rights of UASC are upheld to reduce barriers to services and risks among children." Throughout 2021, the DSD received on going technical support and mentorship from CPS.

### **Training of local leadership on UASC**

266 (85F;181M) local leaders which included Chief, Councilors and Village heads were trained on foster care and kinship care in 21 districts of Zimbabwe. The training integrated Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Involvement of local leaders played a key role in sensitizing communities and it increased case reporting of SGBV cases by 36% in the targeted districts,

## **EDUCATION**

### **Refresher training with Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education Officials**

CPS coordinated a refresher training on Child Monitoring Tool (CDM) together with CAMFED and Roger Federer Foundation. The training was conducted in Harare, and it reached out to 3 members of MoPSE national office, 3 District Schools Inspectors, 3 Schools Inspectors and 1 former ECD trainer. The training created a good platform for harnessing monitoring of ECD and offering technical support to schools.

### **Refresher trainings for ECD teachers**

A total of 151 (114F; 37M) ECD teachers participated in a refresher training on STELA. The refresher training reached teachers from the three targeted districts. The training facilitated knowledge and skills transfer of STELA new features such as the attendance register and sync button. CPS utilized the opportunity to update tablets used by teachers and addressing school specific technical issues they were experiencing. During the training teachers indicated that the STELA was good tool in carrying out learner assessments and tracking progress. Teachers indicated that making use of technology in education improved data quality and data management for early childhood development.

### **Provision of technical support to ECD teachers and TICs in the analysis and use of data from CDM Tool**

Schools made progress in implementing the knowledge and skills they acquired in making use of the Child Monitoring Tool (CDM) in carrying out assessments. A total of 87 (80F; 7M) reported using the tablet in carrying out learner assessments. Technical support was given to 100% of the teachers targeted by the project and from the process it was noted that 45% conducted assessments on cognitive development, 53% conducted socio-emotional and 51% assessed physical development. However, delays in reopening of schools slowed down progress on full implementation of the tool in schools.

### **Provision of support for 2 ECD trainers in training 100 ECD teacher on the new curriculum**

CPS incorporated new curriculum component during the STELA training taking advantage of mobilisation that had already been done and to efficiently use project resources. Discussion focused on challenges faced with outdoor area and solutions to improve the learning environment. This training led to the agreement to revive sand pits and roundabout. The training provided guidance on how schools need to work with communities for collective efforts and the training produced fruitful results. Below is a picture of a school which implemented lessons learned

### **Identification, family tracing and reunification of minor survivors of sexual gender-based violence**

A total of 751 cases (539F;212M) of sexual gender-based violence were identified during 2021. 495 survivors (342F;153M) of SGBV were placed in foster care and reunified with their families upon case resolution. The majority of SGBV cases identified are from Chipinge (22%), Chimanimani (17%) and Hurungwe and Gutu (7%). 100% of these cases were case managed by CPS and other stakeholders who include DSW, ZRP and the courts. All cases that needed medical attention particularly sexual abuse cases were attended to. Survivors of SGBV were supported with start-up packages upon placement in foster care to enable them to cope very well. Follow ups were done to support all the children that were in the district caseloads.



### **Champion parent on toy production**

A total of 11 schools engaged 200(156 F:44M) parents to work as champion parents to spearhead local toy production in the community. The targeted parents cascaded the training to 115 (90F;25M) caregivers. CPS noted collective efforts between schools and caregivers in toy production for ECD B. Caregivers used local resources to make carts, dolls, and cooking utensils for children.

### **Training of 100 SDCs on natural playground**

A training on natural playground development was coordinated targeting early childhood development teachers and school development committee (SDC) members in Gwanda, Rushinga and Zvimba districts. A total of 270 (70F; 200M) participated in the training and it harvested positive outcomes. Training was delivered targeting schools following Covid 19 National prevention guidelines, 1 teacher and 2 SDC members represented the schools. The training enhanced knowledge and skills on natural playgrounds which was evidenced by the strides which were made by schools in developing and revamping outdoor play centres. To ensure that schools had reference to use after the training, CPS distributed materials and posters of natural playground components. Construction of playgrounds was started, and monitoring visits documented efforts made by schools in improving outdoor play centres.



*Members of Nyatsato Primary School who participated during the training.*

### **100 SDCs supported in Natural playground construction**

CPS conducted joint monitoring with District Schools Inspectors who represented MoPSE in Gwanda, Rushinga and Zvimba districts. The monitoring visits enabled CPS and MoPSE to assess progress that was made by schools in implementing what they had learned from the natural playground training, income generating projects and fund allocation towards ECD development. During the monitoring visits, CPS observed that the training equipped schools with knowledge and skills to track progress of action plans for ECD in the overall school development plans. Schools performed very well, and they made efforts to construct well painted sand pits and climbers with local wood. The project has received total support from MoPSE district officials as they facilitated delivery of cement to schools which yielded positive outcomes in construction of sand pits in different shapes and sitting points.





Volunteer Parents at work



Completed outdoor play area

### **Provision of support for termly exchange between 100 ECD and Grade 1 teachers promoting children transition into primary school**

ECD teachers exchanged notes at school level on topics covered in ECD and the use of STELA in carrying out learner assessments and monitoring progress. The exchange meetings held were meant at ensuring that infant teachers work together on ensuring that infant learners receive comprehensive lessons and improved feedback mechanisms. During monitoring visits, the school head and teachers indicated that this was a good model of guaranteeing coordination between ECD and Grade 1 teachers which safeguards quality learning and accelerated development milestones for children.

Provision of support for termly teacher parent sessions in 3 districts

A total of 3221(3000F:221M) caregivers were reached out by teacher sessions on home-based learning referring to STELA. Each caregiver was oriented on the expectations of ECD syllabus. Since learners were very behind, communication books were used to give learners homework. The quality of this activity was compromised due to the restrictions of interactions between teachers and parents .

## **HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

### **Increased viral load coverage and suppression for children and adolescents living with HIV**

*“Munashe (pseudo name) is 15 years of age and lives with her aunt in Kuwadzana. Munashe’s mother died when he was 12 years and then they were staying in Hopley during that time. After the death of Munashe’s mother he had to stay with his aunt (his mother’s sister) as the details of his biological father are unknown. Munashe has a young brother aged 8 years who is also living with HIV. Munashe had a viral load result that was unknown but showed signs of being sick. Due to economic hardships and the high cost of living in the urban area, the aunt who is a vendor was facing challenges in ensuring that Munashe and his young brother are well fed and monitoring adherence to treatment.*

*Munashe was identified by the community health care worker who decided to have both Munashe and his brother bled for viral load monitoring. Munashe’s viral load results indicated that he had 1015copies, a high viral load result which needed close monitoring and assistance. Following nutrition issues that were raised at the clinic, Munashe was then given a food pack to cushion the household and promote adherence to treatment. The community health care worker made regular follow ups and traced Munashe’s frequency in taking his treatment. Munashe also received enhanced adherence counselling together with his aunt and he started participating in monthly support groups.*

*Following three months of monitoring, Munashe was bled again for viral load and the nurses confirmed that Munashe’s viral load was 497copies implying that he had a suppressed viral load. Munashe’s aunt could not hide her joy and said;*

**“I am grateful to the support group sessions, monitoring and nutrition support that was offered by CPS. As a single parent taking care of my own children and my sister’s children is very difficult when one is involved in the informal sector. The food packs and all the assistance received improved Munashe’s health and now I know what I am supposed to do to ensure that Munashe adheres to treatment. I did not know that I was supposed to monitor Munashe’s viral load.”**

Munashe’s story is not unique to him, most of the children and adolescents living with HIV targeted by the project had invalid viral load results. Community health care workers have been actively identifying cases of clients that are due for viral load (VL) monitoring and linking them to VL services. Through collaborative efforts, CPS has managed to ensure that VL suppression for the targeted children is 96%. It must be noted that VL suppression for females was at 96% and 97% for males. Viral load monitoring enabled community health care workers to facilitate targeted monitoring and delivery of enhanced adherence counseling sessions for suppressed viral load among children and adolescents living with HIV.

### **Improvement in adherence and timely collection of treatment through support groups and client tracking**

Health facilities in Harare Central district indicated that there was a notable progress on timely collection of ART treatment by children and adolescents living with HIV who are supported by the project. Before the intervention, an average of 30% missed appointments for treatment collection citing reasons for challenges with bus fares and forgetting dates for treatment collection. During the first year, 295/295 collected treatment on the set dates and those who faced challenges on accessing their ART regimen from the designated facilities were referred to nearby facilities and accessed treatment. Support group meetings created a platform for appropriate information giving and enhanced adherence counselling sessions to children and adolescents living with HIV.

100% (295/295) of the targeted consistently attended support group meetings, in cases where there was need for client specific assistance community health care workers conducted home visits and individual client tracking. Children and adolescents identified to need medical support, bus fares, HIV/STI, VL tests, OI/ART services, SRH services, PSS and Economic strengthening services were referred for those services by community health care workers and supported through to access those services referred for.

### **Commitment to supporting children and adolescent service provision improved through stakeholder engagement**

Comprehensive youth friendly service provision can only be achieved through collaborative efforts by partners in communities. Stakeholder engagement safeguarded the provision of quality services, referrals and referrals completion. CPS coordinated stakeholders' meetings through tele-conferencing to ensure that children and adolescents living with HIV receive a comprehensive package of information and services that promote adherence to treatment and well-being. A total of 21 participants representing Ministry of Health and Child Care, Ministry of Local Governance, Department of Social Development, President's Office, Victim Friendly Unit, Africaid-Zvandiri and Medecins San Frontiers participated in tele-conference meetings which resulted in strengthened service linkage systems and referral completion. Stakeholders made commitments to continued service provision and 97% of the referrals that were made were tracked to completion which increased access to services for children and adolescents living with HIV.

### **Positive nutrition outcomes for children and adolescents living with HIV**

As the COVID19 cases spiked and continued to disrupt informal trading which most of the families supported by the project relied on non-formal trading to generate income, the organization provided the beneficiaries with food packs, promoted nutrition outcomes and adherence to treatment. A total of 63 (33F; 30M) received food packs comprising of 2 litres cooking oil ,500g chunks,1kg beans,1 bath soap,500g salt,10 kg mealie-meal,4kg rice reaching to 215 (183F; 30M) indirect beneficiaries who were members of the targeted households. Nutrition support yielded positive outcomes as it promoted adherence to support and viral load suppression among children and adolescents living with HIV. One of the caregivers of child living with HIV confidently said;

**“As a vendor, due to the lock down regulations, it was very difficult to make a living from vending as police were always chasing us. The package that we received from CPS cushioned us and it came at a time where we did not have peanut butter to prepare porridge for children.”**

## **ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING**

### **Enhancing youth livelihoods through community apprenticeship**

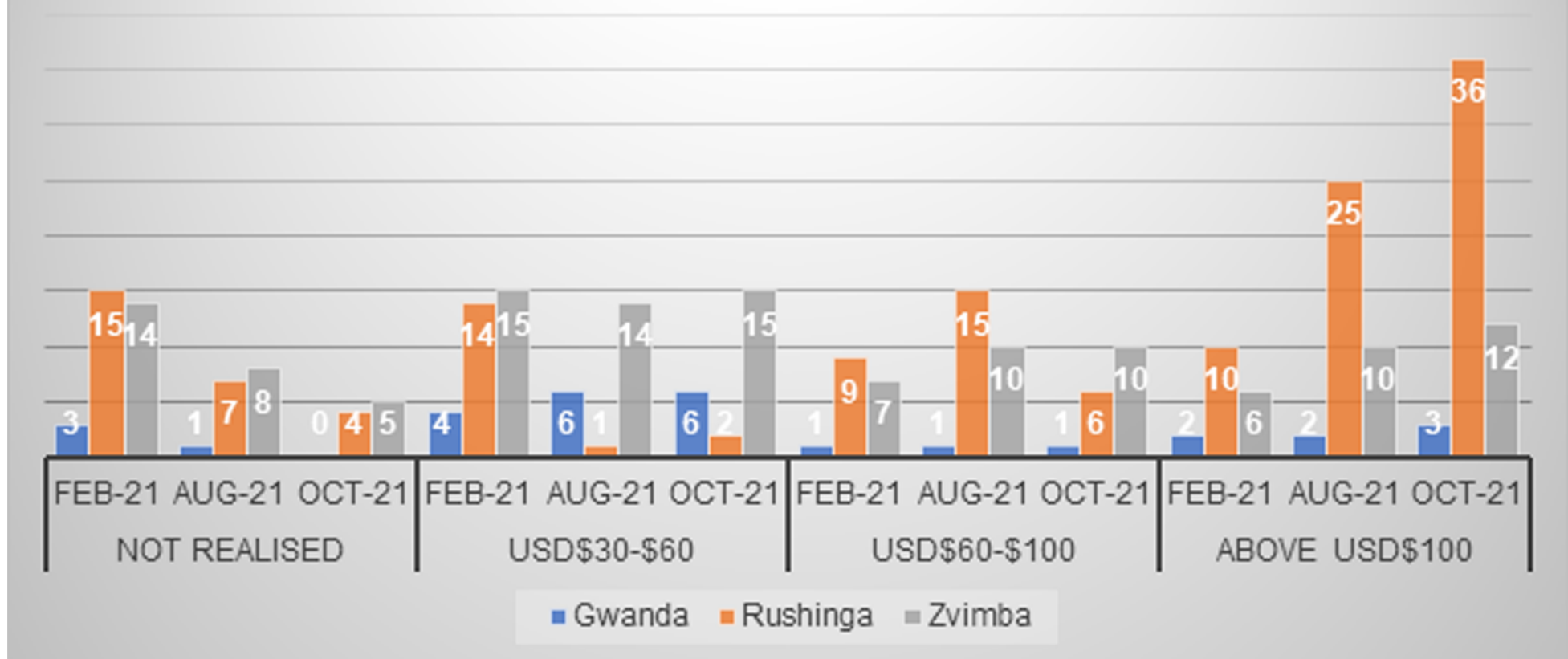
A total of 100 adolescents (68F; 32M) living with HIV were identified and enrolled for community apprenticeship. Adolescents were enrolled for various courses which include cooking and baking, solar installation, carpentry, plumbing, dress making, hair dressing. 100% of the adolescents enrolled for community apprenticeship successfully completed their courses. 20% of the graduates of the community apprenticeship started making a living through applying the knowledge and skills they acquired. Graduates from baking, garment construction, carpentry and electrical engineering started doing jobs. It must be noted that one of the adolescents who graduated in garment construction was hired by a political part to produce political regalia where she was paid. 20% of the adolescents enrolled for community apprenticeship were employed in the informal sector increasing their income where they got between \$10 to \$20 per week. Adolescents confirmed that they were using the money to buy sanitary wear and inputs that they use in generating income. However, adolescents indicated that they were having challenges in accessing start-up kits for example those who were trained in electrical engineering and plumbing

### **Strengthening income generating activities in schools**

To ensure sustainable resource allocation for ECD B in P3 schools and child environment for ECD B learning, CPS disbursed seed funding which amounted to US\$300.00 to 100 primary schools. 100 schools established income generating projects which included goat keeping, poultry and tuck shops.

<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>SCHOOLS TARGETED</b>
Matabeleland South	Gwanda	10
Mashonaland Central	Rushinga	48
Mashonaland West	Zvimba	42
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## Profit Generated from IGAs



IGAs progressed well, there was a great improvement of IGAs which resulted in IGAs realizing profits. 91% of the schools realised profit and they managed to use profits buy stationery, paints, cement and labour for indoor and outdoor centre construction. It is important to note that Rushinga proved to be performing well and managing IGAs in an impressive way as the SDCs were very supportive and leading the role. 100% of schools that established income generating projects, 38% were in the growth and 62% were in the maturity stage according to the Group Maturity Index. 91/100 schools realized profits from these projects ranging from USD\$30-\$100, 100% of these used proceeds to resource ECD development activities, including toy production, construction of age-appropriate infrastructure for ECD learners, furniture and learning materials, amongst others.

### GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The organization ensured that its vision, mission, and core values were clearly understood and embraced by all executive members, staff, and stakeholders. This was done by including them in all reports and CPS documentation. The new PVO approved and adopted CPS constitution was implemented during the year. The board managed to meet as per planned schedules, both as the full board and its sub committees, and provided recommendations that steered the organisation. The Annual General Meetings (AGMs) was also done as planned.

The organisation's annual accounts were audited by MGI and deduced a clean audit.

### RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & FUNDRAISING

Child Protection Society maintained donors such as UNICEF, the Roger Federer Foundation, Egmont Trust, ELMA, Higher Life Foundation and Save the Children, with donors such as UNICEF providing the organisation with additional funding for Humanitarian Response and the Spotlight Initiative. New funding was attracted from World Vision in the implementation of an awareness campaign on Sexual Gender Based Violence in evacuation centres through SMS and radio platforms. Chinyaradzo Children's Home received support in cash and in kind for its sustenance and a renewal of grant done by Higherlife Foundation to support its operations.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

The organisation worked to improve the capacity of its staff to adhere to and train communities on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The organisation also set up structures for the reporting and investigation of cases, as well as staff recruitment processes. In addition, staff were also trained in Fraud Awareness Training as a part of risk mitigation.



#### **DEDICATED STAFF WE LOST**

Remembering the former Centre Manager for Chinyaradzo Children's Home, Ireen Karadzandima. We would like to appreciate the work that she did for the vulnerable children. May her Soul rest in peace!

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Alone one can do so little, together we can do so much!*

Partnership have been at the heart of Child Protection Society's operations and guides us still. Collaborations with the government, local authorities, and our colleagues around the world, our sponsors and various partners. We are grateful for the trust and generous contributions you invest in our work.