

ZIMBABWE

The Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe

Current status: Facts and figures from the 2010 CF-GSR survey

Total sum of assets, including endowments, at the end of 2009.	US\$140,000
Annual operating budget.	US\$560,000
Amount of the total grants distributed in 2009.	US\$235,633
Population of the area your community foundation serves.	3 million
Number of paid staff at your community foundation.	7
Number of Board Members/ Trustees at your community foundation.	10

Community foundation activity and impact

The following table shows the changes that the CF of Western Region-Zimbabwe brings to the communities through its grantmaking and other programmes:

	Remarkably positive changes	Positive changes	Slightly positive changes	No changes	Some negative changes
Citizens more involved in people-led development		√			
Less poverty/ more equal society		√			
Improvement in the position of marginalized groups		√			
More responsive authorities			√		
Increased awareness of environmental issues			√		
Support to arts and culture activities		√			
More trust within the community		√			
Greater transparency/ accountability	√				
Strong linkages across different parts of the community		√			
Increased charitable giving through the community foundation		√			

Example:

The Foundation has introduced the seed bank concept. A variety of seeds that include sorghum, millet, ground nuts, round nuts and field beans were distributed to selected community members. Each community member received 500g of seeds. The seeds were planted and each 500g yielded 150kgs. Each community member will contribute 500g to the seed bank and this will be passed on to the next community member. Positive changes in food security are now being realized. Most community members have enough seeds to plant on time.

Community involvement

The CF for the Western Region of Zimbabwe involves the community in its work in the following ways:

	Yes	Somewhat	No
Are community activists involved in board/ committees?	√		
Are staff, Board members/ Trustees, or volunteers from your community foundation participating in community issues and discussions led by others?	√		
Do you convene or lead discussions on issues of community importance?	√		
Do you promote the use of volunteers from the community?	√		
Do you provide information about the state of the community to grantees and community leaders (e.g. through Vital Signs or similar research collection)?	√		
Is your community foundation reflective of the diversity of the community?	√		

Giving voice to local people

- Community awareness meetings
- Learning/ Exchange visits
- Community forums
- Newsletters, flyers, videos, ICT materials.

Examples of successful grants and/or programs supported by the CF of Western Region-Zimbabwe:

The Foundation has supported the initiatives of five Community Based Organizations in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and the Midlands that were implementing the Home Based Orphan Care programme. This programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of communities to be able to take care of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in their midst by promoting the extended family and the traditional care system. The grants provided by the Foundation were used to strengthen income generating projects and to establish nutrition gardens. The proceeds from the income generating projects such as market garden are for consumption by OVCs while the surplus is sold. Income generated from projects that include small retail shop which offers groceries (tuck-shops) and candle making projects is used to procure the necessities required by the OVCs. The Foundation provides funds for start up inputs while the communities participate by providing labour and locally available materials. The Foundation has so far supported over 11,000 OVCs through the Home Based Orphan Care programme.

Community foundation income

Types of donors who give to community foundations

1. Charitable organizations
2. Interests from endowments

Types of funds most frequently supported by donors

Donor-advised funds are most frequently supported type of funds.

Strategies for engaging and servicing donors

The work of the Foundation covers four main functions:

- Resource Development: The Foundation mobilizes resources with the aim of building adequate permanent reserves to serve all members of the community. Hence, it places a high priority on raising endowment funds, receiving, administering and investing them prudently.
- Donor Agency: The Foundation provides tailor-made services to meet humanitarian needs and interests of donors who are keen to contribute towards the betterment of communities.
- Grant making: The Foundation gives grants to community-based organizations to support initiatives that close the gap in the delivery of essential services such as water, education, shelter and medical care.
- Community leadership: The Foundation acts as a facilitator of joint action on all community projects to attract the participation of national and international donors.

Assessing and communicating impact

- Planning and review meetings
- Questionnaires
- Project evaluation
- Baseline surveys

Networks

The CF of Western Region of Zimbabwe benefits quite a bit from national and international networks, and is very much connected to other CFs in the region.

Sources of support for community foundations

Support organizations, infrastructure bodies, etc.

The CF of Western Region-Zimbabwe counts on international donors for its main source of support. However, it finds useful the support it receives from the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), the Global Fund for Community Foundations, the Council on Foundations, the European Foundation Centre, Synergos Institute, Bernard van Leer Foundation, as well as funders and other foundations.

It also would like to have access to technical assistance, skills training, and information sharing.

History of the CF for the Western Region of Zimbabwe¹

The Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe (CFWRZ) arose from a community collective savings program known as Qogeleda. It was launched with a small endowment from Qogeleda contributed by over 50,000 community members under the auspices of the Organization for Rural Associations for Progress. The Foundation was formed in 1998. It works to improve the quality of lives for the economically disadvantaged communities mainly in Matabeleland South, North and the Midlands province. It supports and mobilizes resources for development initiatives coming from the rural communities. However, the provinces, though in need of accelerated development programs, are rich in cultural heritage of their people, have untapped potential as investment hubs. Original funders were the communities, the Carnegie Corporation, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and the United Nations Development Programme. The CFWRZ is the first grantmaking community foundation in Zimbabwe.

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¹ 2008 Community Foundation Global Status Report. Researched and written by Eleanor W. Sacks. Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support.