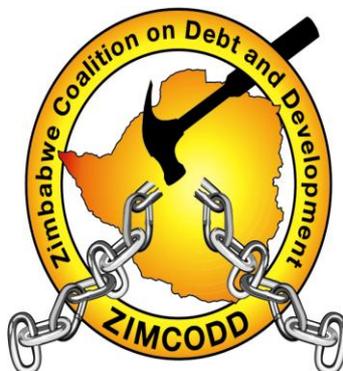


# ZIMBABWE COALITION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT



*Investing In People for Social & Economic Justice*

## CSO Workshop Report on the Eight Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Aid Effectiveness

**Date: 27 November 2014**

**Venue: New Ambassador Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe**



## Introduction

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development in partnership with Reality of Aid (RoA) conducted a Civil Society Organization Workshop on the Eight Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 at New Ambassador Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe. The aim of the workshop was to review and improve on the level of preparedness of Zimbabwean CSOs in participating in the post Busan initiatives on Development Aid Effectiveness and how the Zimbabwean government can create an enabling environment for its implementation as well as CSOs engagement. The event was attended by 39 participants (14 women and 25 men), which included government officials, Civil Society Organizations and general citizens.

The workshop was under the ZIMCODD's strategic objective of creating a platform for discourse around development aid effectiveness.

The specific objectives of the workshop were

- To provide a platform where Zimbabwean CSOs, ordinary citizens, government and donor community can share their experiences on development aid effectiveness through participating in the workshop
- To provide the Zimbabwean citizenry with platform to debate on issues related to the post Busan aid effectiveness.
- To engage with the government and donor community on how to create an enabling environment in the implementation of the Eight Principles and the post Busan agenda.
- To map ways on how Zimbabwean CSOs can participate in international foras on development aid effectiveness.

## Workshop Deliberations

The meeting was conducted in the format of a presentation and plenary discussions by all the participants. The issues that came out from the presentations can be summarised as follows:

### Presentation on the Istanbul principles

Mr Tinashe Gumbo started by giving a brief background of the Istanbul principles. The Open



Mr Tinashe Gumbo giving a presentation

Forum consultations culminated in the adoption of the eight Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness are part of the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness. The principles guide the work and practice of civil society organisations in both peaceful and conflict situations, in different areas of work from grassroots to policy advocacy, and in a continuum from humanitarian emergencies to long term development. The essential

characteristics are that they are voluntary, diverse, non-partisan, autonomous, non-violent and collaborative. The Istanbul Principles were endorsed at the Global Assembly of the Open Forum Istanbul, Turkey (September 2010) and these included:

- **Respect and promote human rights** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they develop and implement strategies, activities and practices that promote individual and collective human rights, including the right to development, with dignity, decent work, social justice and equity for all people. Thus rights can be realised at the personal, social and institutional level by exploring diverse strategies for promoting rights
- **Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girl's rights** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they promote and practise development cooperation embodying gender equity, reflecting women's concerns and experience, while supporting women's efforts to realise their individual and collective rights, participating as fully empowered actors in the development process. There is need to challenge gender stereotypes and understand the complexity and multi-actor dimension in addressing gender inequality
- **Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they support the empowerment and inclusive participation of people to expand their democratic ownership over policies and development initiatives that affect their lives, with an emphasis on the poor and marginalised. There is need for citizen consultation and involvement.
- **Promote environmental sustainability** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they develop and implement priorities and approaches that promote environmental sustainability for present and future generations, including urgent responses to climate crises, with specific attention to socio-economic, cultural and indigenous conditions for ecological integrity and justice. As CSOs we need to promote environmental sustainability through our every day work.
- **Practice transparency and accountability** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they demonstrate a sustained organisational commitment to transparency, multiple accountability, and integrity in their internal operations
- **Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they commit to transparent relationships with CSOs and other development actors, freely and as equals, based on shared development goals and values, mutual respect, trust, organisational autonomy, long term accompaniment, solidarity and global citizenship
- **Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they enhance the ways they learn from their experience, from other CSOs and development actors, integrating evidence from development practice and results, including the knowledge and wisdom of local and indigenous

communities, strengthening innovation and their vision for the future they would like to see.

- **Commit to realizing positive sustainable change** - CSOs are effective as development actors when they collaborate to realise sustainable outcomes and impacts of their development actions, focusing on results and conditions for lasting change for people, with special emphasis on poor and marginalised populations, ensuring an enduring legacy for present and future generations.

## Plenary Discussion



The presentation elicited debate from the lived realities of the participants especially on the issue of non-violence. The participants shared the view that though as human beings, they abhorred violence, there were times when they will be forced to carry out acts of violence in order to defend themselves against over-zealous state or municipal police. However there was general agreement on being non-partisan as civil society activists. It was a common view that being openly partisan could bring unnecessary problems and

suspicious from both the community and the state. Participants highlighted that all the CSOs are implementing the Istanbul principles but face the challenge of selective application of these principles to suit their own personal interests. The participants stated that the principles are very useful in the implementation of developmental projects by civil society organizations.

## Challenges Encountered



Participants highlighted that there are a number of challenges that hinder the effectiveness of development aid. These challenges are drawn from government interference, climate change, and economic meltdown, abuse of human rights, poverty and corruption. Participants highlighted the following challenges:

- Most civil society organizations are labelled as opposition or agents of regime change thereby facing hostile reception by gate keepers from the government. Civil society organizations have a challenge in

addressing national peace, truth and reconciliation among communities due to government negative interference.

- The government and organizations find it difficult to address developmental problems due to lack of funding as most donors are diverting their attention to the Ebola crisis and the conflict in the middle East
- Climate change is also affecting development aid effectiveness due to poverty created by drought. Most citizens rely on agriculture for survival fail to engage on developmental issues focusing on providing for their families.
- Many organizations are characterized by corruption which hinders successful implementation of projects. Organizations fail to account for funds entrusted to them due to lack of transparency and accountability
- Political violence is also affecting development aid effectiveness because the government uses it as a tool to control the citizens. Municipal and the Zimbabwe police uses violence in controlling vendors and commuter operators.
- Development aid is not reaching its intended target due to diverted funds. The Harare City council diverted part of the funds to improve the water treatment at Morton Jaffrey waterworks and purchased luxury cars.
- The resettled community are dying of malnutrition because the soil is not producing any yield to sustain their families.
- The disabled and citizens with HIV face the challenge of being stigmatized and discriminated thereby making it difficult to implement developmental projects.

## **Way Forward**

As way forward participants collectively proffered the following recommendations:

### **Government**

- There is need for the government and CSOs to strengthen their transparency and accountability mechanisms so as to combat corruption.
- Organizations must form synergies with other likeminded partners in the implementation of projects and work together with the government. Civil society organizations can enter Memorandum of understandings with gate keepers such as the council or distinguished ministries so as to reach mutual agreements.
- There is need for the government to respect human rights as enshrined in the new constitution
- The Government must enact an enabling law that protect small scale traders from being abused by ZIMRA, Council and Police officials.
- The Government must fundraise not solely depend on development aid but rather mobilise resources domestically such as using natural resources like diamonds to finance wages and assist other sectors such as health
- There is need to restore the industry sector and lure foreign investors to invest in Zimbabwe

- The government must enact an enabling act that manages and governs disasters(disaster preparedness in outbreaks of diseases that claims many lives)

### **Civil Society Organizations**

- There is need for citizen consultation and participation by both government and the civil society organizations in the implementation of developmental aid.
- There is need for more sensitization on the Istanbul principles so as to Increase awareness among CSOs and ordinary citizens on issues related to development aid effectiveness
- Civil Society Organizations advocate for public education on constitutionalism and human rights issues at early childhood learning (school syllabus) to capacitate the youth and all the citizens on the Zimbabwean law.
- There is need for more sensitization workshops so that citizens can stand up and demand for better service delivery and fight for their rights.
- The government and civil society organizations must implement projects using the Results Based Management model so as to measure the impact of the projects
- There is need for ZIMCDD to come up with follow up meetings so as to monitor and evaluate the impact and progress made by government and CSOs impact of the workshop

### **Conclusion**

The workshop was a success as it managed to address all the objectives. The workshop enabled interaction from diverse communities facing different struggles and issues. The meeting was also highly discursive as it allowed participants to contribute more to the outcome of the meeting without fear. The workshop provided networking opportunities for participants who promised to form collaborations in trying to improve the effectiveness of development aid when implementing their projects. It must be noted that despite adoption of the Istanbul principles by most CSOs there is still need to improve on strategies of implementation by all the relevant stakeholders (government, CSOs and Citizens).

## PARTICIPANTS LIST

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Charumbira	Keith	M	HARA
Chavango	Pretty	F	Journalists
Chikova	Rangarirai	M	ZIMCODD
Chimanikire	Sarudzai	F	Simukai Trust
Chisaira	Tinashe	M	ZIMCODD
Chisoni	Solomon	M	ACPDT
Dube	Edson	M	UMRRF
Dube	Ntombie	F	PLWAS
Gumbo	Tinashe	M	ZIMCODD
Gwayagwaya	Cephas	M	Arda Transau
Kane	Henry	M	ERDA
Kaponda	Simon	M	Simukai Trust
Kaseke	Grace	F	ZIMCODD
Machakaride	Getrude	F	CHIRRA
Manyanya	Masimba	M	Simukai Trust
Mapungu	Ethel	F	Arda Transau
Marimbe	Donald	M	ZIMCODD
Mariwo	Grace	F	NCBDTA
Mhetu	Zivai	M	HARA
Moyo	Melusi		
Mpofu	Thokozile	F	
Msimanga	Nomathamsanga	F	ZCIEA
Mukasa	Debra	F	ZCIEA
Mukwecheni	Sydney	M	Man as Partners
Munguma	Loyd	M	Mutasa Youth Forum
Mupfumwa	Wallace	M	FDPZ
Muranda	Margaret	F	FASO
Musira	Patrick	M	ZEJA
Muzanechita	Mildred	F	Zimrights
Ncube	Sevina	M	BURA
Ndlovu	Humphrey	M	CLS
Ndlovu	Luther	M	ZDMA
Ndoro	Tabeth	F	GPS
Ngwenya	Reason	M	ZCTU
Nyapetwa	Peter	M	ERDA
Nyoni	Tinashe	M	YICET
Sango	Raymond	M	ISO
Sibanda	Bryan	M	CLS
Sibanda	Clarity	F	ZIMCODD