



Confronting Reality Together



ANNUALREPORT

2025

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As we reflect on another year of resilience and growth, I am immensely proud of the profound progress ZiCLAN has made in supporting care leavers across Zimbabwe.

What began as a vision to unite care-experienced individuals has evolved into a nationwide movement that refuses to let any young person fall through the cracks as they transition from alternative care into independent adulthood.

Our journey this past year has proven that when youth are given a voice, they do not just speak—they drive systemic transformation.

Our work in shaping the national After Care Policy has reached pivotal milestones. Moving beyond boardroom discussions, we took our advocacy directly to the ground, conducting extensive regional consultations across both Mashonaland and Matabeleland in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. By ensuring that the lived experiences of care leavers dictate policy frameworks, we are building protective systems that actually work for the people they are meant to shield.

Furthermore, our regional learning exchanges, including our collaborative work with partners like the Kenya Society of Care-Leavers (KESCA), have strengthened our collective advocacy across borders, establishing Zimbabwe as a progressive voice for care reforms in Africa.

True systemic change, however, must be paired with grassroots empowerment.

Through our specialized programs, we have continued to equip young people with the critical life skills, mentorship, and entrepreneurship training needed to thrive. We have intentionally expanded our focus on mental health awareness and psychosocial support, recognizing that healing from institutional trauma and the complex weight of family reintegration is fundamental to long-term success. We are not just helping youth survive; we are giving them the tools to become self-sustaining, confident leaders in their communities.



Despite the persistent financial challenges and a shrinking global aid landscape, our dedication to confronting reality together remains unwavering. Resource constraints have forced us to innovate, but they have never diminished our impact or our resolve. We continue to advocate for child-sensitive national budgeting and localized solutions to guarantee that transition support is gradual, structured, and securely funded.

I am deeply grateful to our resilient members, our local and international partners—including SOS Children's Villages—and our relentless team for their tireless efforts and belief in our mission. Your commitment is the bedrock of our success. Together, we are breaking down barriers, changing legislative landscapes, and building a brighter, more inclusive future where every care leaver in Zimbabwe is valued, supported, and fully equipped to thrive.

Ms. Esther C. Maunze
National Director,
Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network (ZiCLAN)



Overview:

Brief introduction about ZiCLAN, goals, and activities.

The **Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network** (ZiCLAN) is a prominent, youth and care leavers led non-governmental organization and Private Voluntary Organization (PVO 98/20) dedicated to improving the quality of life for children in alternative care and young people transitioning out of child care facilities and foster care across Zimbabwe.

Founded in 2018 following a Youth Employability survey with [SOS Children's Villages Zimbabwe](#), the network operates under the motto "Confronting Reality Together" to bridge the gap in aftercare support when individuals reach the legal adult age of 18.

Strategic Goals & Framework

ZiCLAN focuses on setting up a developmentally-based framework to guide care leavers into self-sustaining adult living.

●Policy Advocacy:

Lobbying the Zimbabwean government to establish flexible, comprehensive policies and institutional structures that commit resources toward gradual, structured care transition.

●Independent Living Preparation:

Bettering the planning and support pipelines for young care leavers before they exit residential care systems and Foster Care in Zimbabwe.

●Socio-Economic Empowerment:

Equipping youth with practical survival skills to build sustainable livelihoods and achieve functional community interdependence.



Key Activities & Core Programs

The network drives impact across four focus areas: housing, education/employment, health, and livelihoods.

- Empowerment and Employment Program (EMEP): Offering skills training, mentorship talks, entrepreneurship training, and career guidance to help youths launch small businesses or secure jobs in public and private sectors.
- National Care Leavers Database: Maintaining a [national data system](#) to track care leaver demographics, allowing the organization to analyze localized needs and design target programs.
- Policy Consultations & Submissions: Working alongside the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to shape national frameworks like the [After Care Policy](#).
- Gender and Health Engagements (GEP): Running exposure camps and training sessions covering sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) protection, and community mental health.

Membership and Activities:

Highlights of member growth, events, and participation.

ZiCLAN's membership is primarily composed of young adults who grew up in orphanages, children's residential facilities, and foster care systems nationwide.

- **Scaling the Network:** Active membership has expanded exponentially from a core group of survey participants to thousands of care leavers across provincial lines.

- **Database Tracking:** ZiCLAN systematically registers new members into a

[national care leaver registry to build targeted support pools.](#)

- **Broad Eligibility:** [Inclusivity extends past institutional care to include children on the move and care-experienced youth facing structural challenges.](#)

Achievements:

Notable successes, projects, or contributions.

The **Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network** (ZiCLAN) has achieved critical milestones in policy reform, legal documentation, and systemic visibility for care-experienced youth in Zimbabwe. By shifting national paradigms, ZiCLAN has placed aftercare support onto the formal legislative agenda.

Policy & Legislative Breakthroughs

ZiCLAN's most significant achievements center on rewriting national care-leaving policies alongside government bodies

- **After Care Policy Drafting Assignment:** Following strategic lobbying, Zimbabwean lawmakers formally tasked ZiCLAN to author the first legal draft and guiding principles for an upcoming After Care Policy.

Field Projects & Structural Contributions

Beyond national policy, ZiCLAN executes targeted field interventions that directly change the life outcomes of care leavers.

- **Legal Documentation Program:** ZiCLAN directly navigated bureaucratic barriers to secure essential birth certificates and national IDs for adult care leavers who were discharged from homes without identity documents.

- **First Nationwide After Care Study:** The network designed and deployed a youth-led, multi-provincial research project to gather empirical data on the socio-economic vulnerabilities of independent living, which is on the finalization stage and we hope to launch it in the year 2026.

- **Research Validation Workshops:** ZiCLAN chairs continuous validation symposia alongside the DSD and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure field data directly structures government welfare budgets.

- **Funeral:** ZiCLAN through its partners managed to bury care leavers who had no traceable relatives through the support of Nyaradzo Funeral Services, Etosha Gardens, DSD and other Care Leavers. On a sad note ZiCLAN lost the former National Director Mr Gift Dzorai.

TRIBUTE TO GIFT DZORAI

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



Confronting Reality Together

Leadership & Structure:

Current executives and roles.



National Director:
Ms Esther C Maunze



Deputy Director:
Ms Nana T Ngwenya



Programs Manager/ HR:
Mr Jeffreys Chasi



Administrator:
Ms Sarudzai Kadera



Gender and Advocacy:
Mr Darlington O Chaparadza



Media and Communication:
Bridget Mashonganyika

Challenges & Lessons:

What didn't go as planned and what was learnt.

- ZiCLAN continues to face financial challenges as the donor spaces are shrinking daily.
- We are failing to have substantial office space due to financial problems.
- We are failing to coordinate our work and commit as all of the staff are on voluntary bases.
- We have failed to give care leavers the much needed direct support.
- We failed to come up with a board and hope to change that in the coming year.

Lessons

- We have learnt to think outside the box on how we can finance our programming by focusing on local cooperative world.
- We need to advocate for Care Leavers at least to come forward to those who do not have identification documents so that we can help each other.
- We need to advocate for care leavers to join funeral policy.

Future Plans:

Goals for the next year 2026.

- To work on finishing the After Care Policy
- To host our annual National Conference
- To commemorate day of the African Child by doing a walk in the City Center of Harare

Partnerships:

Collaborations with other orgs.

- SOS Children's Villages Zimbabwe
- SOS Children's Villages Regional Office
- Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare
- Nyaradzo Group
- Etosha Memorial Gardens
- Aranea Media (Pvt) Ltd

Financial Summary:

Basic income/expense report (if applicable)

- We have not managed a grant this year though we got financial support from partners.

Programs Manager Closing Remarks

As we come to the close of the 2025 programming year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has walked this journey with the Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network family. This year has been a year of growth, learning, resilience, and impact. Together, we have continued to strengthen the voices of care leavers and advocate for a future where every young person transitioning from care is supported, empowered, and given equal opportunities to thrive.

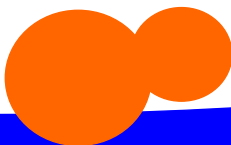
Through our programs, partnerships, and community engagements, we have witnessed lives being transformed. We have created spaces for young people to share their experiences, develop skills, access mentorship, and actively participate in national conversations affecting their lives.

The commitment shown by our members, volunteers, partners, government departments, and stakeholders has been the driving force behind every success we celebrate today.

2025 also reminded us that the work ahead remains important. Many care leavers still face challenges related to education, employment, psychosocial support, housing, and social inclusion. However, the progress we have made together gives us hope and confidence that change is possible when we work collectively and remain committed to our vision.

As Program Manager, I am proud of the dedication and passion demonstrated by the ZiCLAN team throughout the year. Your tireless efforts, sacrifices, and determination continue to inspire the movement and strengthen our mission. I also extend special appreciation to our partners and supporters who believed in our work and invested in the empowerment of care leavers across Zimbabwe. Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to expanding our impact, strengthening advocacy efforts, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and contributing towards policy development that protects and uplifts care leavers. Together, we will continue building a future where no young person leaves care without support, dignity, and hope.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and commitment to the ZiCLAN vision. May we continue to stand together, grow together, and create lasting change together.



Mr Jeffreys Chasi
Programs Manager,
Zimbabwe Care Leavers Network (ZiCLAN)
2025 Year End



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