



CHRYSTAL BONXO

HER VOICE FUND AMBASSADOR,
ZIMBABWE

Chrystal Bonxo is a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) advocate passionate about adolescent health. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in Gender Studies, History and Politics from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She is also the founder of Dzidzo SafePad, an organization that works to improve and address menstrual poverty amongst adolescent girls living in vulnerable communities. Currently, Chrystal is serving as the HER VOICE FUND Ambassador for Zimbabwe. She aspires to use this platform to amplify the voices of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in accessing universal reproductive health services to achieve health equity.

CONTACT DETAILS

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ACHIEVEMENTS

As the HER Voice Fund Ambassador, Chrystal had the pleasure of meeting with the UNAIDS Country Director for Zimbabwe, Dr Sophia Mukasa Monico to discuss the work HER Voice Fund is currently doing in Zimbabwe. She elaborated on the various projects HER Voice Fund is doing to accelerate the uptake of HIV prevention, care and treatment for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) as well as advocacy for the access of inclusive and youth friendly SRHR services at community and national level. During the meeting, UNAIDS Zimbabwe made resolutions to support the work HER Voice is doing through continued multi-stakeholder engagement. The meeting was productive as it opened up the prospect of future collaborations and program support as well linking and connecting between HER Voice Fund Grantees and UNAIDS Zimbabwe.



As part of her work as HER Voice Fund Ambassador for Zimbabwe, Chrystal conducted capacity building training workshops on AGYW and LGBTQ women on SRHR advocacy. The advocacy training workshops were done at HOPE for Adolescents and Youth and Youth Gate Trust Zimbabwe in Harare. The two training sessions involved the deliberate involvement of marginalized groups as they also shared their experiences of advocating for inclusive and youth friendly SRHR services. Issues on safety during advocacy were discussed at length with various recommendations given to help protect LGBTQ women and AGYW as they tackle SRHR and HIV advocacy. During the training session, a support group was created to create an online community for support as LGBTQ women navigate life in Zimbabwe as marginalized persons.



With Zimbabwe reporting new high HIV infection amongst AGYW aged between 15 to 24 years and through the support of the HER Voice Fund, Chrystal participated and contributed to the development of the HIV Risk Assessment tool. This was facilitated by HOPE for Youth and Adolescent. The development of the Risk Assessment tool was an important experience as it included the direct involvement of AGYW. The Risk Assessment toolkit was collectively developed and approved for use on community led monitoring activities. The AGYW present for this development were also trained on how to conduct risk assessments as well as collate, compile and interpret the information received.

Social Media engagement to amplify HER Voice Fund activities and advocacy engagement;

- Women for global fund advocacy pledge to get women and girls back on track. #FightForWhatCounts.
- 7th replenishment means supporting adolescent girls and young women to access health services

