

Women for Change (WFC)

Women for Change has a strong presence among remote rural communities in western, southern and central provinces of Zambia. It assures that the voices of these women are heard.

Who is Women for Change?

Women for Change, WFC, is a dynamic non-profit organisation targeting women groups in rural communities. It was formed in 1992 with the intention to focus on gender sensitisation, awareness raising, mobilisation, consultative forums, monitoring, advocacy and lobbying, information dissemination, training and networking. However, over the years, as a result of the changing social, economic and political situation, it became necessary to adopt Human Rights and economic empowerment programmes as well. It is engaged in strengthening existing community structures (such as burial societies) to expand their knowledge base and to enable them to act as resources and facilitative mechanisms for the community at large.

What does Women for Change stand for?

Women for Change is committed to working with and empowering remote rural women communities through gender analysis, Popular Education Methodologies (PEM) and advocacy to contribute towards the eradication of all forms of poverty. WFC embraces several thematic areas to empower women:

- gender analysis and awareness raising
- human rights education, good governance and advocacy
- economic empowerment and co-operatives development
- overall rural child and youth development
- poverty eradication and sustainable human development
- HIV/AIDS

What does Women for Change do?

On the daily basis, WFC is involved in empowering those women groups in rural communities by:

- discussing and sharing ideas what freedom means to them and guide them to take control over their own life
- assisting with setting up and building local community structures to raise their voices and challenge their situations
- advocating (the number of women in leadership positions have grown to 30%)

Women for Change-NiZA partnership

Women for Change is an active member of NiZA's Gender Cluster within the Human Rights Programme. It has strong link with organisations in the rural areas of Zambia, which makes it a valuable partner to make the voices of the rural women heard.

In 2004, NiZA funded a training workshop to train staff of Women for Change the Human Rights Training Manual, which introduced the new Human Rights Education programme. Its purpose is to enhance traditional rulers' knowledge of Basic Human Rights and skills to manage their affairs in a democratic manner. Also, the financial management of WFC was improved by desk studies and in-house training on financial administrative and accounting procedures. Together with the Gender Cluster members, through various activities, the

advocating capacity of organisations was improved.

In 2005, NiZA funds the further improvement of WFC's advocacy capacity by a Cluster Exchange between WFC and RDSN on content activities. To strengthen management performance, workshops will be held in three provinces to introduce Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to the WFC programmes. Furthermore, to improve the training capacity of WFC, the team will receive training on paralegal activities and how to empower gender communities in rural areas.