

Peace building and Capacity Development Foundation (PACDEF)

Background

Established as a Trust in 2006 and registered as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) Reg. No.59/2015. PACDEF has nine years' experience in peacebuilding, governance, human rights and women empowerment programming at both national and local levels. PACDEF's vision is a society of free citizens who are well informed of their rights and obligations work together and care for each other fostering principles of good governance. PACDEF's mission is development of communities in conflict management, local governance and human rights through participatory community platforms, civic education, re-search, lobby and advocacy and networking for a conducive environment that facilitates peace, inclusive development and sustainable livelihoods. PACDEF has successfully implemented programs funded by the International Rescue Committee, Weltfriedensdienste V (WFD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), AA Fund Germany, US Embassy, Inter-church Cooperation (ICCO) and UN Women.

PACDEF has worked with leadership in grassroots communities and established Community Forums (CFs). PACDEF has also worked with leadership and citizens in Mutare City promoting accountability and human rights through citizen engagement using e- governance for good service delivery. It has extensive experience in peace building, governance and human rights. The organization has also established Women Peace Committees to ensure integration of gender and security in community interventions. PACDEF continues to leverage in existing community structures established during implementation of other programs, established relationship through signed MOUs with provinces and existing relationships with NGOs operating in the democracy and governance space.

PACDEF has a talented team with vast experience and intellectual ability in democracy and governance issues including knowledge on both local and international electoral processes. The team is led by the Executive Director; a Finance Manager; a Project Coordinator; a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; a Strategic Technical Lead who works on a consultancy; and finally, provincial Officers who facilitate projects implementation at a Provincial level. PACDEF has offices and a civic training centre in Mutare, as well as movable assets worth over US\$1 000 000.00. The organization has a sound financial accountability framework and has had its financial statements audited by reputable audit firms over the years.

PACDEF is proposing to do a governance project in 3 provincial capitals: Masvingo in Masvingo Province, Marondera in Mashonaland East, and Gwanda in Matebeleland South Province. The project will focus accountability and human rights.

Project Aim and Objectives

This project aims to increase citizen participation in democratic processes and improve civil society's ability to advocate for increased government accountability through two key objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To support citizen demand for greater responsiveness and accountability from local government **in the protection of their rights.**
- **Objective 2:** To strengthen local government capacity and incentives to engage with citizens, respond to their needs and protect their rights.

Expected Outcomes

The project's two objectives are guided by two theories of change which outline the expected changes and outcomes:

1. *If citizens have access to a safe and reliable platform for reporting concerns around their fundamental human rights, and if those concerns are followed up by the relevant entities, citizens will be more likely to invest in constructive dialogue with their local authorities about these and more sensitive rights issues and demand greater responsiveness from their elected leaders.*
2. *If local government officials are adequately trained and supported to address their constituents' fundamental human rights, officials will be more confident in their ability to address these and more sensitive rights concerns and more likely to safeguard the rights of citizens.*

The objectives of this project are

1. To give information and develop skills which strengthen citizen capacity to demand their rights.
2. To provide platforms for leadership dialogue to discuss and solve issues affecting communities
3. To facilitate citizen engagements with their local leaders to demand accountability

Context

A new political dispensation is witnessed in Zimbabwe today after the Zimbabwe National Army with the support of the people forcibly took over control of government leading to the resignation of the state president.

Strategies and Activities

