

# People 4 Change Zambia Newsletter



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## ABOUT P4C

The People4Change (P4C) programme has been instrumental in strengthening the capacities of local partners, social movements and the Global Platform Zambia Network.

Since 2022, P4C has contributed to enhancing the capacities of over 27 social movements and 5 youth-led organisations in Zambia through the Inspirator placement programme. Over 1000 young people have been reached through mentorship, coaching, peer-to-peer learning and through trainings.

P4C programme has remained Global Platform Zambia's flagship capacity unity for local partners in transforming and promoting a feminist, green and open democratic space while ensuring that youth capacities are strengthened.

P4C has been able to provide resources, technical support, as well as learning opportunities for Inspirators and Advisors to enhance their capacities as they support local partners and social movements.

Inspirators and advisors are volunteers of the P4C programme who bring a wealth of technical expertise and practical experiences in capacity development of youth led organisations and social movements.

# Young People Building Resilience to Climate and Economic Shocks

*By Sonala Banda*



Twenty-five (25) young farmers from a youth group, supported by Muchinga Corridors Zambia (MCZ) in Sesheke District, are leading the way in building resilience to climate and economic shocks. With support from the Ministry of Agriculture in Sesheke District, they established a garden at the Farmer's Training Centre to grow tomatoes and maize, creating a lifeline for food security and income in the face of rising youth unemployment and climate shocks. Through agroecological practices like mulching for water conservation and using natural pesticides made from neem and chilli, they are not only adapting to drought and poor soils but also promoting sustainable farming rooted in local knowledge and innovation. These efforts build on trainings on water conservation and integrated pest management by Muchinga Corridors, a youth-led organisation supported by SPA II.

# Young Women Shaping Their Own Resilience

*By James Sebente*



Despite the unfavourable climatic conditions and sandy soils of Gwembe District that pose a major threat to agricultural livelihoods, in September 2025, two young Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's), namely Palace and Shelter, of Sompani community joined forces to embark on a pearl millet farming venture. It is worthy of note

that pearl millet is a highly climate resilient and nutrient-rich crop, and hence an alternative to conventional, drought and disease-prone crops such as the genetically modified maize crop. As such, this initiative embodies resilience and sustainability, which are critical for livelihoods in climate-vulnerable areas such as Gwembe District. By opting for self-empowerment and self-sustenance, this inspiring story of these two young women demonstrates the intrinsic ability of young



people to lead on their own protection by circumventing protection risks such as child marriages, teen pregnancies, commercial sex work, and Gender Based Violence through economic empowerment of self.

This alternative solution was co-created by the Global Platform, local partners and young farmers as a countermeasure against prolonged droughts, pest infestations and limited practice of crop diversification by farmers in the community. Additionally, it was created as a resilience strategy in the event of a massive maize crop failure, which is common in the Gwembe District, thereby alleviating disaster-induced poverty. The alternative solution is mainly attributed to the continuous capacity strengthening support provided to young people, IDPs and host communities in protracted crises under the SPA II programme.



# Activist Writing Academy

By Mary Mwaba



In August 2025, Global Platform Zambia, with support from GOLD/MOVE through the P4C Capacity Unit, convened an Activist Writing Academy. The initiative aimed to strengthen the voice, visibility, and influence of youth activists, leaders of youth-led social movements, and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). The initiative responded to a growing gap within African civic and social justice spaces the scarcity of indigenous, movement-led literature that reflects lived realities, and evolving organising strategies. While African activists continue to drive transformative change, their stories, lessons, and frameworks remain under-documented and under-referenced within mainstream advocacy and academic spaces.

The Activist Writing Academy equipped participants with practical writing and documentation skills to help them influence public narratives, amplify grassroots struggles, and advocate more effectively for social change. Storytelling for social change, writing for campaigns and social media, and writing to influence change, were among the covered sessions. A key highlight of the Academy was the 'Drafting Room', a hands-on, peer-to-peer learning space where participants practiced their writing by developing written pieces grounded in their lived experiences and receiving constructive feedback to refine their work. This process reinforced a movement mindset one that values shared knowledge, reflection, and collective authorship.

The P4C Capacity Unit and MOVE/GOLD contributed to building a structured platform where African activists can document their histories, shape narratives from their own perspectives, and contribute to a growing body of African-led literature that future movements, organisers, and institutions can learn from and reference. The Activist Writing Academy affirmed that writing is not just a skill, but a tool of power central to movement building, memory, and long-term political change.

# Repositioning Youth Movements as Credible Partners in Political Participation

By Mary Mwaba



Zambia's political landscape stands at a crossroads especially for young women and young people more broadly. Across communities, media spaces, and political platforms, the call is loud and familiar:

young people must step up and lead. Yet a lingering question remains: How are young women expected to take up spaces in political leadership?

In August 2025, Young Minds Africa, in partnership with Youth4Parliament (Y4P), Girls Gone Political (GGP), and Global Platform Zambia, joined hands to bring Model Parliament Africa to Zambia. The initiative was implemented in Zambia as a regional programme designed to create opportunities for into political participation for young people, particularly young women who are often told to lead but rarely shown the way. It created a practical and inspiring platform where young women could experience what political leadership looks like in action. Participants were introduced to the workings of Parliament, including the roles of parliamentarians, parliamentary codes of conduct, standing orders, motion drafting, and structured debates. Beyond the chamber, the programme also strengthened skills in campaigning, organising, public speaking, and civic leadership, critical tools for those preparing to engage meaningfully in democratic processes ahead of the 2026 general elections.

This collaboration demonstrated a powerful shift brought about through Global Platform (GP) Zambia's facilitation, in which the two youth-led social movements were identified as credible local partners based on their organising experience, leadership credibility, and strong grassroots reach among young women. Their involvement demonstrated how sustained capacity building can transform informal collectives into agile, trusted partners capable of delivering complex governance and leadership programmes.

Model Parliament also affirmed the value of movement-led approaches to political participation. It showed that when young women are given access, skills, and supportive platforms, they do not just imagine leadership they practice it.

# Youth Leading Social Accountability in Mpulungu

By Bri'An Mphande



In the era of accountability and transparency, marked by high cases of corruption, there is a clear need for community participation in national development.

Support from the P4C programme has been instrumental in building the

capacity of local residents in leading social accountability interventions. This was the case in Mwenda, a community that lies between Mpulungu and Mbala districts of Northern Province, in August 2025.

With support from the Inspirator, a Global Platform Associate Trainer, Tapiwa Lukuta, and Dzuka Cholinga Youth Zambia (DCZ), young people in Mwenda were provided with technical guidance in their preparation for an Interface meeting with various duty-bearers who were identified

as being relevant in the provision of services that were in short supply. This was done through a rights awareness session with the community members and a session with the locally based service providers from the rural health facility who shared their experiences.



The interface engagement meeting with civic leaders and duty-bearers resulted in shaping and addressing systemic challenges in the provision of public services to the communities in the district. Key issues raised included the absence of developed infrastructure (roads, telecommunications network, electricity, and water systems), the prevalence of early and child marriages and abuse due to poor parenting and weak response systems, and as well as the lack of a police post/station to enhance security.

Through the interface meeting, commitments were made by the respective duty-bearers to help address the identified issues of priority in the community. Commitments included the district health staff's support for Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, and the establishment of a police post by the Mpulungu District Police In-charge. In the later months, this commitment was followed by collaborated visits by police officers from the Mpulungu district, thereby boosting the security in the area.



# When Context-Relevant Humanitarian Assistance Meets Youth Innovation

*By James Sebente*



Sompani, a village long known for its prolonged dry spells, is a community in which young farmers have been stripped of their main source of livelihood. In response to the problems of water scarcity, the Youth and Women-led Drought Response Project under SPA II supported the community by installing a waterpoint, which marked a turning point for transformation. With agroecological knowledge and sufficient water supply in close proximity, a group of 10 young farmers shifted from overdependence on rainfed agriculture to small-scale irrigation farming, growing maize, cabbage, okra and tomatoes.

With the influx of stable income, the group soon realized the urgent need to wisely manage it. To this end, the group registered as a savings group. As a result, they are now able to access small interest loans, thereby shielding them from food and income loss. The savings are also meant to be used for future investments and as a



contingency in times of emergencies. Suffice to say, what started as a humanitarian response to the El Nino-induced drought unlocked a pathway to economic independence and safer coping options, thereby ensuring resilience and protection of young people and women who are mostly perceived as mere recipients of humanitarian aid.

## MEET THE SPA II TEAM OF 2025



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