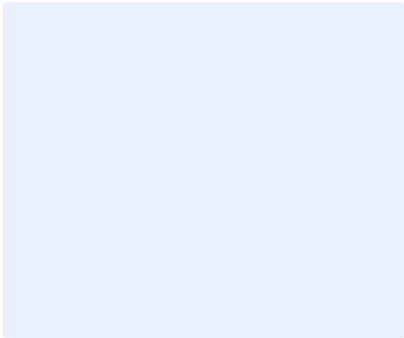
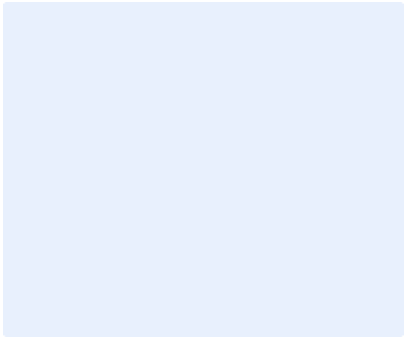


RESULTS SUMMARY

Award-winning Youth Influence in Zimbabwe

Author: PlanBørnefonden (2026) Find project on OpenAid

PROJECT	<i>Title:</i> Safe and Inclusive Cities (Part of Youth Driving Change) <i>Partner:</i> Youth Ensemble, Dialogue on Shelter Trust, Zizo Motion Pictures, Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Organization, Mbilez24, Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust, and Plan International Zimbabwe <i>Country:</i> Zimbabwe <i>Period:</i> January 2022 – Ongoing
CHANGE	12,709 young people and 155 youth-led groups have been empowered as drivers of change through the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme. The programme has engaged young participants and youth-led partners in urban Harare and Bulawayo to drive and influence change at societal level, in programme decision-making, as well as in global approaches in Plan International. In recognition of this, the project won Plan International’s Global Point of Impact Award 2025 in the main category of Meaningful Youth Engagement.
CONTEXT	Youth influence in Zimbabwe happens in a repressed civic space with increasing pressure on civil society to comply with strict government regulations and risks related to civic participation and advocacy, particularly for women and girls. Young people in urban settings face increasing fragility due to economic hardships and the impact of repeated climate shocks. In this context, amplifying youth voices requires integrated programming that strengthens resilience, economic independence, and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights.
CONTRIBUTION	PlanBørnefonden, Plan Zimbabwe, and our local partners have collaborated closely in developing and sharing the award winning approach, integrating youth influence and meaningful engagement with resilience, economic independence, and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights. Our impact evidence demonstrates increased youth agency and leadership across programme components resulting from deliberate efforts by all partners to engage young people in programme decision-making, implementation and regular reviews.
IMAGES	 Insert photo credit  Insert photo credit

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

All local partners have contributed to ensuring meaningful youth engagement and leadership across components, however, the activities of our youth-led partners deserve to be showcased as they also illustrate what this looks like in practice. For example, Zizo Motion Pictures, one youth-led partner, trains young parliamentarians and youth from marginalised urban communities, particularly young women, as participants to build skills in leadership, digital advocacy and social accountability enabling them to claim their rights and voice as agents of change. As leaders they identify and drive advocacy efforts and actively influence local policy processes. Youth Ensemble, another youth-led partner, established a youth-friendly revolving fund offering seed capital and support to existing youth-led businesses which otherwise lack access to funding.

LESSONS

Three overall lessons arise from developing and testing the approach: 1) Including a broad spectrum of young people and recognising their diversity is essential to understanding and addressing young people's different needs and group dynamics. 2) It is necessary to have adaptive processes and youth-led monitoring in order to enable adjustments to youth engagement through real-time feedback from young programme participants. 3) Developing a youth engagement taskforce as part of the programme governance structure strengthened accountability, ensuring youth influence across programme design, implementation, and reporting. The meaningful youth engagement approach has shaped Plan Zimbabwe's Country Strategy and Plan International's global guide on "Meaningful Engagement of Youth" (2025) adapts approaches from PlanBørnefonden's Youth Programme Development Guide.

EVIDENCE

2025 outcome level results indicated strengthened advocacy capacity of young people as well as a 17% increase in responsiveness of local leaders and policy-makers, illustrated by 50% of decision-making institutions allocating budgets to support youth activities. At partner level, Zizo Motion Picture's work led to improved recreational spaces and youth representation in policy fora. 58% of female participants are now active in community structures, budget consultations, junior councils, and parliamentary portfolios, challenging harmful gender norms and fostering more inclusive and equitable communities. Two young female participants were elected as Members of Parliament under the Youth Quota, and another became Mayoress of Harare in 2023. Youth Ensemble's revolving fund has provided funds and tailored training for aspiring entrepreneurs, with young people co-designing the fund model, tracking loans, monitoring feedback systems, and mentoring peers to strengthen accountability and learning.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Insert strategy priority

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

YES

Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights

YES

Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights

YES

Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights

YES

Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

YES

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

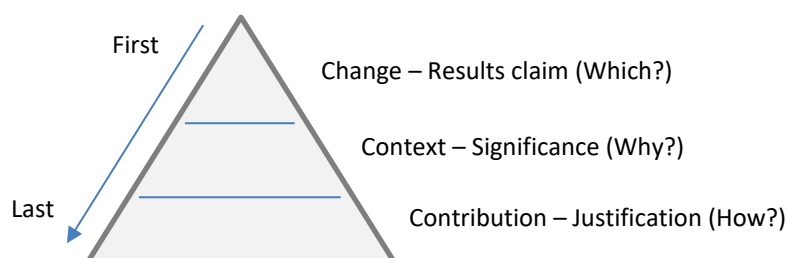
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project’s contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- **Activities:** Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- **Lessons:** Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- **Evidence:** A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- **Domains and development strategy:** Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.

