



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations



LGDA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY STATEMENT (2022)

“We can no longer view our youth only within the prism of their potential in an unnamed future. Neither can our narratives on the young generation continue to be tainted by an impression that our young people are misguided.” President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Lower Gुरुve Development Association (LGDA) and its partners the Civic Forum on Human Development and Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups (FACHIG) under the UNWOMEN Spotlight Initiative joins the whole world in commemorating the International Youth Day. This year’s (2022) commemorations are being held under the theme: **“Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”**. On this day, awareness of some of the hurdles that stand in the way of intergenerational solidarity, such as ageism, which affects both young and elderly people and has negative consequences for society as a whole, is raised. This day is renowned for recognizing the importance and hard work of the youth, draw attention to the cultural and legal issues surrounding our youth and to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind. International Youth Day is one of the most important days to promote different ways to engage the young generation of our world to help them contribute more to our communities and society.

On 17 December 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/81).

Ageism continues to present a substantial challenge to nurturing collaboration and solidarity across age groups. The World Health Organization defines ageism as “the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) directed towards others or oneself, based on age. Additionally, ageism regularly intersects with other forms of bias (such as racism and sexism) and impacts people in ways that prevent them from reaching their full potential and comprehensively contribute to their community.

Cognizant of the fact that youths in the rural areas epitomize a disadvantaged and marginalized social group and taking note that the youths form the mainstream of the global poor, the vulnerable and the unemployed, **LGDA and its partners are**, therefore, pro-poor and pro-youth in their programming.

As partner organizations, our programming is informed by a two-pronged strategy. While we believe in youth participation through sustained dialogue, we are also sensitive to the need for gender mainstreaming. In any planned action, it should always be important to assess the implications for women and girls. **LGDA and partners’** strategies are to make young women and girls’ concerns and experiences become an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all





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economic and societal spheres. Young women and young men must equally benefit so that the inequality historically suffered by women, is not perpetrated.

The organizations supported International Youth Day commemorations held in Guruve and Muzarabani Districts which provided a platform for stakeholders and youths to exchange views on intergenerational solidarity, intergenerational equity, future generations, and ageism. To ensure inclusivity, the commemorations featured speakers from civil society, while ensuring age, regional and gender representation. Special consideration was given to youth at the intersection of multiple vulnerable situations.

LGDA and its partners make the following commitments:

- ❖ Advocate for girl child's rights to be realized and enjoyed.
- ❖ Fight to reduce opportunities for harmful practices as transactional sex which promotes exploitation of the girl child.
- ❖ Collaborate and coordinate partners to avail practical help and support every abused child to cope, recover and rebuild their lives.
- ❖ Raise awareness in communities on the dignity and worth of girl child in order to nip ill-perceptions towards the girl child in the bud.
- ❖ Ensure specific response to prevent and address abuse and gender-based violence.
- ❖ To ensure that both the girl-child and the boy-child are provided with the equal opportunities to realize their full potential in future.
- ❖ To amplify the voices of youth and uplifting them as active members in their communities.
- ❖ Pledges to ensure meaningful and active participation of youth in developmental initiatives.
- ❖ To equip young people with skills, methods and knowledge needed to take self-reliant actions that improve their lives and conditions in their communities.

Moreover, it is our collective responsibility to elevate young voices.

