

Towards An Inclusive National COVID-19 Response



Bulawayo Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with the Bulawayo Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Thursday 11 February 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

- Provide space for engagement of youth with the Bulawayo Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
- Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
- Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

- Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
- Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
- Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19; and
- Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Bulawayo Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for Government, Private Sector and Civil Society
Strengthening governance mechanism to effectively leverage the roles and contributions of youth	1. Enhanced consultations of young people with deliberate inclusion of youth from the province in the provincial taskforce to ensure youth voices and opinions are readily available prior to decision making
Transport system inaccessibility and inadequacy	2. The public transport system needs to be accessible to persons with disability . The procurement of buses needs to be done with this in mind to make sure inclusion is achieved. There are inadequate public buses and government should open up this space so that citizens are served and are not exposed to COVID-19 in overloaded buses.
Inclusion of Young People with Disabilities	3. Mainstream disability education (especially sign language) for security personnel manning police checkpoints (roadblocks) and for health service providers. The provincial taskforce needs a disability quota system at all taskforce levels.
Enhanced service delivery	4. Water provision needs to be immediately improved as young women are exposed to COVID-19 as they fetch water at public points as well as face sexual abuse when fetching water for their families.
Education	5. A concerted effort needs to be made to ensure children and youth from marginalized communities have access to the internet and other provisions that can facilitate online learning .
Corruption	6. An effort needs to be made to curb underhand dealings that involve law enforcement . Shebeens and drug peddling were continuing under the watch of law enforcement despite reports being made to law enforcement.
Access to information	7. Information needs to be accessible for all segments of society . Procedures that are supposed to be followed at police checkpoints (roadblocks) need to be clear so that citizens are not taken advantage of and so that law enforcement does not feel the wrath of a frustrated citizen due to information asymmetry. concerted effort needs to be made to ensure children and youth from marginalized communities have access to the internet and other provisions that can facilitate online learning. A toll free provincial hotline needs to be available and known by citizens to allow for complaints, feedback and recommendations.

YETT envisages a just, inclusive, and prosperous society where young people fully participate and lead in sustainable development.

For More Information

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Harare Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with the Harare Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Thursday 11 February 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Harare Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

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2. Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19;and
4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Harare Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for Provincial Taskforce
Youth Livelihoods	1. Supporting youth-owned micro, small to medium scale enterprises. The taskforce needs to prioritise informal traders infrastructure following the demolition of stalls during the lockdown. Informal traders who lost their market stalls are now struggling to access markets and has left them at the mercy of “mafias” who own most of available market stalls.
COVID-19 relief support	2. Efficient and Transparent COVID-19 Relief Distribution. The taskforce needs to ensure that distribution of COVID-19 relief support food-aid, buckets, sanitisers, masks is done efficiently and details of beneficiaries are made public for transparency and accountability.
Inclusion of Young People with Disabilities	3. Disability Friendly COVID-19 Response. The taskforce needs to mainstream disability and increase engagement of youth with disability. Young people need to be effectively and efficiently included in design, implementation and review of policy. The taskforce needs a disability quota system at all taskforce levels.
Education	4. Equal Education. A concerted effort needs to be made to ensure youth in higher and tertiary education have access to the internet and other provisions that can facilitate online learning.
Access to information	5. Use of comprehensive messaging channels including television, radio and social media needs to be considered. Community centres and public spaces need to have posters that share critical information and critical contacts. Community-based awareness campaigns should be amplified through deliberate collaborations among the relevant government departments and Faith Based Organisations.

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Manicaland Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Manicaland Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Tuesday 16 March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Manicaland Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

1. Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
2. Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19; and
4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Manicaland Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for the Provincial Taskforce
Access to health services	1. Ensure continued access to health services during lockdown. The government needs to ensure access to health services is available and accessible for all citizens during emergency situations. COVID-19 testing was unaffordable for most citizens and this needs to be reasonably priced. This can increase corruption as citizens get letters stating that they are negative without the requisite testing due to steep testing costs.
Youth Livelihoods	2. Post-lockdown support for youth owned micro, small to medium scale enterprises. The government needs to offer coping and recovery support for informal economy actors. Informal economy actors have struggled to pay rentals due to disruption of their business and the government moratorium on rentals is not being respected in communities. Some informal traders lost their market spaces due to failure to pay rent and local councils need to be engaged to be more sensitive to citizens.
Inclusion in programs and access to information	3. Disability Inclusive COVID-response. The taskforce should enforce disability inclusive messaging and inclusion of youth with disability in its COVID-19 response.
Equal access to humanitarian aid	4. The Taskforce should facilitate equal access to COVID-19 relief aid such as food ,buckets, sanitisers, masks. Participants in the dialogue reported that humanitarian aid was distributed unfairly in rural areas with some Village Heads and Chiefs distributing items on partisan grounds.
Enforcement of COVID-19 ,lockdown regulations	5. Publicise Public Complaints Mechanism's taskforce needs to publicise platforms which the public can use to report complaints against conduct of law-enforcement officers enforcing COVID-19 regulations. Youth appeared to be targeted for harassment despite having exemption letters and this has reduced youth faith in law enforcement.
Education	6. Support Post-Lockdown Recovery of the Education Sector . The taskforce needs to prioritise a sensitive and reasonable recovery program for youth in tertiary institutions. The inclusion of the private sector and civil society in assisting students to catch up with school and their programs needs to be initiated and supported. The idea of schools demanding fee despite no learning having taken place needs to be revisited and addressed.
Drug abuse and mental health	7. Promoting Youth Mental Health & Well Being. The taskforce needs to undertake coordinated drug campaigns that target drug kingpins and arrest law enforcement officials who are receiving bribes from these kingpins. Mental health support for youth needs to be budgeted and provided whilst also prioritising rehabilitation for youth who have been involved in drug and substance abuse.

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Mashonaland Central Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Mashonaland Central Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Tuesday 23 February 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Mashonaland Central Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

1. Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
2. Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19; and
4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Mashonaland Central Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce
<i>Service Delivery</i>	1. Fighting Stigma and Discrimination Associated with COVID-19. The taskforce needs to conduct awareness campaigns for public health staff and citizens to fight stigma associated with COVID-19. Long waiting periods and fear of patients characterised hospitals which pushed youth and their families to seek their own remedies for COVID-19 management.
<i>Corruption and Bribery</i>	2. Zero Tolerance to Corruption. There needs to be awareness on corruption and monitoring of the checkpoints. Checkpoints were highlighted as hubs of corruption with overloaded cars being allowed to pass which increased risk of COVID-19 spread.
<i>Livelihood and employment</i>	3. Coordinate resuscitation of youth-owned micro, small to medium scale enterprises. There needs to be increased financial support and development of recovery programs for youth in business. The lockdown restrictions led to loss of business through limited ability to access inputs and limited access to markets.
<i>Price hikes of basic commodities</i>	4. Protect Consumers from unethical business practises. The taskforce needs to engage the private sector on the unreasonable price hikes of basic commodities. Youth and their families struggled to access basic commodities that increased during the lockdown periods with no safety nets available for vulnerable families in rural communities.
<i>Meaningful engagement of youth in COVID-19 response structures</i>	5. Facilitate Youth Representation in provincial COVID-19 response structures. The government needs to develop and enforce youth inclusion initiatives in the COVID-19 response structures, institutions and processes. The meaningful engagement and consultation of youths in any emergency situation needs to be taken as a priority by all government and governance institutions.
<i>Youth Relief Programs</i>	6. Promote transparency and Efficiency in disbursement of youth relief support. The taskforce needs to ensure disbursement of any support funds are done efficiently. This will ensure beneficiaries access funds before the value is eroded by inflation. The slow pace of disbursement as well as limited access to information on such programs lead to the growth of perceptions around corruption and nepotism. Information on how much was disbursed, when and to whom should also be made public to promote transparency and accountability.
<i>Access to information</i>	7. Critical information needs to be available and accessible for young people with disability. Government needs to publish material in recognized local languages. The government needs to better coordinate information and protocol in it's departments as the confusion that was there led to unfair treatment of citizens as demonstrated in demolitions of infrastructure that took place as well as closure of shops amidst unclear protocol.

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Mashonaland East Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Mashonaland East Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Wednesday 31 March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

- Provide space for engagement of youth with the Mashonaland East Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
- Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
- Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

- Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
- Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
- Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19;and
- Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Mashonaland East Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce
Youth Livelihoods	1. Coordinated support for youth in business needs to be effected and publicized. Youth in agriculture need to be supported with market access during emergency periods to avoid post harvest losses that occurred during the lockdown. The taskforce needs to provide letters and support for young people to transport their business inputs from Harare to Mashonaland East.
Corruption	2. There needs to be elimination of oppressive and unfair practices at security checkpoints. Corruption was rife during the lockdown with participants stating that letters of travel were required to “top up” with a bribe.
Disruption of education system	3. Inclusion of young people and students in the planning and administration of education needs to be prioritised. The disjointed educated system and disruption of school calendar negatively affected learners. The E-Learning platforms were ineffective and inaccessible for some learners which meant some learners failed to catch up. The taskforce needs to prioritize continual engagement of learners for collaborative policy development.
Loss of employment and provision of Safety Nets	4. A deliberate effort and program to support youth who lost employment needs to be taken up. Some youth are employees and lost jobs to the lockdown and loss of business. Some received salary cuts as they were not attending work daily and these need to be supported so that they are able to support their families. The provincial taskforce needs to engage the private sector to develop relevant packages for youth who might have erratic income streams. The increased cases of young women and girls eloping to escape poverty should be addressed through providing safety nets and specific support programs. Government needs to improve its identification and targeting of vulnerable families when targeting families to provide with food aid so that it is inclusive and relevant.
Mental Health, Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence	5. The government needs to prioritise developing a comprehensive and well coordinated fight against drug and substance abuse. Coupled with this, mental health support programs and provision of infrastructure and services to deal with mental health concerns need to be prioritised. Referral and support services for survivors of Gender Based Violence need to be available in all local communities.
Mental Health, Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence	6. The government needs to prioritise developing a comprehensive and well coordinated fight against drug and substance abuse. Coupled with this, mental health support programs and provision of infrastructure and services to deal with mental health concerns need to be prioritised. Referral and support services for survivors of Gender Based Violence need to be available in all local communities.
Access to information	7. Critical information needs to be available and accessible for all segments of society. Young people were not fully aware that there was a provincial COVID-19 taskforce in place. Information on the vaccine is also not readily available for young people which is leading to adoption of false information on social media as facts.
Inclusion of youth in COVID-19 responses	8. Local and central government needs to prioritise the strategic engagement of youth in the development, implementation and review of COVID-19 response programs. Youth can provide ideas and services in the response to COVID-19 and Zimbabwe needs to capitalise on their energy and innovation.

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Mashonaland West Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Mashonaland West Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Tuesday the 2nd of March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Mashonaland West Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

1. Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
2. Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19;and
4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Mashonaland West Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for Provincial Taskforce
Youth COVID-19 Relief Funds	1. Supporting Youth-Owned micro, small to medium scale enterprises. The taskforce needs to consider virtual and accessible means of helping youth register their businesses so that they can benefit from government support programs like the COVID-19 Youth Relief Fund.
Inclusion of young people in COVID-19 Provincial Taskforce	2. The inclusion of youth in COVID-19 Provincial Taskforce teams needs to be prioritised. A youth quota of members with requisite skills needs to be enforced to ensure that youth are fully engaged in the development of plans and programs.
Youth Mental Health and well-being	3. Mainstreaming Youth Mental Health and Well-Being interventions. The taskforce needs to mainstream youth mental health and well-being into its provincial COVID-19 response strategy. This can be done through addressing the drug and substance abuse challenge, arresting drug peddlers and law enforcement who accept bribes to turn a blind eye to drug peddling.
Early marriages for young women	4. Gender Sensitive COVID-19 Response. Gender sensitive support programs should be planned and adequately funded to ensure young men and women are adequately engaged. Awareness campaigns need to tackle how marriage should not be seen as a way to escape hardships and poverty for young women.

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Masvingo Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Masvingo Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Thursday 11 March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Masvingo Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

1. Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
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4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Masvingo Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for the Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce
Abuse, GBV and Mental Health	1. Referrals for Mental Health Support need to be established and this information is widely distributed at provincial level. Mental health support needs to be planned and budgeted for by government. Loneliness and the loss of loved ones had a negative effect on the mental health of young men and women. Referral systems also need to be strengthened. Young people were forced to stay indoors with their abusers due to the lockdown and there was limited support for these young men and women thus there needs to be set up and dissemination of information around COVID-19 GBV hotlines.
Livelihood disruption	2. Youth grants and support for youth led businesses needs to be rolled out. There needs to be increased dissemination of available government support as well as increased quantum of youth financial support. Young men and women's small businesses were negatively affected. The few savings that youth had ended up going towards resources for daily sustenance. Development of relevant and will resourced programs for artists and sports persons needs to be prioritised. Professions that require audiences need to be supported and have increased participation of youth in their planning.
Corruption and Enforcement	3. A deliberate effort needs to be made to deal with the culture of corruption that has developed. Law enforcement officers that were put on the road to monitor inter-city travel received bribes from those without appropriate documentation to pass. Although efforts have been made with arrests conducted, the culture of corruption still needs to be addressed. Enforcement of regulations also needs to follow COVID-19 restrictions as youth have observed those who are arrested being transported in large numbers without social distancing.
Access to critical information	4. The Information departments need to develop effective information dissemination programs that include young people. The provincial hotline for corruption was largely unknown by young people and there is a need to involve young people in the development of key messages around COVID-19 so they can play a leading role in dissemination and compliance. Government needs to publish material in recognized local languages. The government programs like the Youth Relief Fund and other programs need to be publicized so that youth can access these initiatives. EmpowerBank and line ministries also need to be able to utilize youth groups and clubs to publicize available programs and to collect feedback on available programs. Limited access to information also resulted in youth being scared off by nurses and doctors who were fearful of treating someone diagnosed of COVID-19. This behaviour has made citizens apprehensive of health institutions and may affect the rollout of the vaccine.
Public transport	5. The government needs to avail adequate public transport services. The ZUPCO services have been inadequate and have struggled with sanitizing passengers and social distancing in the bus queues. The fact that ZUPCO is the only public transport allowed is now perceived as a reason for the poor service that is being offered and this points to a need to engage clients.
Inclusion of youth in COVID-19 responses	6. Local and central government needs to prioritise the strategic engagement of youth in the development, implementation and review of COVID-19 response programs. Youth can provide ideas and services in the response to COVID-19 and Zimbabwe needs to capitalise on their energy and innovation.

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Matabeleland North Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue - Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Matabeleland North Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Thursday 04 March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Matabeleland North Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

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3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19; and
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The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Matabeleland North Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for the Provincial Taskforce.
Increased coordination in COVID-19 response	1. Address Contradictory COVID-19 Messaging. The government needs to ensure there is effective coordination in the COVID-19 response.
Access to services	2. Ensure Continued Access to Essential Non-COVID Health Services. There needs to be increased access to service programs and initiatives. The focus was on those who were seen as offering essential service but citizens also require services at local clinics and needed to be allowed to move without harassment.
Youth Support Programs	3. Facilitate Post-COVID Support for youth-led micro, small to medium scale enterprises. The provincial taskforce should coordinate provincial efforts to support youth-led economic initiatives through coordinating its structures to provide a 1-stop shop approach in responding to post-lockdown efforts to resuscitate youth businesses.
Inclusion of youth in response programs	4. Accommodate youth representatives in COVID-19 provincial structures. The taskforce needs to include youth in its COVID-19 response program development. The inclusion of persons with disability was ineffective during the pandemic and this needs to be improved through offering training to government staff and awareness raising.
Equal access to opportunities	5. The local councillors need to provide all youth equal access to opportunities regardless of political affiliation.
Mental Health and safe youth spaces	6. Support Youth Mental Health and Safe Spaces for Youth. Mental health support programs need to be supported and funded. During lockdown, youth lacked accessible safe spaces and reporting mechanisms especially those who reside in abusive households.

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Matebeleland South Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Matebeleland South Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Friday 19 March 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Matebeleland South Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

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3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19; and
4. Be the leaders of independent thought, innovation, activism and solution building

The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Matabeleland South Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for the Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce
Inclusion of youth civil society organization in information dissemination	1. Support Youth CSO inclusion in COVID-19 awareness information content development and distribution. The Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce needs to provide clear guidelines on how Youth civil Society Organisations (YCSOs) can contribute to development and dissemination of COVID-19 awareness information. Youth are best placed to reach out to their peers so keeping a record of community based youth organizations for engagement would improve information dissemination and access.
Youth Representation and Inclusion	2. Facilitate Youth Representation and Inclusion in COVID-19 response structures. In line with Section 20 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, there needs to be development of policy framework and enforcement of measures to include youth in all structures and institutions at provincial level. Youth inclusion will improve leadership and performance of governance institutions. Particular attention should be placed on addressing the needs of special interest groups such as youth with disabilities .
Food Security and Livelihoods	3. Support post-lockdown resuscitation of youth led micro, small to medium scale enterprises. Provincial COVID-19 taskforce should facilitate post -lockdown dialogue between youth-led businesses in the informal sector and authorities at provincial district and ward level as a way of supporting the economic activities of youth affected by the total lockdown.
Enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions	4. Publicise Public Complaints Mechanism. The provincial taskforce should publicise hotlines /reporting mechanisms for the public to report complaints they might have against law officers enforcing COVID-19 regulations.
COVID-19 Testing, Vaccination	5. Demystifying COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The provincial taskforce needs to quickly address myths and misconceptions around COVID-19 testing ,accuracy of the rapid-test kits, effectiveness of the vaccines and issues of side-effects related to the vaccines. This will reduce panic and increase vaccine uptake amongst the youth.

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Towards An Inclusive National COVID-19 Response



Midlands Province Youth COVID-19 Dialogue -Outcome Statement

The Youth Empowerment Trust and Transformation Trust (YETT) in partnership with the Zimbabwe Youth Council hosted over 40 youth delegates for a Provincial Dialogue with Midlands Province COVID-19 Response Taskforce on Thursday 8 April 2021. The dialogue was designed to:

1. Provide space for engagement of youth with the Midlands Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
2. Explore the role of the taskforce and review the work done by the taskforce and how it has worked with youth in the province
3. Provide recommendations for how youth participation and engagement in the provincial response to COVID-19 can be enhanced.

For an inclusive and credible response to COVID-19 in the province, youth committed to:

1. Assume responsibility to participate in available platforms that are working in the fight against COVID-19.
2. Offer their skills, knowledge and time to the committees that they are included in
3. Utilise the huge presence on social media for productive networking, generation and sharing of crucial and credible information on fighting COVID-19;and
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The young people of Zimbabwe also recommend the Midlands Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce to adopt the following measures for implementation:

Outcome	Key Actions for the Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce
<i>Employment and Livelihoods negatively impacted</i>	1. Supporting Youth-Owned Micro, Small to Medium Scale Enterprises. The taskforce needs to ensure that young people in business who were negatively affected by COVID-19 are supported through access to loans, credit and insurance packages and services to help them recover from the pandemic. This can be done through coordinating the various sub-committees to set- up a one-stop access point for youths to access this information on available support and how to access it.
<i>Inclusion of youth with disability</i>	2. Adopting a disability sensitive COVID-19 response. The taskforce needs to adopt a framework that promotes the inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 Provincial Taskforce. There needs to be an appreciation of the depth, breadth and quality of decisions that can be improved by inclusion of youth with disability..
<i>Inclusion of youth in Provincial Taskforce Committees</i>	3. Increase Youth Inclusion and Representation. In line with Section 20 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe the taskforce should ensure that youth are represented in the taskforce and there are clear strategies and guidelines on how youth can contribute to the decision making processes within this structure. Information on beneficiaries of the COVID-19 youth relief funds should be publicised to promote transparency and accountability.
<i>Education during emergencies</i>	4. Facilitate equal access to Education during lockdown. The taskforce needs to ensure that in the event of school and learning institution closure, materials to facilitate virtual learning are available in all relevant languages and accessible formats for young people with special needs.
<i>Social Safety Nets and Referrals</i>	5. Scaling up youth access to COVID-19 information. The state needs to ensure the protection of young people in all COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures for instance, the promotion of information sharing with and by young people on available protection and care services such as hotlines, referral pathways and how to access these.
<i>Engagement of youth in monitoring and evaluation</i>	6. Young People as a Resource. It is critical to engage young people in monitoring and evaluation of COVID-19 responses. This includes involving young people in rapid data collection and analysis of the pandemic's impact on their peers, families as well as on the success of the government responses.

YETT envisages a just, inclusive, and prosperous society where young people fully participate and lead in sustainable development.

For More Information

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