



Musasa 2026 Africa Day Celebrations in Harare. Photo: Musasa Project/ Kelvin Sithole

MUSASA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2026



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DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of the Musasa Quarterly Newsletter for 2026. As we reflect on the period from April to June, we are proud of the progress made in supporting survivors of gender-based violence, strengthening prevention efforts and working alongside communities to advance the rights of women and girls across Zimbabwe.

This quarter, our work reached thousands of survivors through integrated services that included emergency shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, referrals and economic empowerment initiatives. Behind every statistic is a person whose life has been touched by compassion, dignity and hope. Their resilience continues to inspire our commitment to ensuring that no survivor has to face violence alone.

Our community engagement programmes continued to challenge harmful social norms by working with traditional and religious leaders, men and boys, women and young people to promote safer, more inclusive communities. At the same time, our advocacy efforts reinforced the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls through stronger policies and collaborative action.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, government stakeholders, community

leaders and volunteers. Your commitment enables Musasa to continue providing life-changing services while working towards a Zimbabwe free from gender-based violence.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide quality services for survivors, prevent violence before it occurs and empower communities to become champions of change. Together, we can build a future where every woman and girl lives free from violence, fear and discrimination.

Thank you for standing with Musasa and the survivors we serve.



Vimbainashe Mutendereki
Executive Director
Musasa Project.

QUARTER AT A GLANCE



The second quarter of 2026 was a period of growth, resilience and meaningful impact for Musasa. Across Zimbabwe, women, girls and communities continued to face the devastating effects of gender-based violence, driven by entrenched social norms, economic hardship and unequal power relations. In response, Musasa remained steadfast in its commitment to providing comprehensive, survivor-centred services while working with communities to prevent violence before it occurs.

Guided by its vision of a society free from gender-based violence, Musasa strengthened its integrated approach by combining prevention, response, advocacy and economic empowerment. Working hand in hand

with government ministries, development partners, community leaders and civil society organisations, the organisation expanded access to essential services and strengthened community-based systems that protect women and girls.

Throughout the quarter, thousands of survivors accessed safe spaces where they received counselling, legal support, referrals, temporary shelter and emergency assistance. Beyond responding to violence, Musasa also invested in long-term solutions by supporting women's economic resilience, engaging men and boys as allies for change and empowering communities to challenge harmful gender norms.

Advocacy remained at the heart of

Musasa's work. The organisation continued to champion policies and initiatives that promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and girls, while strengthening collaboration with stakeholders committed to ending gender-based violence. Every intervention, whether delivered in a rural community, an urban settlement or through digital platforms, reflected Musasa's belief that lasting change is achieved when communities themselves become part of the solution.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Behind every statistic is a survivor who found hope, a family that received support or a community taking collective action to prevent violence. During April to June 2026, Musasa recorded significant achievements across its programmes.

2,995 Survivors supported: Women and girls accessed comprehensive services including psychosocial support, legal assistance, shelter, referrals and case management.

2,645 Legal protection services provided: Survivors received legal guidance, court support, assistance with Protection Orders and referrals to justice services.

1,673 Referrals facilitated: Survivors were connected to healthcare facilities, law enforcement agencies, social protection services and other specialised support providers.

261 Emergency financial assistance beneficiaries: Women and girls in

in crisis received immediate financial support to meet urgent needs and reduce their vulnerability.

1,153: Community members reached: Communities participated in awareness campaigns, dialogues and prevention initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and preventing violence.

345 Men and boys engaged: Men and boys took part in community dialogues and initiatives that encouraged positive masculinity and shared responsibility in preventing gender-based violence.

38 Traditional and religious leaders engaged: Community leaders strengthened their capacity to promote positive social norms and support efforts to end gender-based violence.

323,530 People reached through digital platforms: Musasa used digital platforms to amplify awareness, share information and encourage conversations that inspire action against gender-based violence.

This quarter highlighted the power of collaboration. Together with our partners and communities, Musasa strengthened survivor-centred services, expanded prevention efforts, advanced women's economic empowerment and championed the rights of women and girls.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



UNFPA's visit to Mobile One Stop Centre Outreach in Bubi District

Creating Lasting Impact

Throughout the second quarter of 2026, Musasa continued delivering programmes that protected survivors, strengthened communities and advanced the rights of women and girls across Zimbabwe. Working with communities, government institutions and development partners, the organisation implemented integrated interventions that addressed both the immediate effects and root causes of gender-based violence.

Supporting Survivors

Musasa continued providing survivor-centred services through its network of One Stop Centres, shelters, Mobile One Stop Centres and the national Call Centre. Survivors accessed psychosocial support, legal assistance, emergency shelter, referrals and case management, helping them move from crisis towards recovery.

Preventing Violence

Musasa worked with traditional and

religious leaders, men and boys, and communities to challenge harmful social norms and promote positive behaviour change. Digital advocacy complemented these efforts by raising awareness and encouraging public dialogue on gender-based violence.

Economic Empowerment

Women strengthened their resilience through marketable skills training, Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and business mentorship, equipping them with practical tools to improve their livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to violence.

Policy and Advocacy

Musasa contributed to national advocacy through Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, supporting preservation of Zimbabwe Gender Commission's independence and reinforcing the importance of strong institutions to advance gender equality.



LUWIZA, BULAWAYO: FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

“Today I know that every woman deserves to live free from fear. Musasa gave me hope when I had none. I want other women to know that help is available.”

For years, Luwiza lived in fear. What began as emotional abuse gradually escalated into physical violence and economic control, leaving her isolated and uncertain about where to turn. Like many survivors of gender-based violence, she endured the abuse in silence, hoping the situation would improve. Instead, it became increasingly dangerous.

When the violence reached a breaking point, Luwiza made the courageous decision to seek help from Musasa. It was the beginning of a journey towards safety, healing and hope.

Through Musasa's integrated support services, she received emergency shelter, psychosocial counselling, legal assistance and case management tailored to her needs. These services not only protected her from further harm but also gave her the confidence to begin rebuilding her life.

With continued support, Luwiza successfully obtained a Protection Order and a Maintenance Order, enabling her to secure her rights and create a safer future for herself and her child. Beyond the legal victories, she found renewed strength, regained her confidence and began looking ahead with hope instead of fear.

Today, Luwiza is using her experience to encourage other women experiencing violence to seek help. Her story is a reminder that no one should face abuse alone and that support is available for those ready to take the first step.

Representative images have been used to protect survivor confidentiality



STORY OF HOPE, HARARE: FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH SUPPORT

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“I now know that no one deserves to live with violence. Seeking help was one of the bravest decisions I have ever made. Musasa gave me the strength to protect myself and reclaim my dignity.”

For years, Rudo (not her real name) lived with the pain of physical abuse, enduring violence in silence while trying to protect her three children. Fear, stigma and uncertainty about where to seek help kept her trapped in an abusive marriage, even as the violence became more frequent and severe.

Everything changed the day she walked into Musasa’s One Stop Centre in Harare. She was welcomed with compassion, listened to without judgement and reassured that she was not alone. Through counselling and legal support, Musasa helped her understand her rights and guided her through the process of applying for a Protection Order.

The Protection Order marked the beginning of a new chapter. For the first time in years, Rudo felt safe. With the violence brought to an end, she began healing from the trauma she had experienced and rebuilding a secure future for herself and her children. Today, she speaks with hope rather than fear, knowing that seeking help was one of the bravest decisions she has ever made.

Representative images have been used to protect survivor confidentiality

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: STRONGER TOGETHER



Meaningful change is only possible through strong partnerships. During the second quarter of 2026, Musasa continued working closely with development partners, government institutions, civil society organisations and local communities to strengthen survivor support, prevent gender-based violence and promote the rights of women and girls across Zimbabwe.

These partnerships have enabled Musasa to expand access to survivor-centred services, strengthen community-led prevention initiatives and invest in innovative approaches that build safer, more resilient communities. Together, we are creating lasting impact and bringing hope to survivors and their families.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our funding and implementing partners for their continued trust, collaboration and commitment to a Zimbabwe free from gender-based violence.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the next quarter, Musasa remains committed to expanding access to quality, survivor-centred services while strengthening efforts to prevent gender-based violence across Zimbabwe. Building on the progress made this quarter, the organisation will continue working with communities, government institutions, development partners and civil society to ensure that more women and girls can live free from violence and discrimination.

Priority areas for the coming months include strengthening referral pathways to improve timely access to services, expanding community engagement to address harmful social norms, advancing policy advocacy through strategic partnerships and continuing to diversify resource mobilisation efforts to sustain and grow Musasa's impact.

While challenges remain, Musasa is encouraged by the resilience of survivors, the dedication of communities and the unwavering support of its partners. Together, we will continue creating safer communities, empowering women and girls, and working towards a Zimbabwe free from gender-based violence.

STAND WITH SURVIVORS

Together, We Can End Gender-Based Violence. Every woman and girl deserves to live free from violence, fear and discrimination. By standing with Musasa, you are helping provide survivors with access to safety, justice, healing and hope while supporting efforts to prevent gender-based violence in communities across Zimbabwe.

Donate:

Your generosity helps sustain life-changing services for survivors. Visit our website and click the "Donate" button to make a secure online contribution and help create lasting change.

Partner:

Collaborate with Musasa to strengthen programmes, expand survivor support and drive sustainable solutions that create safer communities.

Volunteer:

Share your time, skills and expertise to support our work and help empower women, girls and communities across Zimbabwe.

Every Action Counts. Together, we can create a future where every survivor is heard, supported and empowered to rebuild their life with dignity.

TOWARDS SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Since 1988, Musasa has been at the forefront of preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Zimbabwe. We provide comprehensive survivor-centred services, including psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe shelter, advocacy, community engagement and economic empowerment, while working with partners and communities to build a society where women and girls can live free from violence.

At Musasa, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to creating safe, inclusive and accountable environments where the dignity, rights and wellbeing of survivors, children, staff, volunteers and communities are protected. We uphold a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, exploitation, harassment, neglect, fraud and the abuse of power, and expect the same commitment from everyone who works with or on behalf of Musasa.

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