

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

MALE ENGAGEMENT

UDACIZA, in collaboration with MWACSMED held a male engagement dialogue in Ward 32 to challenge harmful norms that exclude women and girls from leadership and decision-making platforms. Men reflected on gender roles, household decision-making and barriers to women's participation acknowledging that equitable decision-making strengthens families and reduces violence. Practical solutions were proposed including ongoing dialogues, early mentorship for boys and girls and continuous engagement of men as allies for change. Participants also suggested using soccer platforms to share messages about the importance of women and girls' leadership and the promotion of gender equality. The session revealed both resistance and openness but highlighted a growing commitment to gender equality with symbolic gestures such as donating footballs reinforcing solidarity and community action.



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COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MONITORING

In April, UDACIZA monitored a SASA! Faith session in Ward 21 of Bikita District facilitated by a Community Activist from Zvakazarurwa Matenga Apostolic Church. Congregants' participation showed growing awareness of the need for strong support systems within their faith space. Discussions highlighted the importance of establishing gender desks in churches as formal mechanisms to address VAWG, while strengthening links between faith institutions and VAWG service providers. This shift demonstrates how SASA! Faith is helping communities move beyond awareness into practical action of ensuring faith spaces become safe, responsive and connected to wider networks of protection and care.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Under the Ireland Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) project UDACIZA and the Ministry of Women Affairs held a community dialogue in Ushe Village Ward 13, Bikita District, to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). Community members including the village head openly discussed forms of GBV with alcohol abuse identified as a major driver. Challenges such as fear of reporting relatives were raised and solutions like anonymous reporting and the adoption of community by-laws against VAWG and child marriages were proposed. The session increased awareness of legal protections and showed strong commitment from local leadership to building safer more inclusive communities.



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