



Get Connected Project Less than one in every 200 Zambians has access to the internet. The Get Connected project is training young people in Chipata, two-thirds women, in how to use email and the internet to participate in developmental activities such as researching information on Anti-Retroviral Drugs.

Taking Power Project To foster a culture of participation in political activities, the Taking Power project is setting up clubs in 20 schools in Chipata District to take action on both the personal and societal level on HIV & AIDS and gender. These clubs will plan and implement a mass lobby to the government of Zambia on one focus issue chosen at the general assembly.

Donate to YDF

YDF rely on the support of individuals and organisations who share our vision. If you would like to support our work please visit us at room LG15 of the NAPSA building, Chipata or email us for more information at:
youthdevelopmentfoundation@yahoo.com

This leaflet was designed on computers powered by open source software.

About YDF

Vision

For the youth of the Eastern Province to participate in the development of a prosperous Zambia in which no young person is excluded from having a voice and reaching their full potential.

Mission

To make young people understand the important role they can play in reducing inequality by participating in developmental activities.

Objectives

- ▶ To promote the participation of young people in developmental activities.
- ▶ To defend human rights, challenge gender inequality and fight child abuse.
- ▶ To take action on HIV & AIDS issues affecting young people.



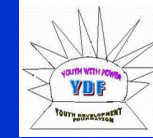
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YDF are registered under the Zambian Societies Act Cap 119, certificate number ORS 102/16/559

YDF would like to thank the following organisations for their support:



DEUTSCHE BOTSCHAFT LUSAKA
GERMAN EMBASSY LUSAKA



Youth with power
for sustainable
development

Youth Development Foundation



Young people taking action on HIV & AIDS and gender

An Introduction to the issues
and the work of YDF

Gender and HIV & AIDS

Why gender and HIV & AIDS are linked

- Women shoulder the burden of care for people living with HIV & AIDS.
- Biologically women are 1.4 times more likely to be infected than men. In fact young women in Zambia, aged between 15-19, are the group most likely to be infected.
- Women have unequal access to education including on HIV & AIDS issues.
- Traditional practices such as sexual cleansing give power to men and put both men and women at risk of becoming infected.
- Women are not seen as equal decision-makers, only 15% of MPs are women, and so can not negotiate on issues such as condom use.
- Women also do not have economic power and face problems such as property grabbing which further reduces their negotiation power. On average, men in Chipata earn 3 times as much as women but work less than half as long each day as they do not contribute to household chores.



**Always ask:
“Where are the men,
where are the women.
Why?”**

What can be done about it

If HIV & AIDS is to be beaten in Zambia, then something must be done about gender inequality. This will require both men and women to work together at all levels:

Personal action

- Men and women must make decisions about sex together as equal partners.
- Men should take on household chores and care for people living with HIV & AIDS.

Community action

- Communities need to discuss issues such as condom use to reduce myths and stigma.
- Traditional leaders should discourage practices which increase gender inequality and put people at risk of contracting HIV such as sexual cleansing.

National action

- Government must enforce legislation stopping sexual cleansing and property grabbing.
- Government and NGOs have to ensure young women have equal access to education on sexual health.

Youth Participation

As a youth-led organisation YDF facilitates the participation of young people to be able to influence issues that affect their lives.

Young people make up half of the population of Zambia's Eastern Province. Their participation is essential if democracy in Zambia is to be truly representative. Young people must be able to hold the government accountable for its actions, but they must also be responsible for improving their own lives. 15-25 year olds are most at risk of contracting HIV and around 1 in 4 young people in Chipata are infected. High levels of unemployment, alcoholism and limited opportunities for further education mean that their lives are often characterized by poverty and inactivity. The situation for young women is worse.



Get involved

Young people should drop into the YDF office to register for computer training or find out how to start a YDF club. **Teachers** should get in touch if they want to book a workshop at their school. YDF believe in sharing learning from development work, and would like to hear from **organisations** working on similar issues.