



Women In Politics Support Unit 2013 Annual Report

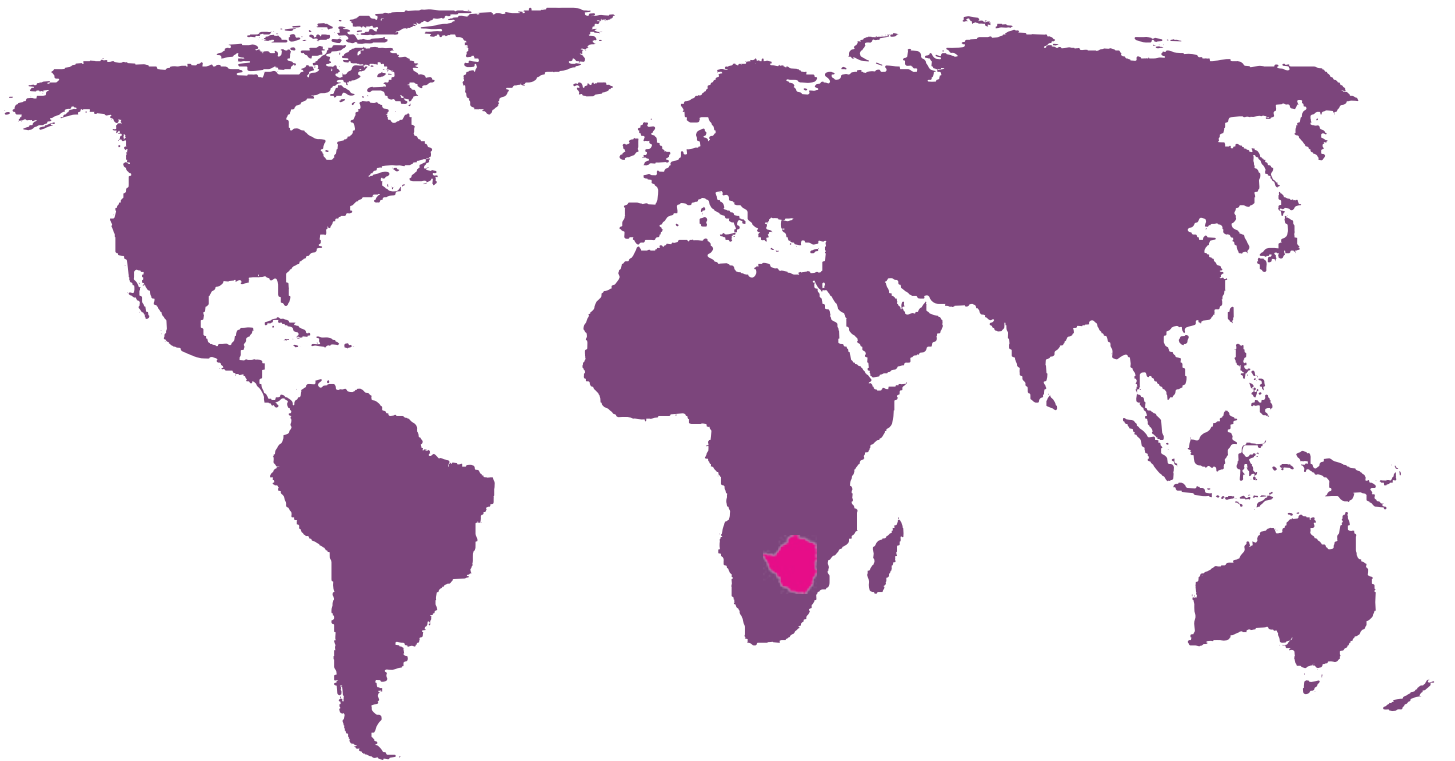


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ZIMBABWE



Map Description



Zimbabwe

ABOUT WiPSU

Women in Politics Support Unit (WiPSU), is a registered Zimbabwean non-governmental women's organization established in April 2001. WiPSU is a feminist space supporting women's participation in governance. The organization provides assistance to women in parliament and local government in Zimbabwe and aims to increase women's qualitative and quantitative participation in political decisions and decision making.

WiPSU envisions a society in which women exercise and enjoy their human rights and participate as equals in all political processes with full citizenship rights. The organization exists to strengthen the democracy and governance practices in Zimbabwe through the effective participation of women in all elected political offices and women as political constituents.

WiPSU works with female MPs and councilors in urban and rural areas. It also works in the constituencies of female MPs and wards of female throughout Zimbabwe. Working with women at the various levels of governance creates linkages between women leaders and the electorate, thus ensuring that issues are taken up from the local to the national level, i.e. from local councils to Parliament and vice-versa. As female representatives in constituencies and wards are located in both the urban and rural areas, WiPSU therefore has a nationwide geographical reach and spread in terms of issues emanating from the two different settings.

As WiPSU is a non-partisan organization which engages with women from all political persuasions, regardless of whether or

not they are affiliated to a political party, WiPSU has a unique strength and positioning in fostering inter-party collaboration and synergy on women's issues and in advancing a gender agenda.

WiPSU's objectives are as follows:

- To increase women's qualitative participation and influence in policy and decision-making processes.
- To strengthen the technical, institutional and resource capacities of women elected to Parliament, Local Government and candidates to political offices so that they can effectively represent women's concerns and perspectives.
- To provide institutional and technical support base for women Parliamentarians, Councillors and candidates to political office.
- To facilitate an enabling and sustainable environment in which women actively and fully participate in political processes
- To build and strengthen institutional capacity for effective delivery of the above objectives
- To build and sustain a staff team committed to the vision



"No single sex should be responsible for decision over the other."

OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



Fanny Chirisa,

Outgoing Executive Director.

Women's participation in politics and decision-making is one of the most central advocacy issues in Zimbabwe today and the world over. Women's political participation is crucial because humanity consists of men and women and therefore in all sites of power there should be equal representation of men and women. No single sex should be responsible for decision over the other. Women need to represent themselves in issues affecting them.

The greatest resource that a country has is its people. As long as there is no equal representation of men and women then a country is under-utilizing the potential of its human resource and will ultimately not benefit from the knowledge and perspectives that women bring. Zimbabwe is a signatory to the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, the AU Optional Protocol on Women's Rights, the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 2008 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. All these, are commitments by member states that they will ensure equal representation of women in politics and decision-making.

The main aim of WiPSU is to increase women's qualitative participation and influence in policy and decision-making. WiPSU aims to build the technical capacity, self-awareness and resource allocation of women in elected office, (parliamentarians and councillors). The aim also involves raising the political consciousness of the women in the constituencies so that they too participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Although Zimbabwe missed the 50/50 repre-

sentation in the July 31st Elections, it is true to say WiPSU's work is needed more now than before as we work towards planning for the post 2015 in relation to the MDG 3 and the SADC Gender Protocol.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my pride and heartfelt gratitude to all donors, stakeholders, board and not forgetting friends of WiPSU who all made our work possible with a unity of purpose and loving spirit, with means and good ideas, with your continuous support, sharing of your experiences. All these people have generously enabled WiPSU to realise set targets and achievements and the organisation will be able to continue with its work and to strive and strengthen its work throughout the coming year.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to WiPSU staff and interns for their dedication on pushing the organisation's agenda under difficult circumstances in terms of condition of service and the subsequent outstanding results which are highlighted in this report.

I will also take this opportunity to say goodbye to all who generously contributed to make our work continue during my tenure in office as I leave the organisation to join politics, I have worked with women in politics since 1998 (15years) and have decided to join them in Parliament under the women's quota system. I am now a non constituency Member of Parliament. I wish WiPSU all the best in 2014 and will always be there for them and will remain a friend of WiPSU for life.

Fanny Chirisa



"The relegation of women to so-called "safe seats" and the failure to provide women with measures to balance out the negative effects of internal party primary elections once again created skewed picture of women political participation."

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Prisca Rewai Mudondo

Interim Executive Director.

In assessing 2013 an electoral year, WIPSU as the lead organisation for support to women in politics we consider the low representation of women in politics post 2013 to be a significant drawback to achieving women's increased political participation. The relegation of women to so-called "safe seats" and the failure to provide women with measures to balance out the negative effects of internal party primary elections once again created skewed picture of women political participation.

In addition to the actions of political parties undermining women, the electoral amendments that brought about the 60 quota seats for women in parliament was done in a rushed manner and women had very little time to consider the new legislation, its meaning and its consequences on electoral engagement. Hence despite the increased women's representation in Parliament overall, there is a decrease in women political representation in terms of women who stood in geographical constituencies.

In the immediate post electoral environment there was considerable political polarization between women elected from the various parties and between women who were elected through the proportional representation system and those in the constituencies. WIPSU is aware of the long road ahead to address this friction and bring about unity of purpose of women in parliament but also its role in assisting in the capacity building and support of those women.

Despite the challenges, WIPSU celebrated having an overall increase of women in parliament and we are committed to capacitating the women who have made it into parliament

and challenging the erroneous notion that parliament is not a space for women. We look forward to the contribution of all women elected into political office be in the executive, the legislature or in local government. WIPSU firmly believes that their engagement in governance spaces will help enhance the status of women and better women lives across Zimbabwe.

I am glad to have had an opportunity to sit in the organisation as opposed to my previous role as Treasure on the WIPSU Board. Being in the driving seat I was able to get a different view of the organisation and not consider the organisation with an aviator's perspective. It has been an interesting, challenging and enriching experience. I thank the Trustees, Board and Staff of WIPSU for this opportunity and wish the incoming Executive Director the very best.

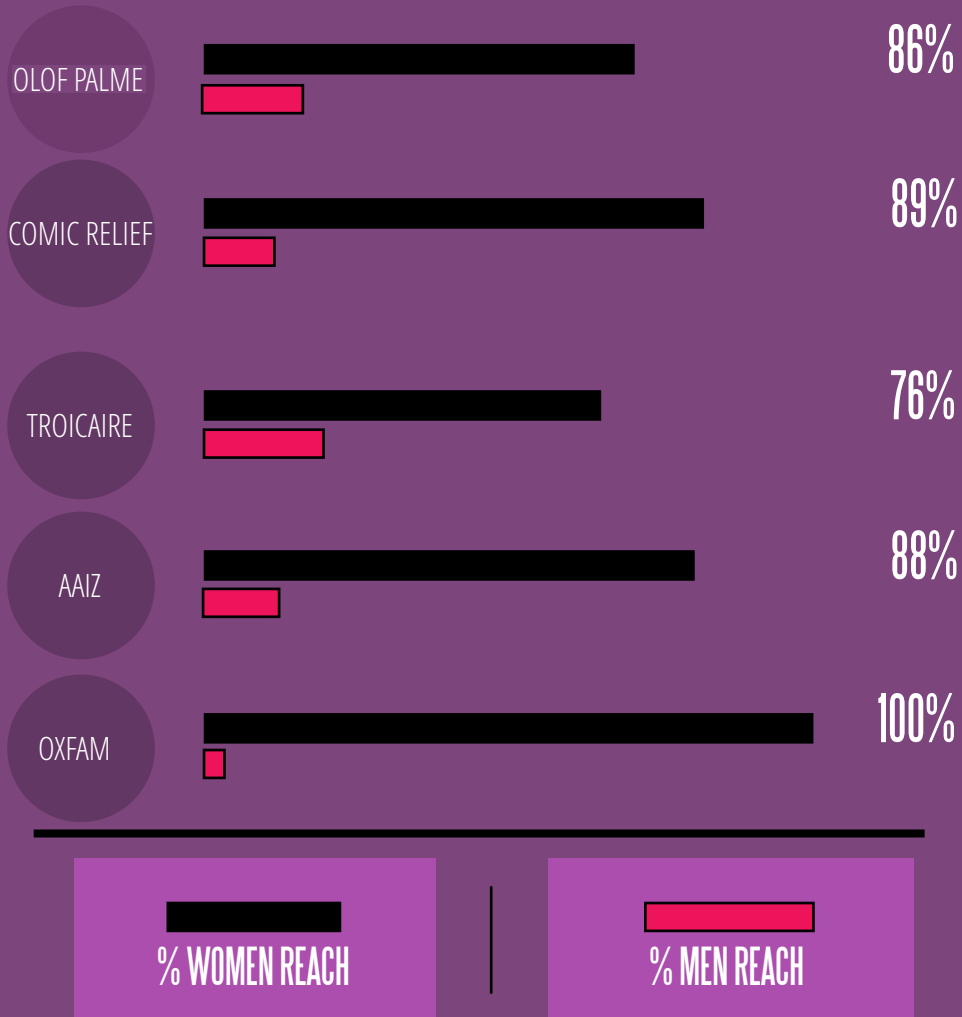
Prisca Rewai Mudondo



WiPSU Work In 2013 WiPSU Beneficiaries Gender Aggregate

In 2013, WiPSU reached women and men in various women MPs and councilors's wards and constituencies, through its community empowerment activities under the constituency/ward effectiveness program. The activities carried out include training on leadership, women's participation in politics and decision making, gender and personal empowerment. The trainings result in the establishment of community structures known as Constituency Consultative Forums (CCFs) for MPs and Ward Consultative Forums (WCFs) for councilors. These forums are safe spaces for women to increase their knowledge on their rights, and strengthen skills in leadership which enables women to participate meaningfully in decision making and other community initiatives.

See the diagram below for the gender aggregated beneficiaries reached.



Supporting women candidates through skills training



Women present at the candidates training workshop

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In the run up to the July 31st 2013 harmonized elections, WiPSU trained 280 selected women candidates from different political parties in campaign management and strategy, media and communication and resource mobilization. Candidates comprised women contesting parliament and local government seats across Zimbabwe.

The trainings were decentralized to 3 provinces namely, Manicaland, Harare and Bulawayo. The purpose was to strengthen candidate's campaign management skills, effective use of media and publicity strategies and resource mobilization and fundraising.

Candidates also took the opportunity to discuss ways of coping with election related stress and balancing the roles of being a woman (mother, wife) as well as a candidate for political office. A profile picture and a short election message of each candidate was taken and posted on WiPSU's facebook account and website in order to increase the visibility of the candidates to potential voters.

In a post workshop evaluation, candidates testified that they had learnt more effective ways of campaigning using little resources and that the biggest resource was social capital which lay in their relations with family friends, neighbors, colleagues and community members. The trainings also enabled women to rethink their campaigning messages drawing from the main theme of the "Vote for a woman campaign", which stated that vote for a woman for a well-developed and peaceful Zimbabwe.

As an organization, WiPSU noted that it had to come up with an elections strategy which addressed the entire electoral cycle to enable it to effectively assist women candidates well before the election dates were announced. WiPSU also took to the air waves with selected women candidates and spoke about why women should be voted into parliament and local government.

WiPSU also facilitated meet the women candidates' forum at book café where women candidates took turns to address the audience on why they should be voted into parliament or local government. The audience also asked the aspiring MPs and councilor's questions which helped them to relook at their campaigning strategies.



A candidate addressing audience at Book Café on why they should vote for her

2013 Vote for a Woman Campaign Launch

WiPSU officially launched the 2013 “Vote for a Woman Campaign” on 9 May 2013, at a colorful ceremony held in Harare and attended by over 200 guests. Present at the launch were female ministers, male and female Members of Parliament. Also in attendance were funding partners namely, Oxfam Great Britain, Womankind World Wide, Olof Palme International Center and Action Aid Zimbabwe, and other key women’s organizations. The campaign was launched by former Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Hon. Olivia Muchena.

The launch provided an opportune time to heighten the 50/50 gender equality in decision making campaign because the 2013 elections were the last polls to be held in Zimbabwe before the 2015 deadline set by the SADC protocol on gender and development as well as the Millennium Development Goal 3, for member countries to ensure that women occupy 50% of all decision making positions across all sectors. Before unrolling the official vote for a woman banner, Hon Olivia Muchena in her key note of address, highlighted that there had been huge constitutional gains for women’s representation in parliament as a result of the 60 reserved seats. Hon. Muchena likened the reserved seats to the “agricultural road side demos where women will showcase their capabilities in leadership for the next 10 years so that voters get used to seeing women in parliament.” She further stated that voters should vote for women because they are,

- Capable
- Loyal
- Carers and
- Committee

At that point she officially launched the vote for a woman campaign. The event was a huge success as it made headlines in the electronic and print media and on news bulletins. The media coverage around the “Vote for a Woman” Campaign also translated into journalists inquiring information about the 60 reserved seats for women in Parliament from the organization.

At the launch WiPSU distributed generic vote for a woman campaign materials, including car stickers, posters, and fliers whose message urged voters to go and vote for women for a peaceful and well developed Zimbabwe. WiPSU also placed adverts in the print media of all women candidates vying for parliamentary seats and facilitated, “Meet the women candidate forums”, at book café where the public was invited to engage with female candidates. These activities generated great public debate and interest in women candidates which resulted in the discussion around quality versus quantity and the fairness of the 60 reserved seats for women which are enshrined in the new constitution and valid for the next 10 years.

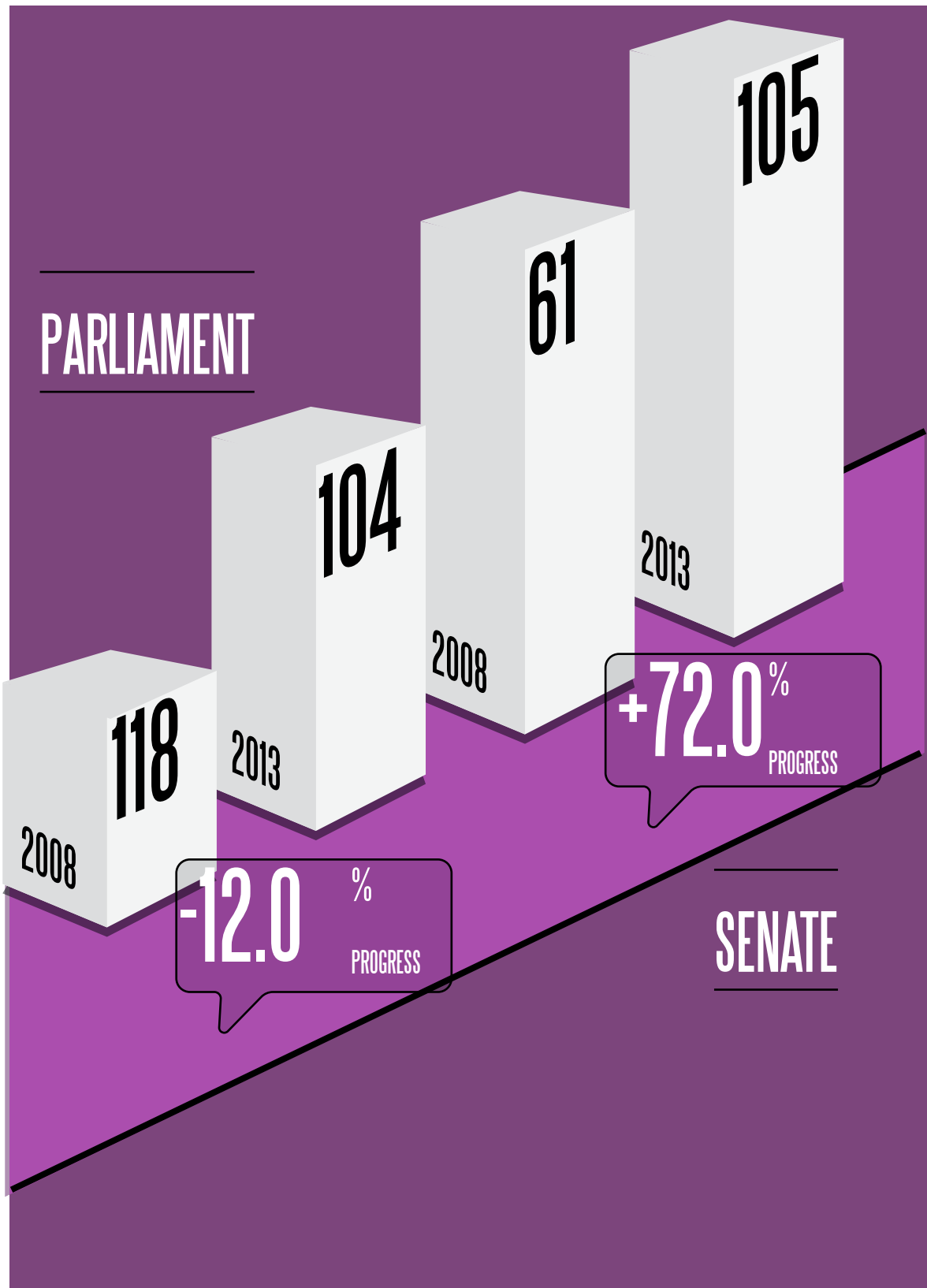
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS

2008 VERSUS 2013

In 2008 there were 740 female candidates for the local government elections while in 2013 899 women stood for the elections. This means that there was an increase of 21% in the number of candidates in Local government. For Parliament in 2008, 118 women contested for House of Assembly out of 710 candidates and in the Senate 61 women contested out of 196. In 2013 Senate had 105 on the party list and National Assembly had 104 women candidates contesting the 210 seats. There was a shocking 201 female candidates for the 60 reserved seats for the National Assembly. Therefore there was a 115% total candidate's increase including for the reserved seats.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN JULY 31ST 2013 ELECTIONS

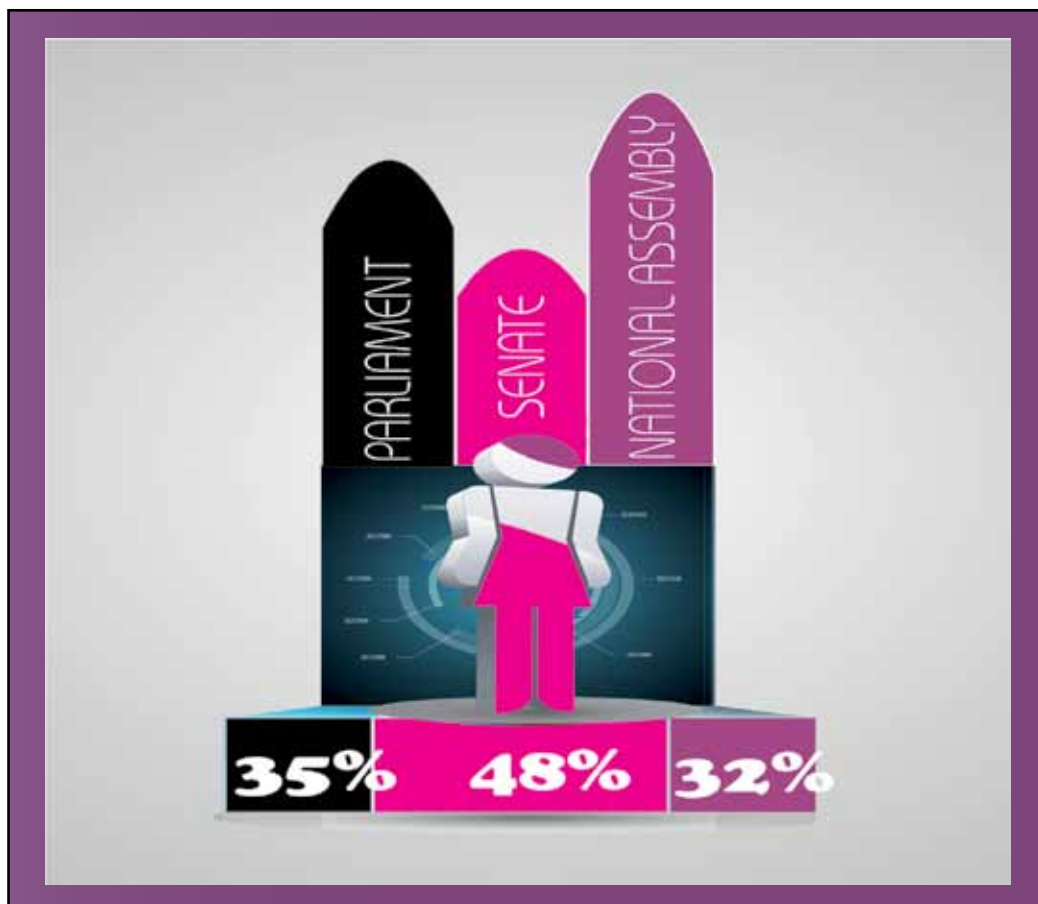




In 2013, there was a 12% decrease in the number of women contesting the constituency seats under the National Assembly. Women were pushed to the reserved seats by male contenders. Most women lost the internal party polls and some stood as independent candidates. In the Senate however there was a 72% increase in 2013, in the number of candidates and this may be attributed to the party list Zebra system starting the list with a woman. Political parties fielded less women candidates, compared to men for their contested seats as most women were pushed to the reserved seats. The understanding of the 60 reserved seats and PR at senate level was not well understood.

At local government level there was a 3% decrease in the number of women elected as councillors which dropped from 19% (2008), translating to 363 wards, to the current 16% (2013) in 327 wards. Of the 899 women who contested as local government candidates out of a total of 5248 during the 2013 elections, only 327 wards were won by women of the 1958 local government seats that were available. Women now constitute 16% in 2013 of the women in local government which is a decrease of 3% from 19% in 2008. There is a 16% increase in the number of women elected into parliament from 18% (2008) to the current 35% (2013) and this was brought about by the provision of the quota system in the constitution which created 60 reserved seats at National Assembly and the PR system at Senate using the zebra list starting with a woman.

Women Representation in Government Parliament of Zimbabwe 2013



Comparison of representation 2008 and 2013 in the House of Assembly/National Assembly

	National Assembly 2008	National Assembly 2013
Total seats being contested	210	270
Total number of candidates	775	851
Number of women candidates	118	111
% of women candidates	15	13
Total number of women who won	34	26
Number of Reserved seats for women	0	60
Total number of women representatives	34	86
% of women	16	32

Women in Local Government 2013



Capacity building and empowerment of local women constituency consultative forums and ward consultative forums

Name	Political Party	Constituency	Retained Seat	With / Without CCF
Sibanda Dorcas	MDC T	Bulawayo Central	Yes	Yes
Thabita Khumalo	MDC T	Bulawayo East	Yes	Yes
Majome Fungayi Jessie	MDC T	Harare West	Yes	Yes
Matibenga Lucia Gladys	MDC T	Kuwadzana	Yes	Yes
Mparirwa Paurina	MDC T	Mufakose	Yes	Yes
Matienga Margaret	MDC T	Sunningdale	Yes	No
Chimene Mandi Manditawepi	ZANU PF	Makoni South	No	No
Chikwinya Nyasha	ZANU PF	Mutare South	No	No
Zindi Irene	ZANU PF	Mutasa South	No	No
Kanengoni Tabitha R	ZANU PF	Mazowe Central	No	No
Mujuru Joyce T	ZANU PF	Mt Darwin	Yes	No
Kagonye Petronella	ZANU PF	Goromonzi South	No	Yes
Biata Beatrice Nyamupinda	ZANU PF	Goromonzi West	Yes	Yes
Katsande Aqualinah	ZANU PF	Mudzi West	Yes	No
Chinomona Mabel Memory	ZANU PF	Mutoko North	Yes	No
Mahoka Sarah	ZANU PF	Hurungwe East	Yes	Yes
Chikwama Berita	ZANU PF	Gutu East	No	No
Gumbo Sithembile	ZANU PF	Lupane East	No	No
Nyoni Sithembiso	ZANU PF	Nkayi North	Yes	No
Nkomo Roselene	ZANU PF	Tsholotsho North	No	No
Madau Metrine	ZANU PF	Beitbridge West	Yes	No
Mhangani Dorothy	ZANU PF	Gokwe	Yes	Yes
Mahiya Melania	ZANU PF	Gokwe Gumunyu	No	No
Mukweya Mirriam	ZANU PF	Gokwe Mpfungautsi	New	Yes
Mabuwa Chiratidzo	ZANU PF	Mberengwa South	Yes	No

In 2013, WIPSU set up 3 constituency consultative forums (CCFs) in 3 selected areas represented by women MPs, namely Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Harare West, and Mutoko and 3 ward consultative forums (WCFs) for the 3 female councilors, 1 in Binga ward 24 and 2 in Masvingo wards 17 and 12. In the 4 areas where the structures were established, a series of training workshops were held leading to the setup of the 3 CCFs and 3 WCFs which consist of at least 50 grassroots women in each community structure. The trainings conducted in each area included, leadership, gender, personal empowerment (confidence building, grooming and deportment), women's human rights, roles and responsibilities of chiefs, headmen, councilor, and Members of Parliament, public speaking, communication, what is politics?, and 50/50 gender equality.



Women participants during a WCF meeting

At the trainings, participants highlighted that the meetings created a platform for them to engage and receive direct feedback from their leaders especially their MP or councilor which was not the case before. The participatory identification of community problems/issues and their prioritization in order of importance to women and men together with the local leadership and MP or councilor created the basis of holding the leaders to account to the people who elected them into office. A number of improvements were recorded through focus group discussions held in Binga ward 24 and Gokwe Mapfungautsi to measure the changes that are happening in the lives of CCF and WCF members as a result of the establishment of the structures by WIPSU.



CCF members at a workshop

WiPSU There is evidence across the groups that some women are standing for various leadership positions in their communities and other women are increasingly supporting them in this.

“Women are now vocal in meetings – for example during a meeting to elect a committee to spear head World Aids Day celebrations, women supported three women candidates who were duly elected into the committee”

[FGD, WCF member, Binga]

“Since the training I have been elected as Vice Village Head and other women supported me in this...Because I had been trained by WIPSU I was not afraid of standing and taking up the position.”

[FGD, CCF member, Binga]

From the initial meetings held in the areas, women were not willing to take up leadership positions and would nominate and elect males for the posts. After the WIPSU trainings, women decided to start putting themselves forward and supporting each other for leadership positions. Women are now also participating more actively in community meetings through attending and raising their opinions and concerns during the meetings.

“We were looked down upon as women and never contributed at village meetings. Now we are assertive and use the meeting to discuss our issues.”

[FGD, CCF member, Gokwe Mapfungautsi]

Supporting Women MPs and Councillors -Induction Training and Needs Assessment

nWIPSU conducted induction training for all women MPs (both members of the National Assembly and Senate) and for 130 selected councillors. For MPs, there was a realization that due to the quota system introduced by the constitution, the number of female MPs had increased from 18% to 35% and that the majority of those MPs were first timers. The objectives of the induction were,

- To discuss new opportunities on how women Parliamentarians, especially the newly elected MPs can effectively execute their mandate as legislators as well as the range of opportunities in the new constitution which will enable them to push the women's agenda and safe guard women's rights.
- To assess the skills and capacity needs of individual women legislators' at a personal level and as a group .i.e. both new and old MPs, so that WIPSU can efficiently design programs of required skills for women MPs.
- To come up with priority and policy issues for women MPs to push through in the 8th Parliament.
- To create a platform where women Parliamentarians can network and collaborate above party politics.

The training identified various skills, needs and capacity gaps of MPs. Some of the skills include; how to debate the Presidential speech, the difference between a motion and a bill? How to move a motion in Parliament? , how to draft a motion or a question? What are the processes that take place that will result in a law being enacted? Personal empowerment, confidence building, and grooming and deportment. The role of women MPs selected through the women's quota and their relationship with constituency MPs.

The women MPs set up policy and priority issues for action in the next 5 years as follows; Gender, Constitution and Legal Rights i.e. realignment of existing laws that affect women's rights so that they are in line with the constitution, gender and economic empowerment, gender based violence, gender and health, gender and education, gender, media, information communication and technology and gender environment and climate change. The role of WIPSU will be to carry out research and analyses of all issues raised and prepare policy papers and briefs which will be used by MPs for lobbying and debating the issues in Parliament and its portfolio committees.





Hon. Oppah Muchinguri giving her keynote address at the induction training

A needs assessment and induction training was also conducted for selected 120 women councillors from both rural and urban councils. The number of female councillors dropped from 19% to the current 16% following the elections. The training discussed strategies to increase the effectiveness of councillors in council business and in their respective wards. Sessions on grooming and deportment, leadership and confident building were held to strengthen the capacity of councillors. The training identified needs of councillors as follows; public speaking, confidence building, use of ICT, lobbying and advocacy skills as well as understanding the Councils Act of Zimbabwe and knowledge of the contents of the new constitution of Zimbabwe.

As a result of the grooming and deportment and confident building training, there have been some positive changes achieved. Women councillors have immensely improved on how they dress and presentation skills, for example a councillor from Masvingo who was used by the grooming consultant as an example of how not to dress for official and public meetings, completely transformed. WiPSU staff failed to recognize her in a follow up meeting held in her ward as she had improved her appearance and presentation and also exuded high confidence. When complimented the councillor remarked, "Gweru haienderi mahara", meaning what we were taught in Gweru (at the induction training) will not go in vain. [Masvingo Councillor ward..... December 2013]

At that point she officially launched the vote for a woman campaign. The event was a huge success as it made headlines in the electronic and print media and on news bulletins. The media coverage around the "Vote for a Woman" Campaign also translated into journalists inquiring information about the 60 reserved seats for women in Parliament from the organization.

At the launch WiPSU distributed generic vote for a woman campaign materials, including car stickers, posters, and fliers whose message urged voters to go and vote for women for a peaceful and well developed Zimbabwe. WiPSU also placed adverts in the print media of all women candidates vying for parliamentary seats and facilitated, "Meet the women candidate forums", at book café where the public was invited to engage with female candidates. These activities generated great public debate and interest in women candidates which resulted in the discussion around quality versus quantity and the fairness of the 60 reserved seats for women which are enshrined in the new constitution and valid for the next 10 years.

Young Women Mentorship Program

WiPSU noted with concern the grave under representation of young women in political decision making as evidenced by the insignificant numbers elected into parliament and local government in the July 31 2013 harmonized elections. As part of the organizations elections strategy, WiPSU has put in place a young women's mentorship program to begin grooming and training young women for the 2018 elections. At the launch WiPSU distributed generic vote for a woman campaign materials, including car stickers, posters, and fliers whose message urged voters to go and vote for women for a peaceful and well developed Zimbabwe.

WiPSU also placed adverts in the print media of all women candidates vying for parliamentary seats and facilitated, "Meet the women candidate forums", at book café where the public was invited to engage with female candidates. These activities generated great public debate and interest in women candidates which resulted in the discussion around quality versus quantity and the fairness of the 60 reserved seats for women which are enshrined in the new constitution and valid for the next 10 years.



Young women following proceedings at the young female politicians meeting

In the first workshop, young women drawn from the different political parties and others from business and tertiary institutions attended the workshop. The purpose was to strategize on a road map for young women politicians and to prop them up for decision making at all levels. Some of the strategies included, grooming and department, forums to learn and share with seasoned and mature women politicians, exchange visits to other countries and a young women's desk at WiPSU.

In the second workshop 57 young women participated from different political parties. 3 seasoned and powerful women politicians namely, the Hon. Minister of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development Oppah Muchinguri, MDC-T Hon. Matibenga and MDC Hon. Misi-hairabwi Mushonga mentored the enthusiastic young women. The topics presented were: Redefining and demystifying politics, Managing situations, Identifying your turf and positioning yourself, honing the political spirit of young women and Resource Mobilization and access to information. A plenary session was opened up to give a chance to the young women to ask questions and challenges and recommendations were discussed in detail with the help of the seasoned politicians sharing their personal experiences with the young women.

Women MP's voices in the 2013 Parliament

WiPSU carried out an analysis of women's contributions to the national debates in Parliament in both the National Assembly and the Senate. The purpose was to track women MPs participation in Parliament taking note of the women's issues being raised as well as contributions to policy and law making. The figures below describe women MP's performance and contributions to parliamentary debates in the National Assembly and the Senate since the beginning of the 8th Parliament.

National Assembly Statistics

DATE	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	% OF WOMEN SPEAKING
2 September 2013	9	18	27	33
3 September 2013	4	4	8	50
24 September 2013	2	7	9	22
25 September 2013	5	17	22	23
26 September 2013	6	10	16	38
1 October 2013	1	10	11	9
3 October 2013	4	7	11	36
15 October 2013	6	12	18	33
16 October 2013	5	16	21	24
17 October 2013	2	11	13	15
5 November 2013	5	13	18	28
6 November 2013	13	35	48	27
7 November 2013	8	12	20	40
19 November 2013	5	12	17	29
20 November 2013	8	23	31	26
21 November 2013	2	10	12	17
3 December 2013	10	12	22	45
Average				29



Senate Statistics

DATE	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	% OF WOMEN SPEAKING
3 September 2013	3	5	8	38
17 September 2013	1	1	2	50
24 September 2013	1	2	3	33
25 September 2013	2	2	4	50
26 September 2013	7	11	18	39
1 October 2013	1	5	6	17
2 October 2013	2	3	5	40
8 October 2013	3	4	7	43
9 October 2013	0	6	6	0
10 October	9	13	22	41
15 October 2013	3	4	7	43
16 October 2013	4	4	8	50
22 October 2013	1	1	2	50
23 October 2013	3	2	5	60
24 October 2013	7	8	15	47
19 November 2013	4	5	9	44
20 November 2013	4	6	10	40
21 November 2013	9	12	21	43
3 December 2013	6	4	10	60
4 December 2013	3	5	8	38
5 December 2013	9	9	18	50
Average				29

The average number of women MPs speaking in the National Assembly since the beginning of the 8th Parliament is 29%. The average for Senate is 42%. The lower percentage in the National Assembly may be attributed to various reasons which include the fact that most of the MPs are first timers in Parliament as only a handful returned. This being the case, there is urgent need for capacity building to be done with the women on presentation skills, motion development, debating in Parliament and confidence building. The Senate has a total of 48% of women representation and the average of women speaking is 42%. This could be because the senate seats have been occupied by those who were in the 7th Parliament who moved from the House of Assembly to the Senate through the zebra lists, hence the higher percentage. This means that this group has more confident women who are well versed with the processes of Parliament and confident enough to speak.

The total average of the women speaking in Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) is 35%. From the 35% women in the 8th Parliament who have debated, the issues raised are gender sensitive. Since the start of the 8th Parliament women have moved several motions, e.g. On cancer, and the need for cancer levy, domestic violence and stiffer penalties for offenders, maternal mortality, women's bank for economic empowerment, hospital equipment, accommodation for all, power cuts, rural roads infrastructure and improved learning conditions for rural children.

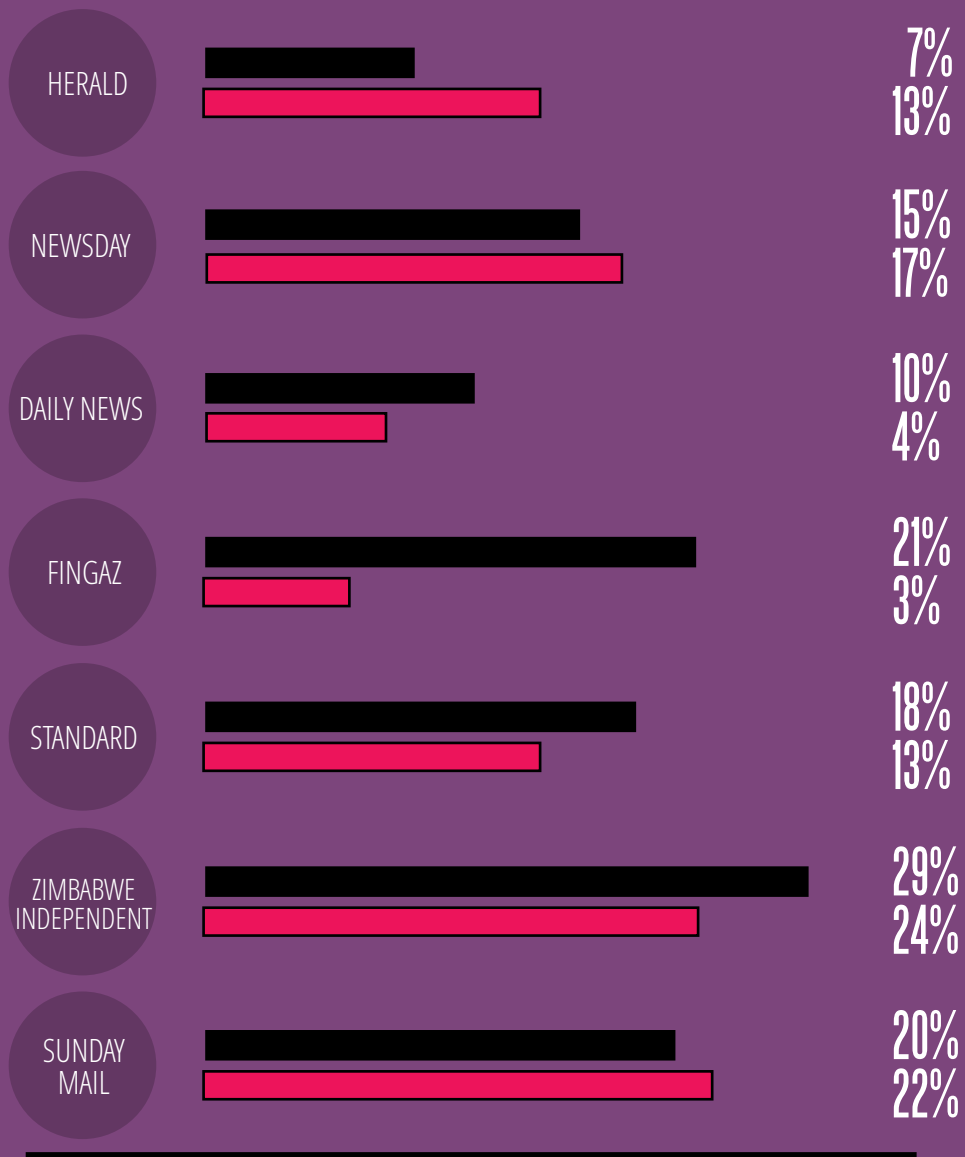
These motions have generated extensive debate in the two houses by both male and female MPs, and in the public domain through the media. In the case of domestic violence there has been public interest in cases before courts with citizens calling for stiffer penalties especially in rape cases.

Media Coverage of Women MPs and Councilors in 2013

The In carrying out its media monitoring project, WIPSU was concerned with the insignificant coverage of women MPs and councilor's coverage in the print media. The main objective of the media monitoring is to track coverage of women in the local newspapers on how they are portrayed and also how accessible the media is to women leaders. 7 newspapers were monitored during the period under review. These were;

- Herald,
- News Day,
- Daily News,
- Financial Gazette,
- Sunday Mail,
- Standard and
- Zimbabwe Independent.

Media Coverage of Women MPs and Councilors in 2013




% WOMEN ARTICLES


% GENDER SENSITIVE ARTICLES

WiPSU's analysis of the 7 largest daily newspapers in Zimbabwe found that women leaders are still at the periphery of news. In articles where they are covered, it is always in stories that portray them as weak and incompetent of leadership. Women councillors are worse off, as they are invisible in the media. Very few women are quoted in the newspapers giving the impression that women have no contribution to "hard news" and are not news worthy and yet there are more pictures of women in the newspapers than men

Women with high standing like the vice president are the ones who are covered by both print and electronic media. The Financial gazette of 4 April carried a story headlined Mujuru touches storm, which talks of the Vice president ordering the reopening of Chisumbaje ethanol plant. This portrays women as powerful. However, such stories are very few in newspapers.

It is important that initiatives continue that encourage information sharing between the women political leaders and journalists.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthened Capacity of WiPSU -Publications and Documentation

During 2013, WiPSU undertook several researches and produced a number of documents which will support the organization's capacity building and advocacy work to strength and increase women's political participation in Zimbabwe. The publications were;

- A baseline survey report on: Increasing women's political participation in Zimbabwe project sponsored by Comic relief.
- WiPSU 2012 Annual report on the work of the organization in 2012.
- Post- election gender audit of the 3 main political parties in Zimbabwe
- WiPSU developed its strategic plan for 2013 to 2017 which outlines a shared framework for systematically positioning itself as a leading organization on issues of women in politics and representation in leadership.
- Women MPs and councilors needs assessment report
- Research on 60 reserved seats and how other countries used them to increase women's representation in Parliament.
- In partnership with Zimbabwe Institute- a research was conducted on broadening the participation of women in politics and decision making through opportunities created by the new constitutional and legislative framework in Zimbabwe.
- A research on the relationship between women councillors and other community leaders which was commissioned by Action Aid Zimbabwe.
- Documentary on women politicians' five year mile - In partnership with MISA Zimbabwe the organization developed and produced a documentary and magazine entitled the 5 Mile which documents the road travelled by women during the elections and their plans for the next five years they are in the 8th parliament.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY

Binga women break new ground



WiPSU facilitator and Tonga translator at a workshop in Binga

Binga is a district located in Matebeleland North Province in Zimbabwe. The area is characterized by high poverty levels and generally considered to be under-developed in comparison with other districts in the country. The people's main source of livelihood is farming, fishing, and weaving local artifacts which are mainly sold to tourists. Infrastructure is poor, with very few schools, and poor roads networks. Binga is also a very hot and dry area and therefore clean safe water for drinking is a big challenge. Women's participation in politics and other community structures is very low. There had never been a female councilor or Member of Parliament since Zimbabwe's attainment of independence in 1980.

Women from Binga broke new ground and challenged discrimination of women that is rooted in cultural beliefs against female leadership. Through the empowerment workshops and trainings facilitated by WiPSU which included, confidence building, grooming and deportment, leadership and women's participation in decision making, there were a total of 23 women who showed interest in contesting in the 2013 harmonized elections.

The majority however, failed to sail through due to various reasons including lack of proper documents and late submission of CVs and voter registration in the area of residents. Among the women interested in taking up political office three managed to sail through the primary elections of their political parties, nomination court and the elections. The other women have not given up, they have taken the opportunity as a learning curve to prepare for the 2018 elections and are already. WiPSU has been working in Binga for the past three years initially on an empowerment project in partnership with WLSA and currently on the Womankind/Comic Relief project.

The three women were determined for positions and besides facing cultural downbeats they never gave up till the 31st of July 2013. Through the empowerment programme WiPSU managed to train these candidates in the Matebeleland candidates training programme where the women got strengthened campaign management skills, media awareness as well as funds mobilization. Women rallied behind the candidates radically.

After the 2013 harmonized elections one of the candidates, Judith Sibanda managed to win the elections, breaking new ground, becoming the first female

councilor in Binga since independence. WIPSU celebrates this incident together with the women in Binga and the stakeholders who contributed to this historic moment. After the elections the newly elected councilor participated in induction training workshops to capacitate her together with other elected councilors on, the roles and responsibilities of councilors, grooming, leadership, confidence building and personal empowerment.

Under the Comic Relief project, WIPSU established a Ward Consultative Forum (WCF) in ward 24 for councilor Sibanda. The WCF members are working flat out to prove to the Binga community that women are a force to be reckoned with. So far the WCF members have achieved a lot of progress in terms of participation in leadership, 4 of the women have already acquired leadership positions in the community and 1 has acquired a regional leadership position.

WIPSU has therefore facilitated that the women are work well together, put aside political affiliations, support each other including voting for each other for community decision making structures leadership positions. The women are showing evidence of increased confidence, articulating women's rights well and holding leaders accountable through engaging relevant service providers with various community concerns and seeking feedback. The WCF structure has presented an opportunity for women to work together, start economic empowerment endeavors and discussing issues of concern to women as women. Pertaining to leadership one of the WCF members noted that the opportunities are slowing them down, they would have taken all positions through the support they are giving each other, they can barely wait for opportunities for voting in women in their ward and district.

FUNDING PARTNERS

WIPSU extends its gratitude for the support received from the following institutions that made our work with women possible in 2013. It is this support that has enabled women to engage in their political parties and rise into political office in a manner that seeks to advance women's qualitative and quantitative representation. Thank you to:





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