

July-August Newsletter

Empowerment Initiative For Rural Women And Adolescents (EIRWA)

Embrace. Empower. Thrive: Empowering Rural Women and Adolescents for Inclusive Growth.



JULY HIGHLIGHTS

EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN ECONOMICALLY: TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

»»» LIFTher TRAINING PROGRAM

In July, EIRWA proudly launched the **LIFTher program**, a new initiative designed to empower rural women with essential life skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training for sustainable growth. Over the course of three days, **20 rural women participated** in an intensive training session where they shared knowledge, gained new insights, and received mentorship from successful local businesswomen. In addition to the training, EIRWA provided these women with financial support to help them start their micro-businesses, bridging the gap for those with limited access to capital.

GIRLS CAN. PROJECT <<<

Our commitment to supporting adolescent girls in Rufunsa continues to make significant strides. Through our **U.S. Embassy-funded project**, the '**Girls Can. Project**' we are empowering **over 200 girls** with mentorship sessions beyond the classroom. These sessions focus on building social and life skills, providing access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) information, and improving academic performance. This project is making a tangible difference in the lives of these young girls, equipping them with the tools they need to thrive.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN RUFUNSA FOR BETTER HELATH, EDUCATION AND LIFE OUTCOMES

▶▶▶ FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION

On August 5th, **EIRWA** celebrated **Farmers' Day** by engaging with successful and legendary women farmers in Rufunsa. The event was a valuable opportunity to learn from these experienced farmers as they discussed the evolution of farming practices and their impact on the environment. The women highlighted the benefits of traditional farming methods, such as the use of manure, while expressing concerns about the challenges posed by modern mechanization. One farmer shared her struggle in accessing financial support to commercialize her farming, but was encouraged to learn about the government's Constituency Development Fund, which offers low-interest loans. This exchange of knowledge was both enlightening and empowering for all involved.



EMPOWERED WOMEN, UNSILENCED VOICES!

"Empowering women directly reduces their vulnerability to oppression and abuse. When women are strong and independent, they are less likely to be silenced or mistreated."



TUKASHI BEEKEEPING PROJECT EXPANSION

We are thrilled to announce that **50 new women** have joined our Tukashi (Ladies) Beekeeping Project, with training scheduled to begin in the first week of September. This project, which has already empowered 60 women with **skills in beehive making, honey production, and marketing**, continues to grow. Collectively, these women have produced over 100 beehives, contributing to gender equality, forest conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and income generation. We are excited to see the impact this new group will have as they embark on their beekeeping journey.



SEPTEMBER KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Tukashi Beekeeping Training:** Launching a new cohort of 40 women, focusing on practical beekeeping, honey production, and sustainable marketing skills.
- **Back-to-School Support for Girls:** Continuing our mentorship program to provide over 200 girls with educational materials, SRHR information, and life skills as they begin the school year.
- **Advocacy at Mpanshya Annual Chief Traditional Ceremony:** Raising awareness on key community issues, focusing on women's empowerment and education during this cultural event.
- **Commemoration of International Day of Charity:** Celebrating acts of charity within our communities and encouraging support for ongoing initiatives that empower women and girls.
- **World Cleanup Day Activities:** Mobilizing community members for a cleanup campaign, promoting environmental stewardship and hygiene in local areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 60% of women and girls in rural Zambia live in poverty, with limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities? This staggering reality leaves them vulnerable to abuse, early marriage, and lifelong economic dependence (UNDP, 2023).

We call on civil society, policymakers, and development partners to join forces in addressing these pressing issues affecting women and girls. By supporting initiatives that empower women and girls through education, economic opportunities, and protection from abuse, we can break the cycle of poverty and create a future where every woman and girl in Zambia can thrive. Your involvement is crucial in making this change happen.

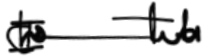


A MESSAGE FROM US TO YOU

As we continue our work in the coming months, we are excited to build on the successes of our programs and explore new opportunities to empower rural women and adolescents. Your support and partnership are invaluable as we strive to create lasting, positive change in our communities.

Thank you for being part of the EIRWA family. Together, we are making a difference—one woman, one girl, one community at a time.

Warm regards,



Ireen Chikatula
Founder & Director
Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents (EIRWA)



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