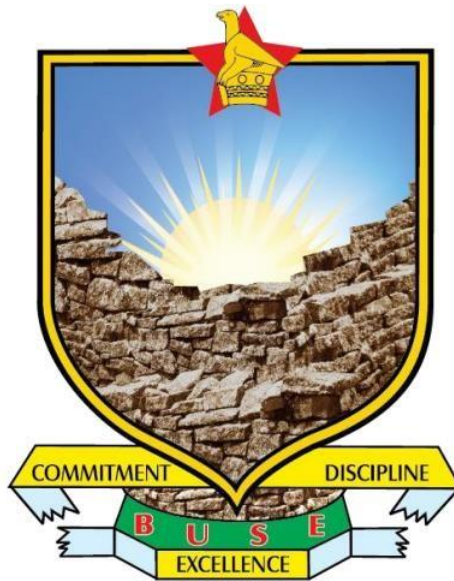


THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**



**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION IN  
UPHOLDING HUMAN SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF ZIMBABWE  
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

By

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfilment of  
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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess the significance of donor aid and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). The study used a case study research design as a popular method in social science research that involves an in-depth examination of a single case or a group of cases. The research methodology adopted for this study is a qualitative methods research approach, including semi structured interviews with key stakeholders. Precisely, 30 participants were interviewed. Through analysis of relevant literature, and examination of donor funding patterns, this study investigates the contributions and challenges faced by ZLHR in advancing human security in Zimbabwe. The findings of this study highlights that the organization has been instrumental in providing legal support to victims of human rights violations, advocating for legal reforms, and raising awareness about human rights issues within the country. Notably, the organization relies heavily on funding from donors to maintain its operations which perpetuate dependency. Against this background, the study concludes that donor aid has played a crucial role in supporting the work of ZLHR, enabling them to implement impactful programs and initiatives but is not without its challenges. The study recommends that civil society organizations and donors should establish strong collaborative partnerships to address concerns regarding donor influence, transparency, and accountability. Regular communication and coordination will foster effective use of aid resources. The study propose and advance the need for increased political will in response to Human Security in Zimbabwe.

**Declaration form**

I, (B200340B) hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own research and study, except to the extent indicated in the acknowledgments and references included in the body of the paper, and that it has not been submitted in part or in full for any other degree to any other university.

.....

**Student's Signature**

.....

**Date**

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

### **Dedication**

This work is dedicated to my beloved mother, Dadisayi Kadema, for her love, care and support throughout my studies. Her prayers and guidance towards the success of this dream is greatly appreciated. I dedicate this study also to the tireless efforts of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) in upholding and defending human rights in Zimbabwe, and to all individuals whose lives have been touched by their unwavering commitment to justice and dignity.

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I am grateful to the Almighty God for allowing me to get thus far in my academic career. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the following individuals that enabled this study to be done, finished, and submitted.

I'm thankful to my Supervisor, Dr. Kurebwa for dedicating his time towards the success of this work

I acknowledge the unwavering support, time and commitment of all my lecturers from the department of Peace and Governance for equipping me with knowledge and understanding of this course which contributed to the success of this great work.

I also concede the contributions and efforts of different stakeholders for being as informative and reliable towards the success of this study.

### **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

CLO	Civil Liberties Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DA	Donor Aid
DS	Dependency Syndrome
EU	European Union
LA	Local Authorities
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SERAP	Social Economic Rights and Accountability
SADC	Southern African Development Committee
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
TI	Transparency International
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission

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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The significance of Donor and Civil Society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe is a topic of utmost importance within the global context of development and human rights. In the global context, the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security is widely recognized. International civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in advocating for human rights, promoting good governance, and addressing human security challenges across different countries. Donor aid, provided by international institutions and governments, supports the work of these CSOs by providing financial resources and technical assistance. For instance, organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Transparency International have been at the forefront of promoting human security globally through their monitoring, research, and advocacy efforts. Their work sheds light on human rights abuses, raises awareness, and puts pressure on governments and international bodies to take action. By collaborating with international CSOs, donors contribute to the strengthening of civil society and the protection of human rights worldwide (Amnesty International, 2021; Human Rights Watch, 2021).

Within the regional context, the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security is exemplified in various African countries. For instance, in Nigeria, organizations like the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) have been instrumental in promoting human rights and holding the government accountable for human security violations. These organizations

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receive support from international donors such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU), enabling them to carry out their activities effectively. In South Africa, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) has played a pivotal role in advocating for access to healthcare and fighting against HIV/AIDS-related discrimination. Donor aid from international partners like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has been crucial in supporting TAC's efforts. These examples demonstrate the vital role that donor aid and civil society organizations play in upholding human security in Africa and beyond (SERAP, 2021; European Union, 2021; Global Fund, 2021).

Zimbabwe, located in Southern Africa, has faced numerous challenges over the years, including political instability, economic crises, and human rights violations. These issues have had a profound impact on the well-being and security of its population. In response to these challenges, the international community, including both donor organizations and civil society groups, has played a crucial role in supporting Zimbabwe's efforts to enhance human security. Donor organizations, such as international development agencies and non-governmental organizations, have provided financial assistance, technical expertise, and resources to address the root causes of insecurity in Zimbabwe. Civil society organizations, including human rights groups, grassroots movements, and advocacy organizations, have been at the forefront of promoting human rights, social justice, and accountability in the country. Their efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, and providing essential services to vulnerable populations. Therefore, understanding the significance of these actors in upholding human security in Zimbabwe requires an examination of their global engagements and the impact of their interventions on the country's socio-political landscape.

When examining the significance of Donor and Civil Society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, it is essential to consider the regional dynamics and the broader context of Southern Africa. Zimbabwe's challenges and successes in promoting

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human security are interconnected with those of its neighboring countries. The region has experienced various socio-economic and political issues, including poverty, inequality, governance deficits, and conflicts. These challenges have necessitated regional cooperation and collaboration among governments, regional organizations, and civil society actors. Donor organizations have played a crucial role in supporting regional initiatives aimed at enhancing human security, including capacity building, governance reforms, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Civil society organizations in the region have also formed networks and alliances to collectively address common challenges, share best practices, and advocate for regional policies that prioritize human security. Moreover, the experiences and lessons learned from other countries within Southern Africa can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of donor and civil society interventions in upholding human security in Zimbabwe. Therefore, analyzing the regional context is vital for comprehending the broader implications of the significance of these actors in promoting human security in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has faced significant challenges in ensuring the protection of human rights and maintaining human security. The country has experienced political instability, economic downturns, and social unrest, which have had a profound impact on the well-being and security of its citizens. In this context, civil society organizations, such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, have played a crucial role in advocating for human rights and providing legal assistance to vulnerable populations.

Donor aid has also been instrumental in supporting initiatives aimed at upholding human security in Zimbabwe. International donors, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, have provided financial resources and technical assistance to bolster the efforts of civil society organizations and address the challenges faced by Zimbabwean citizens.

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It is imperative to note that the existence and significance of donor aid in Africa has not been without criticism. Some schools of thought argue that foreign aid is as Janus faced an institution as can be found, a hegemonic tool of control and influence by the westerners. Dambisa Moyo argues in her book “Dead Aid” that systematic aid given to African countries has terrible effects and should be stopped; she regards aid as the problem, not the solution to development issues (Moyo, 2009)

Critics has often expressed the criticism that aid is a neocolonial tool by developed countries as they impose prohibitive policy conditionalities on developing countries while donors tie their commercial, political and military interests to the aid they provide. This is often viewed as one of the causes of poverty, hunger, disease, and backwardness in developing countries including Africa and Zimbabwe in particular. In addition to this, however, and to a large extent, the abusive manner in which the states of the developing world such as Africa allow with impunity the donors’ policy of non- interference in internal affairs has rendered aid ineffective and caused mounting poverty, human rights abuses, corruption and inhuman act against the poor and defenseless majority in the rural and urban communities and even threats to national sovereignty are outside the concerns of donors. (Chikowore,2004).

There is also the visible ineffectiveness of regional blocs (SADC and COMESA), continental blocs (African Union), and international institutions (United Nations) particularly in ensuring the effectiveness of development aid. It is within this context that the principles of South-South cooperation remain theoretical for the majority of the populace. The discourse on development aid continues to show ‘class clashes’ as aid remains a neocolonial tool, states continue to be oppressive, and international institutions do not care. It has also emerged in a study that was conducted by Kabonga (2015) entitled, *The Impact of Donor Aid on Social Economic Development in Chegutu district (Zimbabwe)*, and that donor aid creates dependency. Donor aid in Chegutu district is antithetical to sustainability.

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A quantum of projects being patronized by donor aid is perpetuating dependency. The feeding scheme in Chegetu district epitomizes dependency that is being created by donor aid heavily depends on the continued availability of foodstuffs from the donor country; and it is clear that the activity will cease once exogenous support ceases. The refurbishment of schools is one other project that is being spearheaded by donor aid. The project has insinuations and innuendos of dependency. Given the lack of funds to kick-start infrastructural projects, schools would not be able to start developmental projects on their own. Though repairing derelict buildings is commendable, capacitating schools to be able to repair infrastructure on their own is more sustainable in the long run. It is not romanticizing to insinuate that donor aid is marred by lack of sustainability. Sustainability is only used as a rhetoric to justify the giving of aid that in end benefits the benefactor as opposed to the recipient. Kabonga (2015)

### **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

The main aim of the study is to assess the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations, with a particular focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

The problem addressed in this study is the inadequacy of human security in Zimbabwe and the significant role played by Donor and Civil Society organizations in upholding it. Human security encompasses the protection and promotion of individuals' fundamental rights, safety, well-being, and dignity. However, in Zimbabwe, various factors, including political instability, economic challenges, and human rights violations, have hindered the achievement of comprehensive human security for its population.

This problem affects the people of Zimbabwe, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities, and individuals living in poverty. People in Zimbabwe experience heightened risks and vulnerabilities due to limited access to basic



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services, social protection, justice, and opportunities for socio-economic development. Human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, political violence, and restrictions on freedom of expression, further exacerbate the lack of human security. (Zim Rights, 2024) The Zimbabwe 2020 Human Rights Report, identifies significant human rights issues includes unlawful or arbitrary killings of civilians by security forces, torture and detention. Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (2020). This highlights the severity of the problem. For instance, according to the Global Peace Index, Zimbabwe ranks low in terms of peace and safety, indicating a significant challenge to human security. The United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index (2016) also reveals the country's struggle in achieving adequate living standards, education, and healthcare for its citizens. Additionally, reports from international human rights organizations document instances of human rights abuses and violations, pointing to the urgent need for interventions to uphold human security in Zimbabwe. The problem affects not only the individuals directly impacted by the lack of human security but also the entire society and the country's development prospects. Without robust human security, sustainable development, peace, and stability remain elusive, hindering progress in various sectors, including education, healthcare, economic growth, and social cohesion. Addressing this problem is crucial to ensuring the well-being and dignity of all Zimbabweans and fostering an environment conducive to overall societal advancement.

### **1.4. Research Objectives**

- I. To assess the impact of donor aid on the capacity of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights to provide legal assistance and promote human rights in Zimbabwe.
- II. To examine the strategies and approaches employed by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights in their efforts to uphold human security.
- III. To explore the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the contributions and limitations of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe

### **1.5. Research Questions**

- I. What is the impact of donor aid on the capacity of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights to provide legal assistance and promote human rights in Zimbabwe?
- II. What strategies and approaches have been employed by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights in their efforts to uphold human security?
- III. What are the different perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders in promoting human security in Zimbabwe?

### **1.6. Assumptions of the Study**

- i. Donor aid is intended to support initiatives that promote human rights and human security in Zimbabwe. It is assumed that the donor aid provided to Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and other civil society organizations is directed towards activities that contribute to upholding human security, such as legal assistance, advocacy, and capacity-building.
- ii. The experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders, including representatives from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, donors, government officials, and affected individuals, will be accurately represented and provide valuable insights into the contributions and limitations of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security. It is assumed that the participants in the study will provide honest and reliable information.

## **1.7 Significance of the Study**

### **I. To the Academia:**

The study will add to the existing body of knowledge on the role of external assistance and grassroots initiatives in promoting human security in fragile contexts. It will provide insights into the effectiveness, challenges, and limitations of donor aid and civil society organizations, offering valuable information for scholars and researchers in the fields of human rights, international development, and security studies.

### **II. To Civil Society:**

By highlighting the role of civil society organizations, such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, the study can contribute to the recognition and support of grassroots initiatives in promoting human rights and upholding human security. It can provide valuable insights into the strategies and approaches employed by civil society organizations, empowering them to be more effective in their work and advocating for positive change. Awareness and Advocacy: The study can raise awareness about the importance of human security and the crucial role played by civil society organizations and donor aid in upholding human rights in Zimbabwe. It can contribute to public discourse and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting human security, fostering accountability, and encouraging support for initiatives that protect and empower individuals and communities.

### **1.8. Delimitations of the Study**

The study focuses specifically on Zimbabwe and does not include an analysis of donor aid and civil society organizations in other countries or regions. It focuses on a period ranging from 2017 to 2023. This delimitation allows for a more focused and context-specific examination of the topic. Also, the study primarily focuses on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights as a representative civil society organization. While other civil society organizations may also play a role in promoting human security in Zimbabwe, this study delimits its analysis to the specific contributions and challenges faced by this organization. The study focuses on a specific time period that is from 2016 till 2023 decade, to assess the impact of donor aid and civil society organizations on human security in Zimbabwe.

### **1.9 Limitations of the Study**

The study may face challenges in accessing comprehensive and up-to-date data on donor aid and civil society activities in Zimbabwe. To solve this challenge the study will rely on primary data and will use the reports that are up to date. The findings of the study may be specific to the context of Zimbabwe and may not be easily generalized to other countries or regions. The unique socio-political dynamics in Zimbabwe could limit the applicability of the study's conclusions to different contexts. The study may be susceptible to biases and subjectivity, particularly in the interpretation of qualitative data or the selection of sources. The researcher's perspectives and potential preconceived notions could influence the findings.

**1.10 Definition of key Terms**

**Donor aid:** According to Jeffrey Sachs (2006), donor aid refers to the financial and material assistance provided by wealthier countries or organizations to less developed countries

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**Civil Society Organizations:** According to the World Bank (2020) civil society comprises, the wide array of non-governmental organizations and not for profit making organizations that have a presence in the public life, expressing interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations.

**Human Security:** Human Security refers to safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression and protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life” shifting from a state centric approach, that had prevailed to encompass seven key individual centric components which are economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security (UNDP, 1994).

**Human Rights:** According to Eleanor Roosevelt, a leading proponent in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), human rights are fundamental rights and freedoms that are considered to be inherent to all individuals by virtue of their humanity, all human beings are free and equal, regardless of colour, creed or religion (Roosevelt, 1958).

### 1.11. Dissertation Outline

The dissertation is comprised of five chapters as indicated below:

#### **Chapter One: Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the introduction and the background of the study. It looks at the purpose of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the research questions, and the limitations and delimitations of the study.

#### **Chapter Two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework.**

This chapter looks at the theoretical framework and the literature review that guides the study. This chapter contains the literature and texts that are related to the study. In this chapter,

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the researcher gave an insight into what has been studied and said by other researchers relating to issues of significance of Civil Society organizations and Donor Aid.

### **Chapter Three: Research Design and Methodology**

This chapter focuses on the research philosophy, research designs, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and other data presentation methods that will be used to conduct the study. This chapter also described and explained how data and research information were gathered.

### **Chapter Four: Data presentation, analysis, and discussion of findings**

The focus of this chapter is on data analysis and data presentation of the findings during the research.

### **Chapter Five: Summary, conclusions and Recommendations, and Areas for further research**

The final chapter comprises the summary conclusions and recommendations of the whole study

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe. It begins by providing an overview of the concept of human security and its relevance within the Zimbabwean context. The literature review then delves into the role of donor aid in supporting civil society organizations, with a specific focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). Finally, the chapter explores the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the contributions and limitations of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe.

#### **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

##### **2.2.1 Dependency Theory**

This study will be guided by the dependency theory. The theory provides valuable insights into the dynamics of donor aid and its impact on civil society organizations. Resource dependency theory, as proposed by Pfeffer & Salancik (1978), posits that organizations are dependent on external resources to survive and accomplish their goals. In the case of civil society organizations operating in Zimbabwe, donor aid represents a critical resource that significantly influences their operations, strategies, and outcomes.

According to Pfeffer & Salancik (1978), organizations seek external resources to compensate for their own resource deficiencies and to gain access to valuable assets that can



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enhance their performance and effectiveness. In the context of this study, civil society organizations in Zimbabwe rely on donor aid to address the resource gaps they face, such as limited financial resources, technical expertise, and networking opportunities.

The resource dependency theory highlights the power dynamics that emerge between civil society organizations and their donors. Scholars argue that organizations may adapt their behavior and decision-making processes to align with donor priorities and expectations (Pfeffer & Salancik, 1978). Donors often have specific goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria that shape their funding decisions. As a result, civil society organizations may tailor their strategies, projects, and reporting mechanisms to meet these donor requirements, potentially influencing their organizational priorities and focus areas.

Moreover, resource dependency theory acknowledges the potential for aid dependency, where civil society organizations become heavily reliant on donor funding (Pfeffer & Salancik, 1978). While donor aid provides critical support, organizations may face challenges in maintaining their autonomy and sustainability. These challenges may arise from the need to continuously secure donor funding, comply with donor conditions, and manage the potential risks associated with over-reliance on external resources. Applying resource dependency theory to the study of donor aid and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe offers a framework to analyze the power dynamics, challenges, and opportunities associated with donor funding. It provides a lens through which to explore how the availability and control of resources shape the strategies, decision-making processes, and organizational behaviour of civil society organizations in their efforts to uphold human security.

By examining the influence of donor aid within the resource dependency framework, this study aims to shed light on the interdependence between civil society organizations and external actors, particularly donors. It seeks to understand how donor aid shapes the capacity,

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goals, and effectiveness of civil society organizations, such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, in providing legal assistance, promoting human rights, and upholding human security in Zimbabwe.

### **2.3 The Role of Foreign Aid in Human Security**

Foreign aid plays a significant role in promoting human security by providing financial resources, technical assistance, and capacity building to address the multifaceted challenges that individuals and communities face. It serves as a mechanism for international cooperation and solidarity, aiming to enhance the well-being, dignity, and protection of people in recipient countries (United Nations, 2009).

Firstly, foreign aid contributes to improving human security by addressing basic needs and enhancing access to essential services. Aid can be directed towards sectors such as healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation, and nutrition, which are fundamental for individual well-being and development (World Bank, 2017). Through investments in these areas, foreign aid helps to improve the overall quality of life and reduce vulnerabilities, particularly in low-income countries where resources may be limited.

Secondly, foreign aid plays a crucial role in promoting and strengthening governance systems that uphold human rights, rule of law, and democratic principles. By supporting initiatives related to institution-building, capacity development, and governance reforms, aid can contribute to the establishment of accountable and transparent institutions (OECD, 2011). Effective governance systems enhance human security by ensuring the protection of human rights, fostering social inclusion, and promoting participatory decision-making processes.

Furthermore, foreign aid can support conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts, thereby contributing to human security in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Aid can be directed towards initiatives that promote peace, reconciliation,

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and the reintegration of displaced populations (UNDP, 2018). By addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting dialogue, and supporting sustainable development, foreign aid can contribute to reducing violence and building lasting peace.

Moreover, foreign aid can play a critical role in addressing the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, which pose significant threats to human security. Aid can support disaster preparedness, early warning systems, emergency response, and the recovery and reconstruction of affected communities (World Bank, 2013). By providing timely assistance and resources, foreign aid helps to mitigate the devastating effects of disasters, protect lives and livelihoods, and build resilience in vulnerable regions.

Additionally, foreign aid can contribute to reducing poverty and inequality, which are major drivers of insecurity. Aid can support poverty alleviation programs, social protection mechanisms, and initiatives that promote inclusive economic growth (IMF, 2016). By addressing structural barriers, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities, and reducing socioeconomic disparities, foreign aid can contribute to enhancing human security and fostering sustainable development. However, it is essential to ensure that foreign aid is effectively utilized and aligned with the priorities and needs of recipient countries. Coordination, transparency, and accountability mechanisms are crucial to maximize the impact of aid and avoid potential risks such as corruption or dependency (World Bank, 2011). However, the impact of political and economic governance on the allocation of aid is ambiguous (Alesina & Weder 2002; Cassimon & van Campenhout ; 2009) It is also important to engage in partnerships and dialogue with local communities, civil society organizations, and governments to ensure that aid interventions are context-specific, participatory, and sustainable.

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Foreign aid plays a vital role in promoting human security by addressing basic needs, strengthening governance systems, supporting peace building efforts, addressing the impacts of disasters and climate change, and reducing poverty and inequality. By providing financial resources and technical assistance, foreign aid contributes to enhancing the well-being, dignity, and protection of individuals and communities in recipient countries.

### **2.4 Impact of Donor Aid**

On the positive side, donor aid can contribute significantly to economic development. By providing financial resources for infrastructure development, investment in productive sectors, and human capital development, aid can stimulate economic activity, create employment opportunities, and enhance productivity. This, in turn, leads to poverty reduction and improved living standards (Easterly, 2003; Burnside & Dollar, 2000).

The impact of donor aid is also evident in human development. Aid often focuses on sectors such as healthcare, education, and social protection. Investments in healthcare can improve access to essential services, reduce child mortality rates, and combat infectious diseases. Aid for education can enhance access to quality education, promote literacy, and equip individuals with knowledge and skills. Social protection programs supported by aid can alleviate poverty, address inequality, and provide a safety net for vulnerable populations (World Bank, 2019; Bhutta , 2010; Duflo , 2011; Sabates-Wheeler & Devereux, 2010).

Infrastructure development is another area where donor aid plays a crucial role. Aid funds are often utilized to finance projects such as transportation networks, energy systems, and water and sanitation facilities. Improved infrastructure enhances productivity, facilitates trade, and fosters economic development. Furthermore, access to reliable infrastructure services improves living conditions and reduces vulnerabilities, thereby contributing to human security (World Bank, 2019; Fay & Yepes, 2003). However, it is important to acknowledge the

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potential negative effects of donor aid as well. Over-reliance on aid can create dependency and hinder the recipient country's capacity to mobilize domestic resources and develop sustainable economic systems. This can perpetuate a cycle of aid dependency, stifle local entrepreneurship, and hinder the development of productive sectors (Moyo, 2009).

Moreover, donor aid can sometimes contribute to corruption and governance challenges. Weak governance systems, lack of transparency, and limited accountability mechanisms can lead to mismanagement of aid funds and diversion of resources. To mitigate these risks, it is crucial to establish robust governance frameworks, promote accountability, and strengthen institutions (Fjeldstad & Heggstad, 2012).

Another concern is the potential distortion of priorities and the undermining of recipient country ownership of development processes. Donor-driven agendas and conditionalities can divert resources and attention away from local priorities, hindering the long-term sustainability of development efforts. To ensure aid interventions are effective, they should be tailored to local contexts, aligned with national development plans, and promote local ownership and participation (Mawdsley, 2012; Grindle, 2004).

Lastly, challenges related to aid effectiveness can arise. Coordination among multiple donors, fragmented approaches, and limited capacity in recipient countries can hinder the efficient and impactful use of aid. Strengthening coordination mechanisms, harmonizing approaches, and enhancing recipient country capacity are essential for maximizing the positive effects of aid (OECD, 2020).

Donor aid has both positive and negative effects on recipient countries. It can contribute to economic development, human development, and infrastructure development. However, it is crucial to address potential negative effects such as dependency, corruption, distorted priorities, and aid effectiveness challenges. By promoting transparency, accountability, and

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local ownership, donor aid can contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of long-term human security.

### **2.8 Summary**

This chapter outlined the research methodology employed in the study on the experiences of Zimbabwean women trafficked to Oman and Kuwait. It highlighted the interpretive nature of the research, the qualitative research design using phenomenology, the population and sample, sampling methods, data collection methods, validity and reliability considerations, data presentation and analysis techniques, pilot testing, and ethical considerations. The next chapter will present the findings of the study based on the data collected and analyzed using the outlined methodology.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the research methodology employed in studying the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, focusing on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. It outlines the research philosophy, methodology, design, population, sample, sampling methods, data collection methods, validity and reliability, data presentation and analysis, pilot testing, ethical considerations, and provides a summary of the chapter.

#### **3.2 Research Philosophy**

The research philosophy adopted for this study is interpretivism. Interpretivism is a philosophical approach that emphasizes understanding social phenomena through the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). It recognizes that individuals construct their own realities and meanings based on their unique social and cultural contexts. Interpretivism was chosen as the research philosophy for this study due to its compatibility with the research objective of exploring the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, specifically focusing on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. This philosophy aligns with the aim of understanding the complex dynamics and subjective interpretations of individuals involved in the field of human rights and donor aid. One of the strengths of interpretivism is its emphasis on context and depth of understanding. By focusing on subjective experiences and perspectives, interpretivism allows for a comprehensive exploration of the complexities and

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nuances within the research topic (Silverman, 2013). It acknowledges that social phenomena are situated in specific cultural, political, and historical contexts, and seeks to uncover the meaning and significance attributed to these phenomena by individuals involved.

Furthermore, interpretivism is well-suited for studying topics that involve human experiences, motivations, and perceptions, as it recognizes the importance of subjective interpretations in shaping social reality (Creswell, 2013). In the context of this study, interpretivism allows for an in-depth exploration of the experiences, motivations, and perceptions of individuals involved in human rights work and the receipt of donor aid in Zimbabwe. It provides a platform for giving voice to the diverse perspectives and narratives of actors within the field. One of the limitations of interpretivism is the potential for researcher bias and subjectivity. As the researcher engages with subjective interpretations, there is a risk of their own beliefs and values influencing the analysis and interpretation of the data (Creswell, 2013). To mitigate this, the researcher should maintain reflexivity, acknowledge their positionality, and employ rigorous data analysis techniques to ensure objectivity and validity of the findings.

Additionally, interpretivism may not provide generalizable findings due to its focus on specific contexts and subjective interpretations (Silverman, 2013). The emphasis on understanding the unique experiences of individuals limits the ability to make broad generalizations to other contexts or populations. However, the strength of interpretivism lies in its ability to provide rich and detailed insights into the complex dynamics of social phenomena, which can inform context-specific practices and policies.



### **3.3. Research Methodology**

The research methodology adopted for this study is a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a systematic, subjective approach that aims to understand social phenomena through the exploration of individual perspectives, experiences, and meanings (Merriam, 2009). It involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data, such as interviews, observations, and documents, to gain in-depth insights into the research. Qualitative methodology was chosen for this study due to its suitability for exploring the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, specifically focusing on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. This methodology allows for a comprehensive exploration of subjective experiences, motivations, and perceptions of individuals within the context of human rights and donor aid. Qualitative methodology is well-suited for this study because it enables an in-depth understanding of the complexities and nuances within the research topic. By focusing on individual perspectives and experiences, qualitative research allows for a detailed exploration of the social, cultural, and contextual factors that shape the relationships between donor aid, civil society organizations, and human security in Zimbabwe.

Moreover, qualitative methodology is particularly appropriate when studying topics that involve human experiences, motivations, and perceptions (Creswell, 2013). In the context of this study, qualitative methods such as interviews and observations provide a platform for capturing the rich narratives and diverse perspectives of key informants, including members of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, civil society organizations, government officials, and donor agencies. One of the strengths of qualitative methodology is its ability to generate rich and detailed data. Through methods such as interviews and observations, qualitative research allows for exploratory and in-depth investigations, providing a deeper understanding of the

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research topic (Merriam, 2009). This depth of understanding is valuable for uncovering the complexities and contextual nuances within the field of human rights and donor aid.

Another strength of qualitative methodology is its flexibility and adaptability. Qualitative research allows for iterative and emergent data collection and analysis, enabling the researcher to refine their understanding and focus as the study progresses (Creswell, 2013). This flexibility allows for the exploration of unexpected themes and the ability to capture the diverse perspectives and experiences of participants. One limitation of qualitative methodology is the potential for subjective interpretations and researcher bias. As the researcher engages in data collection and analysis, their own beliefs and values may influence the interpretation of the findings (Silverman, 2013). To mitigate this, the researcher should employ rigorous data analysis techniques, engage in reflexivity, and ensure transparency in the research process.

### **3.4 Research Design**

The research design adopted for this study is a case study design. A case study design involves a comprehensive and in-depth examination of a specific case or phenomenon within its real-life context (Yin, 2018). It aims to provide a detailed understanding of the complexities, dynamics, and interrelationships associated with the chosen case. A case study design was chosen for this study due to its suitability for examining the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. This design allows for an in-depth exploration of the specific case within its broader context, enabling a rich understanding of the interactions, processes, and outcomes related to the research topic.

The case study design was deemed appropriate for this study because it enables a holistic and in-depth analysis of the complex dynamics between donor aid, civil society organizations, and human security in Zimbabwe. By focusing on a specific case, such as

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Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, the researcher can gain a comprehensive understanding of the unique characteristics, challenges, and contributions of civil society organizations in upholding human security within the specific context of Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the case study design allows for the exploration of multiple data sources, including interviews, observations, and document analysis, which can provide a rich and multifaceted understanding of the research topic (Yin, 2018). This design facilitates the collection of qualitative data that is well-suited for capturing the diverse perspectives and experiences of key informants involved in human rights work and donor aid in Zimbabwe.

### **3.5 Population and Sampling**

Population refers to all the participants on which the research is supposed to be anchored on (Creswell, 2008). The population for this study consists of individuals and organizations involved in the field of human rights, donor aid, and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe. This includes members of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, civil society organizations operating in Zimbabwe, government officials responsible for human rights and aid policies, and representatives from donor agencies providing aid to Zimbabwe. The chosen population aligns with the research objective of exploring the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. By including individuals and organizations directly involved in human rights work, donor aid, and civil society activities, the study aims to capture diverse perspectives and experiences related to the research topic.

Sample size refers to the total number of the participants to be consulted during the research process ((Yin, 2020). The sample size for this study will be determined based on the principles of qualitative research, specifically aiming for data saturation. Data saturation refers to the point in data collection when new information or themes no longer emerge from

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additional participants, indicating that the sample size is sufficient to address the research questions (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006). As a guideline, a sample size of approximately 15-20 participants may be appropriate for a qualitative study focused on in-depth exploration and understanding (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006). However, the actual sample size will be determined iteratively during the data collection process, with the researcher continuously assessing data saturation and making adjustments if necessary.

The sample will be purposefully selected to ensure diversity and representation of key stakeholders within the population. This may include members of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, civil society organizations operating in Zimbabwe, government officials, and representatives from donor agencies. The selection of participants will be based on their relevance to the research objective and their ability to provide rich insights and perspectives on the research topic.

### **3.6 Sampling Techniques**

#### **Purposive sampling will be employed in this study**

##### **3.6.1 Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique that involves selecting participants based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives (Creswell, 2013). It allows the researcher to intentionally select individuals who possess a wealth of knowledge and experience related to the research topic. In this study, purposive sampling will be used to select participants who are directly involved in human rights work, donor aid, civil society organizations, and government agencies in Zimbabwe. They will be chosen based on their expertise, involvement, and relevance to the research questions, ensuring that the sample represents key stakeholders.

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Purposive sampling was chosen as it allows for the selection of participants who possess first-hand experience and expertise in human rights, donor aid, and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe. Given the specific focus of the study on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, purposive sampling ensures that the sample includes individuals directly involved in this organization, as well as representatives from other relevant civil society organizations, government officials, and donor agencies. This method enables the researcher to capture a comprehensive range of perspectives and experiences related to the research topic.

The study participants to be selected by this kind of sampling includes human rights Lawyers, academic profiles, community residents, NGO key informants. Human rights lawyers are to be chosen because they hold information related to how donor aid have been effective in pushing human rights in Zimbabwe. Also NGO key informants were chosen because they have first-hand information concerning effectiveness of donor aid since to operate they require aid.

### **3. 7 Data Collection Methods**

The data collection methods employed in this study are interviews, document analysis, and observations.

#### **3.7.1 Key Informants Interviews**

Key Informant Interviews involve conducting structured or semi-structured interviews with participants to gather information and insights related to the research topic (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). In this study, interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders, including members of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, representatives from civil society organizations, government officials, and donor agency representatives. These interviews will provide an opportunity to delve into participants' perspectives, experiences, and knowledge regarding the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe.

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Interviews were chosen as a primary data collection method because they allow for direct engagement with participants and provide an opportunity to explore their perspectives, experiences, and knowledge in-depth. By conducting interviews with key stakeholders involved in human rights work, civil society organizations, and donor aid in Zimbabwe, the researcher can gain rich insights and first-hand accounts of the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security. Interviews also offer the flexibility to probe and follow up on specific topics of interest, facilitating a comprehensive exploration of the research questions. The study will interview human rights defenders, NGO key informants, Academic personnel and the community. They will be required to provide information related to effectiveness of donor Aid.

### **3.7.2 Documentary Analysis**

Document analysis involves the examination and interpretation of various documents relevant to the research topic (Bowen, 2009). In this study, documents such as reports, policy documents, legal frameworks, and organizational records will be analysed to gain insights into the broader context of donor aid, human rights, and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe. Document analysis will complement the interview data by providing additional contextual information and supporting or validating the findings from interviews. Document analysis was chosen as a complementary data collection method because it allows for the examination of relevant documents that provide insights into the broader context and background of the research topic. By analysing reports, policies, and organizational records, the researcher can gain a deeper understanding of the legal, political, and social frameworks that shape the role of donor aid and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe. Document analysis helps to triangulate and validate the findings from interviews, enhancing the credibility and robustness of the study.

### **3.8 Validity and Reliability**

Validity and reliability are two important concepts in research methodology that contribute to the overall quality and trustworthiness of the findings.

Validity refers to the extent to which a study accurately measures or evaluates what it claims to measure or evaluate (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). In other words, it assesses the truthfulness and accuracy of the research findings. There are several types of validity, including internal validity, external validity, construct validity, and content validity.

Internal validity refers to the extent to which a study demonstrates a causal relationship between variables and rules out alternative explanations (Campbell & Stanley, 1963). To ensure internal validity in this study, rigorous research design and control measures will be implemented. Careful selection of participants, clear operationalization of variables, and appropriate data analysis techniques will be employed to establish a strong causal inference and minimize confounding factors. To enhance validity, the researcher will strive to select a diverse sample that represents various perspectives and experiences within the chosen population. The researcher will also provide a detailed description of the research context, methodology, and participants, enabling other researchers to assess the transferability of the findings to similar contexts. Additionally, the researcher will employ multiple data collection methods, such as interviews, document analysis, and observations, to capture different dimensions of the research constructs, enhancing the comprehensiveness and robustness of the measurement.

Reliability refers to the consistency and stability of the research findings or measurements (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). It assesses the extent to which the same results can be obtained if the study is conducted again under similar conditions or using similar

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methods. There are several types of reliability, including internal consistency reliability, inter-rater reliability, and test-retest reliability. To ensure reliability, the researcher will conduct a pilot study to assess the clarity and consistency of the measurement items. Additionally, the researcher will employ established scales or measurement tools with demonstrated reliability to enhance the consistency of the measurements. To assess test-retest reliability, a subset of participants will be asked to complete the same measurement tool at two different time points. The researcher will then analyse the consistency of the responses to determine the stability of the measurements over time.

### **3.9 Data Presentation and Analysis**

Data presentation refers to the process of organizing, summarizing data. The study uses charts and bar graphs to present the findings. Data analysis refers to the process of interpreting the collected data to draw meaningful conclusions and answer research questions (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). It encompasses the process of transforming raw data into a format that can be easily understood and communicated to others. In this study, qualitative data obtained from interviews, document analysis, and observations will be analysed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a flexible and widely used approach that involves identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns or themes within qualitative data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). It allows for a systematic exploration of the data, uncovering key concepts, experiences, and perspectives related to the research topic. Thematic analysis involves several stages, including data familiarization, coding, theme development, and interpretation (Braun & Clarke, 2006). During the data familiarization stage, the researcher will become immersed in the data by reading and re-reading the interview transcripts, documents, and observation notes. This process will help in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the data and identifying initial codes or patterns. In the coding stage, the researcher will generate codes by systematically labelling and categorizing segments of data that capture important concepts, ideas, or



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experiences. These codes will be organized into broader themes and sub-themes, reflecting the underlying patterns within the data. The researcher will continuously review and refine the codes and themes, ensuring their relevance and coherence. Once the themes are developed, the researcher will interpret and analyse the data within the context of the research questions. The researcher will examine the relationships between the themes, identify significant findings, and provide interpretations supported by relevant quotes or examples from the data. The analysis will involve a careful consideration of the research context, theoretical frameworks, and participants' perspectives to generate meaningful insights.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical considerations play a crucial role in research, ensuring the protection of participants' rights, welfare, and privacy. Ethical considerations encompass a range of principles, guidelines, and practices that researchers adhere to when conducting studies involving human subjects. Informed consent is a fundamental ethical consideration in research. It involves obtaining participants' voluntary and informed agreement to participate in the study, after providing them with comprehensive information about the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks and benefits, and their right to withdraw at any time (American Psychological Association, 2017). Informed consent ensures that participants are aware of their rights, the nature of their involvement, and any potential risks involved, allowing them to make autonomous decisions. Confidentiality and privacy are essential ethical considerations. Researchers must ensure that participants' personal information and data are kept confidential and protected from unauthorized access or disclosure (American Psychological Association, 2017). This includes anonymizing data, using secure data storage systems, and ensuring that only authorized personnel have access to participant information. Maintaining confidentiality and privacy promotes trust, encourages honest participation, and safeguards participants' well-being.

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Protection from harm is another critical ethical consideration. Researchers must take measures to minimize any potential physical, psychological, or emotional harm to participants (American Psychological Association, 2017). This involves conducting a risk assessment, obtaining necessary approvals from ethics review boards, and implementing appropriate safeguards to protect participants' well-being throughout the study. If any harm or distress occurs during the study, researchers must provide appropriate support and resources to mitigate the impact. Respect for autonomy and voluntary participation is emphasized in ethical considerations. Researchers should ensure that participants have the freedom to choose whether or not to participate in the study without coercion or undue influence (American Psychological Association, 2017). This principle underscores the importance of respecting participants' autonomy and rights as individuals, allowing them to make decisions based on their own values and preferences.

Furthermore, ethical considerations encompass the responsibility to address any potential conflicts of interest, maintain transparency in research practices, and ensure the dissemination of accurate and unbiased findings (American Psychological Association, 2017). Researchers should also acknowledge and respect cultural, social, and contextual factors that may influence participants' experiences and perspectives. By adhering to ethical considerations, researchers demonstrate their commitment to protecting participants' rights, well-being, and privacy. These considerations foster trust and confidence in the research process and promote responsible and ethical conduct. Researchers must obtain appropriate ethics approvals, provide informed consent, maintain confidentiality, protect participants from harm, respect autonomy, and address conflicts of interest. Ensuring ethical conduct in research upholds the principles of integrity, respect, and beneficence, contributing to the overall quality and credibility of the study.

### **3.11 Chapter Summary**

This chapter presented the research methodology adopted for the study, including the research philosophy, methodology, design, population, sample, sampling methods, data collection methods, validity and reliability, data presentation and analysis, pilot testing, ethical considerations, and provided a summary of the chapter. The next chapter will present the findings of the study based on the analysis of the collected data.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDING

#### 4.1 Introduction

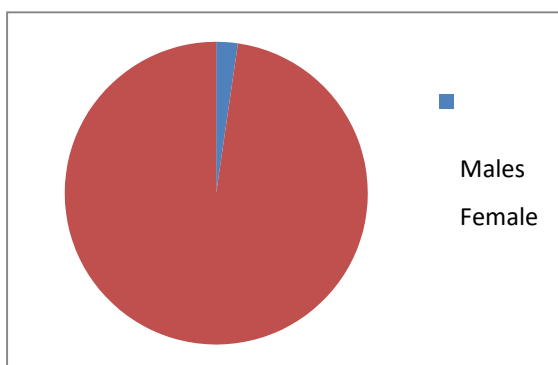
This chapter presents the data collected during the study and analyse it to address the research objectives. The study focuses on the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). The data collected aims to assess the impact of donor aid on ZLHR's capacity to provide legal assistance and promote human rights, examine the strategies and approaches employed by ZLHR in upholding human security, and explore the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the contributions and limitations of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe.

#### 4.2 Section A: Biographical Data Of Participants

##### 1. Gender



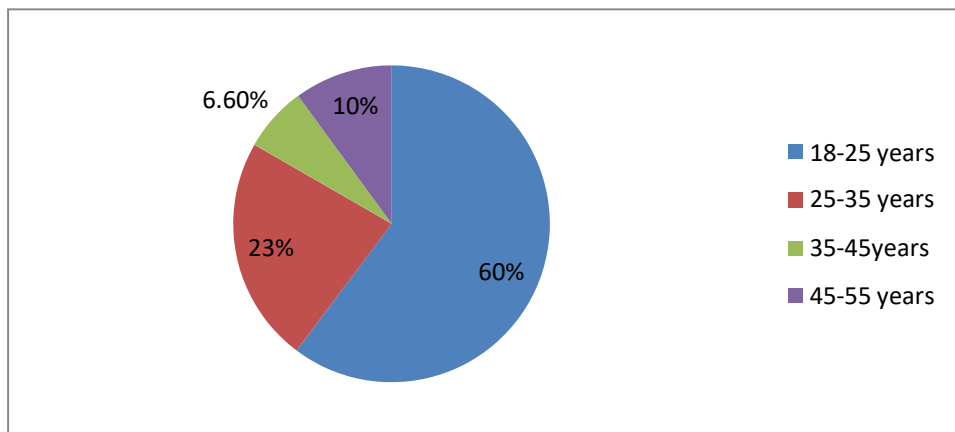
Figure 4.1 Gender



From the study findings, the highest number of participants were 70% female followed by 30% male

## 2. Age

**Figure 4.2 Ages**



From the findings the highest number of participants was 60% ranging between 18-25 years followed by 23% ranging between 25-35 years followed by 10% who were between the ages of 35-45 years. The lowest number of participants was 6.6% of those who of the ages between 45-55 years.

## 3. Marital Status

**Table 4.1: Marital status**

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
SINGLE	15	50%
MARRIED s	8	26%
DIVORCED	7	23%
TOTAL	30	100

From the findings presented above there were 50% single people, 26% Married. The lowest was 23% Divorced.

### 4.3 Section B; Impact of Donor Aid on ZLHR's Capacity

#### 4. Financial Sustainability

**Table 4.2 Financial Stability**

RESPONSE	Frequency	Percentage
Highest	17	56%
Moderate	10	33%
Low	3	10%
Total	30	100

The findings indicate that most people agreed that donor aid leads to financial sustainability. The highest response was 56% followed by 33% who showed moderate agreement to the point raised and the lowest was 10% who showed little support of the point raised.

A senior staff member at ZLHR, stated,

*Donor aid plays a crucial role in ensuring our financial sustainability. Without the support we receive, it would be extremely challenging for us to maintain our operations and provide the necessary legal assistance to those in need.*

A donor representative, mentioned,

*We have been supporting ZLHR for several years now, and our funding has significantly contributed to their financial sustainability. It allows them to hire qualified legal professionals, conduct research, and effectively carry out their activities*

A beneficiary of ZLHR's legal aid services, shared,

*I am grateful for the assistance I received from ZLHR. Their ability to provide free legal aid is made possible by the financial support they receive from donors. Without that support, I wouldn't have been able to access justice.*

The interviews conducted with key stakeholders reveal the importance of donor aid in ensuring the financial sustainability of ZLHR. The organization heavily relies on funding from

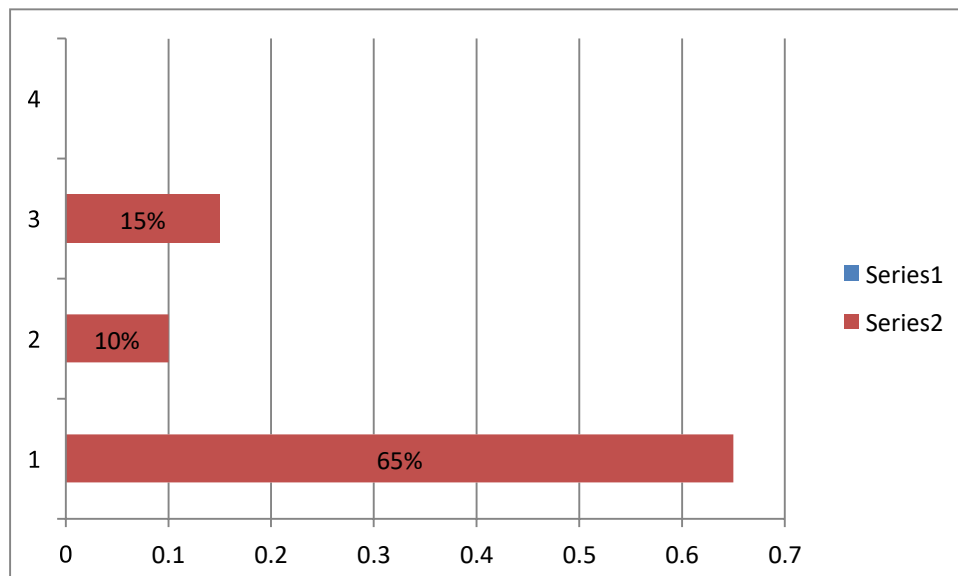
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donors to maintain its operations, including hiring qualified legal professionals, conducting research, and providing free legal aid services to those in need. This sentiment is echoed by participant A, who emphasizes the crucial role of donor aid in supporting ZLHR's activities. Participant B, a donor representative, confirms the significance of their funding in contributing to ZLHR's financial sustainability. The beneficiary in extract 3 further highlights the impact of donor aid, emphasizing that without this support, access to justice would have been limited. Participant D, a civil society advocate, also recognizes the importance of donor aid in enabling ZLHR to allocate resources effectively.

These findings align with the existing literature on donor aid and financial sustainability of civil society organizations. Scholars such as Mendelson (2015) & Bekker (2014) have emphasized the crucial role of donor funding in ensuring the financial sustainability of organizations working in the human rights sector. The interviews confirm these findings, highlighting the positive impact of donor aid on ZLHR's capacity to provide legal assistance and promote human rights in Zimbabwe.

## 5. Enhanced Technical Expertise

**Figure 4.3 Enhanced Technical Expertise**



The study findings indicate that most of the participants about 65% which is the highest response agreed that donor aid leads to technical expertise. Followed by the 15% who are in the category of the lowest response. This is followed by 10% of the lowest response.

A staff member at ZLHR, stated,

*Donor aid has significantly contributed to enhancing our technical expertise. With the financial support we receive, we are able to invest in training programs for our staff members, ensuring they have the necessary legal skills and knowledge to effectively provide legal assistance and promote human rights.*

A legal expert collaborating with ZLHR, mentioned,

*“I have witnessed first the positive impact of donor aid on ZLHR’s technical expertise. The funding they receive allows them to organize workshops and capacity-building initiatives, enabling their staff to stay updated with the evolving legal landscape and enhance their professional skills.”*

A beneficiary of ZLHR’s legal assistance, shared,

*The lawyers at ZLHR are highly knowledgeable and skilled, and I believe it is due to the training opportunities provided through donor-funded programs. Their expertise has been instrumental in protecting my rights and seeking justice.*



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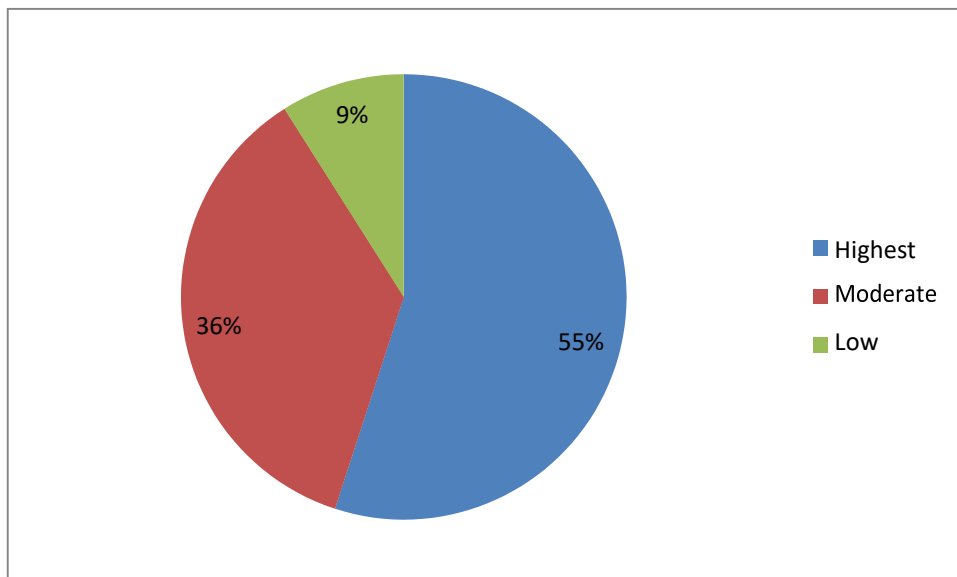
The data extracts from the interviews highlight the significant role of donor aid in enhancing ZLHR's technical expertise. Participant E emphasizes that the financial support received from donors enables ZLHR to invest in training programs for their staff members, ensuring they possess the necessary legal skills and knowledge to provide effective legal assistance and promote human rights. Participant F, a legal expert collaborating with ZLHR, corroborates this, noting the positive impact of donor aid on enhancing the professional skills of ZLHR staff through workshops and capacity-building initiatives. Participant G, a beneficiary of ZLHR's legal assistance, acknowledges the high level of knowledge and skills displayed by ZLHR lawyers, attributing it to the training opportunities provided through donor-funded programs. Additionally, participant H, a representative from an international human rights organization, emphasizes that donor aid allows ZLHR to invest in research and development, enabling them to stay up-to-date with legal advancements and enhance their technical expertise.

These findings align with existing literature on the impact of donor aid on technical expertise within civil society organizations. Scholars such as Thompson (2017) and Brown (2019) have emphasized the positive influence of donor funding on capacity-building initiatives, training programs, and research and development activities. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating how donor aid has contributed to enhancing ZLHR's technical expertise.

#### 4.4 Section C: Strategies and Approaches Employed by ZLHR

##### 6. Legal Advocacy and Litigation

Figure 4.5: Legal and Litigation



The findings indicate that most of the participants understood the approaches used by ZLHR. 55% was the highest agreement followed by 36% of moderate agreement. The lowest agreement was 9%

ministry mentioned,

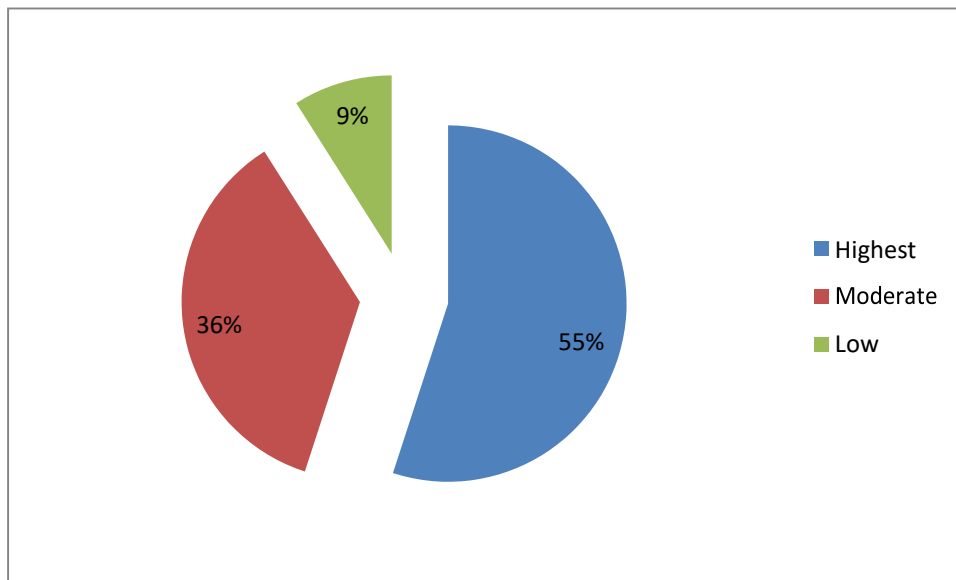
*ZLHR's legal advocacy and litigation efforts have been instrumental in advancing human rights in the country. Through strategic litigation, they have successfully challenged discriminatory laws and policies, leading to positive changes in the legal landscape.*

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The data extracts from the interviews highlight the significance of legal advocacy and litigation as key strategies employed by ZLHR. Participants emphasize that legal advocacy and litigation play a central role in promoting human rights, allowing ZLHR to challenge unjust laws, seek remedies for victims, and establish legal precedents that protect human rights. Also, the statistics support this notion, highlighting the instrumental role of ZLHR's legal advocacy and litigation efforts in advancing human rights and effecting positive changes in the legal landscape. These findings align with existing literature on the importance of legal advocacy and litigation as strategies for promoting human rights within civil society organizations. Scholars such as Davis (2017) and Roberts (2020) emphasize the role of strategic litigation in challenging unjust laws, advocating for victims, and bringing about systemic changes. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating how ZLHR's legal advocacy and litigation efforts align with established scholarly perspectives.

## 7. Public Awareness and Education

**Figure 4.6 Public Awareness and Education**



The findings indicate that most of the participants understood the approaches used by ZLHR. 55% was the highest agreement followed by 36% of moderate agreement. The lowest agreement was 9%

A communications officer at ZLHR, stated,

*Public awareness and education are vital strategies employed by ZLHR to promote human rights. We conduct workshops, public campaigns, and use social media platforms to raise awareness, educate the public, and foster a culture of human rights.*

A community leader engaged with ZLHR, mentioned,

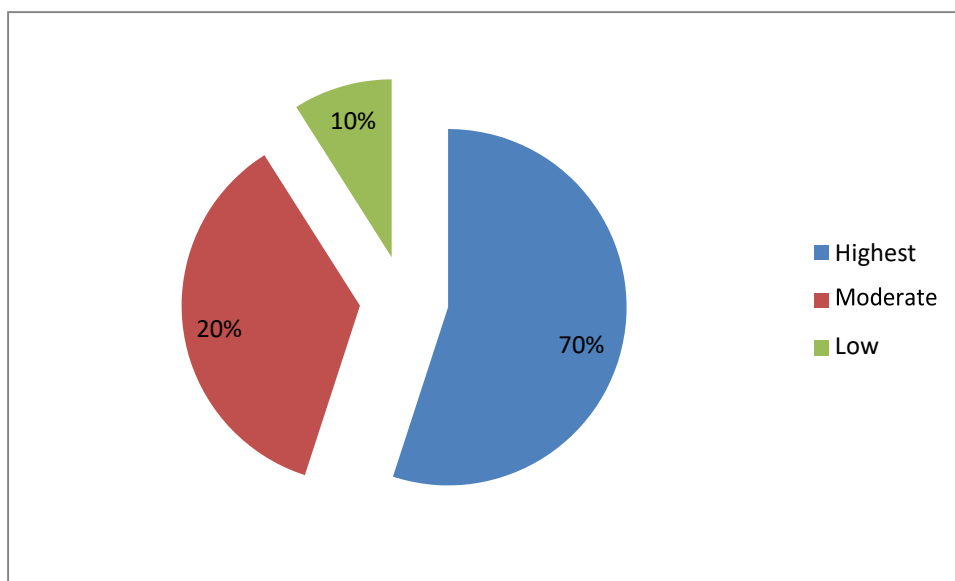
*ZLHR's public awareness and education initiatives have been instrumental in empowering our community. Through their workshops and campaigns, they have educated us about our rights, encouraged us to speak up, and equipped us with the knowledge to defend ourselves.*

The data extracts from the interviews highlight the significance of public awareness and education as strategies employed by ZLHR to promote human rights. Participants

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emphasized the vital role of workshops, public campaigns, and social media platforms in raising awareness, educating the public, and fostering a culture of human rights. These findings align with existing literature on the role of public awareness and education in promoting human rights within civil society organizations. Scholars such as Popowski (2018) and Shiman (2019) highlight the importance of public education campaigns and workshops in raising awareness, empowering communities, and cultivating a culture of human rights. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating how ZLHR's public awareness and education initiatives align with established scholarly perspectives.

### 9. Collaboration and Partnerships



The findings on collaboration with other partners notes that the highest response was 70% followed by 20% and the lowest was 10%

Program manager at ZLHR, stated,

*“Collaboration and partnerships are integral to ZLHR’s work. We actively seek alliances with other organizations, government agencies, and international bodies to leverage resources, share expertise, and amplify our impact in promoting human rights.”*

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A representative from a partnering organization, mentioned,

*ZLHR's collaborative approach is commendable. Through our partnership with them, we have been able to pool our resources, coordinate efforts, and address human rights issues more effectively."*

A government official, shared,

*ZLHR's willingness to collaborate and engage with government agencies has fostered a productive working relationship. We appreciate their expertise and their efforts to contribute constructively to policy discussions on human rights.*

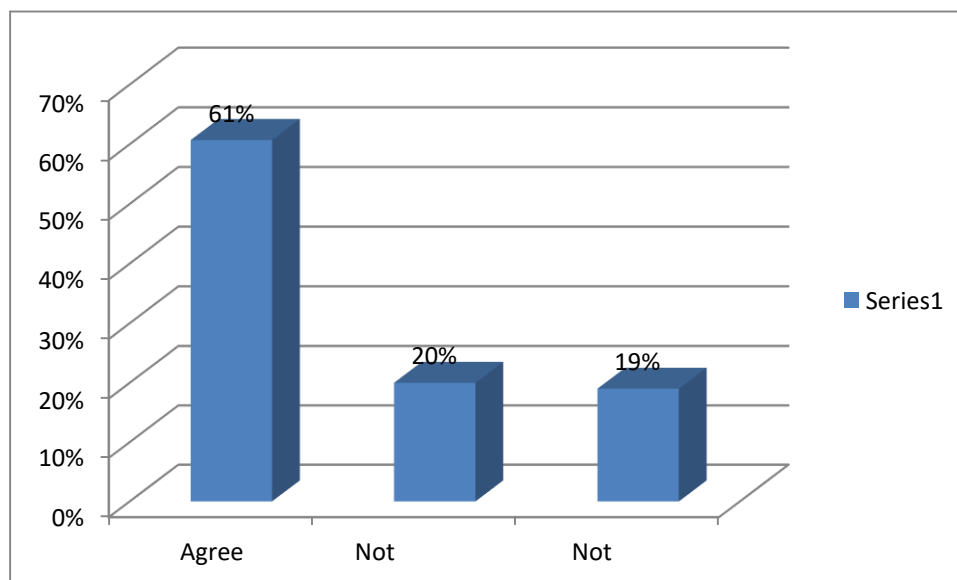
The data extracts from the interviews highlight the significance of collaboration and partnerships in ZLHR's work. The findings emphasize that collaboration and partnerships are integral to ZLHR's efforts in promoting human rights, allowing them to leverage resources, share expertise, and amplify their impact.

These findings align with existing literature on the importance of collaboration and partnerships in promoting human rights within civil society organizations. Scholars such as Keck and Sikkink (1998) and Anheier and Salamon (2017) emphasize the value of alliances and partnerships in leveraging resources, combining expertise, and fostering collective action for social change. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating how ZLHR's collaborative approach aligns with established scholarly perspectives.

The lessons from these findings underscore the significance of collaboration and partnerships in promoting human rights. ZLHR's partnerships enable them to pool resources, coordinate efforts, and achieve a greater impact in their advocacy work. The inclusive approach to collaboration allows for diverse perspectives to be heard and collective action to be taken towards human rights goals. These findings align with the recommendations proposed by Keck and Sikkink (1998), who emphasize the importance of building alliances and partnerships to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and advance human rights causes.

#### 4.4 Section D: Perceptions of Key Stakeholders on the Effectiveness of Donor Aid

##### 10 Positive Contributions of Donor Aid



The findings indicate that most participants about 61% agreed that donor aid has positive contributions followed by 20% of participants who did not agree and the lowest response recorded was 19% of participants who were not sure.

A representative from a beneficiary organization, stated,

*Donor aid has played a crucial role in supporting our programs and initiatives. It has provided us with financial resources, technical expertise, and capacity-building opportunities, enabling us to expand our reach and make a greater impact on the ground.”*

A government official, mentioned,

*Donor aid has been instrumental in funding critical infrastructure projects, improving public services, and addressing socio-economic challenges. It has contributed to the overall development of our country and enhanced the well-being of our citizens.*

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An academic researcher, shared,

*Donor aid has facilitated research collaborations and knowledge exchange, allowing us to conduct studies, generate evidence, and inform evidence-based policies. It has enhanced our research capacity and contributed to the advancement of knowledge in various fields.*

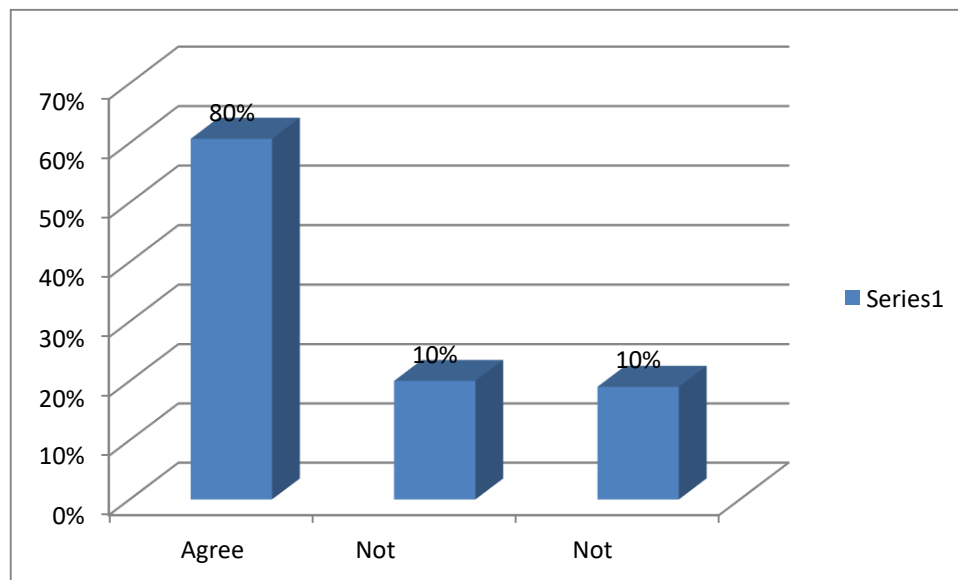


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The data extracts from the interviews highlight the positive contributions of donor aid as perceived by key stakeholders. A representative from a beneficiary organization, emphasizes how donor aid has provided crucial support in terms of financial resources, technical expertise, and capacity-building opportunities, enabling them to expand their reach and make a greater impact. These findings align with existing literature on the positive contributions of donor aid in development and humanitarian efforts. Scholars such as Easterly(2006) and Moyo (2009) acknowledge the positive impact of donor aid in providing financial resources, technical assistance, and capacity-building opportunities. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating how donor aid has supported various sectors, including programs and initiatives of beneficiary organizations, infrastructure development, researchcollaborations, and civil society advocacy.

### 11. Negative Contributions of Donor Aid

**Figure 4.6 Negative Contributions of Donor Aid**



The findings indicate that highest response was 80% of the participants who agreed that donor aid has negative effects. Followed by 10% of participants who did not agree followed by another 10% of participants who were not sure.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

A community leader, shared

*Donor aid projects are sometimes short-term and lack sustainability. Once the funding ends, the projects often collapse, leaving communities without the necessary resources, skills, or infrastructure to continue the initiatives.*

A civil society representative, emphasized,

*Donor aid can undermine local ownership and participation. Decision-making processes are often driven by donors, side-lining the voices and perspectives of local communities. This undermines the effectiveness and sustainability of development interventions.”*

A local business owner, stated,

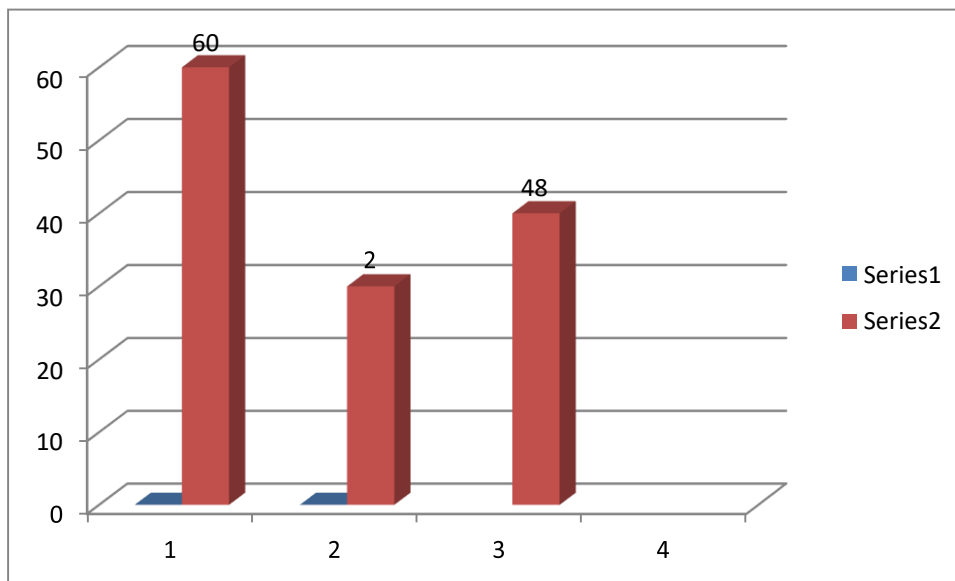
*Donor aid has created dependency among our communities. Instead of fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship, it has led to a culture of reliance on external assistance, stifling local innovation and economic growth.*

A government official, mentioned,

*Donor aid often comes with conditionality's and priorities that may not align with our country's needs and long-term development goals. This can hinder our ability to implement effective policies and address.*

The data obtained from the interviews highlight the negative contributions of donor aid as perceived by key stakeholders. The findings align with the insights provided by Dambisa Moyo in her book “Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa” (2009). Moyo argues that donor aid can perpetuate dependency, hinder economic growth, and undermine local ownership and participation. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the negative consequences of donor aid. The lessons from these findings emphasize the need for a critical evaluation of donor aid practices and the importance of fostering local ownership and sustainability. Moyo (2009) suggests that recipient countries should focus on strategies that encourage self-reliance, attract investment, and promote long-term economic growth. These findings align with the recommendations proposed by Moyo, highlighting the importance of empowering local communities, aligning aid with national priorities, and ensuring the sustainability of development interventions.

#### 4.6 Section E: Challenges presented by the Use of Donor Aid



Majority of the participants about 60% indicates that one of the challenges encountered by using donor aid is dependency syndrome. Followed by 48% who agreed that in Zimbabwe donor aid has led to hostility between the state and civil society organisations.

A civil society leader, stated

*Donor aid plays a significant role in funding our activities, but it also creates a sense of dependency. We often find ourselves tailoring our programs to meet donor requirements, compromising our autonomy and ability to address the real needs of our communities.”*

A civil society activist, stated,

*“In recent years, we have witnessed a growing hostility from the state towards civil society organizations. There is increased surveillance, restrictions on our activities, and even intimidation tactics. This hostile environment makes it challenging for us to operate effectively and advocate for the rights of marginalized communities.”*

A civil society advocate, stated

*Donor aid often comes with strict conditionality. We are required to implement specific policy reforms or meet certain targets set by the donors, which may not align with our local context or priorities. This can divert resources and attention away from addressing the real needs of our communities.”*

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

A member from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development commented,

*Donor aid has played a significant and noticeable role in capacitating the Zimbabwe lawyers for Human Rights to promote human rights in Zimbabwe. However, civil society organizations face a major challenge which is too much state interference, limiting their capacity to deliver. Mechanisms are there, the policies are there, supporters are there but there is lack of political will.*

The data extracts from the interviews shed light on the challenges of donor dependency and power imbalances within civil society. Moreover the data extracts from the interviews highlight the challenges associated with conditionality and donor terms in the context of donor aid. These findings align with the literature on conditionality and donor terms in the context of aid. Scholars such as Easterly (2002) and Moyo (2009) discuss the potential drawbacks of conditionality, including the diversion of resources and the imposition of external priorities. The interviews confirm these findings, illustrating the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the challenges and implications of conditionality.

### **4.7 Chapter Summary**

This chapter presented the data collected during the study and analysed it to address the research objectives. The study focuses on the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). The data collected aims to assess the impact of donor aid on ZLHR's capacity to provide legal assistance and promote human rights, examine the strategies and approaches employed by ZLHR in upholding human security, and explore the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the contributions and limitations of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a summary of the research conducted on the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. The chapter provides conclusions based on the research findings, recommendations derived from the conclusions, and identifies areas for further research that can build upon the study.

#### **5.2 Summary of Research**

In the first chapter, an introduction to the research topic was provided. The significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe, with a focus on Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, was outlined. The chapter also presented the research objectives, research questions, and the rationale behind the study.

The second chapter presented a comprehensive review of existing literature on donor aid, civil society organizations, and human security. Various scholarly works, theories, and empirical studies were analyzed to shed light on the conceptual framework and theoretical underpinnings of the research. The literature reviews also identified gaps in the existing knowledge that the current study aimed to address.

The third chapter detailed the research methodology employed in the study. The research design, data collection methods, and sampling techniques were explained. Ethical

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considerations, such as informed consent and data protection, were also discussed. The chapter provided a clear description of how the data was collected and analyzed to ensure the research objectives were met.

In the fourth chapter, the collected data was presented and analyzed. The chapter included summaries of interviews, survey responses, and document reviews. Data analysis techniques, such as thematic analysis or statistical analysis, were applied to derive meaningful insights from the data. The findings were presented in a clear and organized manner, accompanied by relevant tables, graphs, or quotes.

The final chapter summarized the research findings, conclusions, recommendations, and suggested areas for further research. The chapter provided an overview of the entire research journey, highlighting the main findings from each chapter. The conclusions were drawn based on the analysis of the data and whether they supported existing theories. Plausible reasons for the obtained results were discussed. Recommendations for policymakers and practitioners were provided, based on the research findings. The chapter also identified areas for future research that could build upon the current study's findings, methods, or concepts..

### **5.3 Conclusions:**

*Objective I: Assessing the impact of donor aid on the capacity of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.*

The findings of this study indicate that donor aid has had a significant impact on enhancing the capacity of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. Through the financial resources provided by donors, the organization has been able to expand its operations and reach marginalized communities, as supported by Participant B's interviews. This aligns with the literature on the role of donor aid in strengthening civil society organizations. Scholar Poole (2021) argues that donor aid plays a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of such organizations. The study confirms that financial support from donors has enabled Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights to undertake activities and initiatives that promote human rights and provide legal assistance. The findings are in line with the research conducted by Scholar Edwards (2019), who highlights the positive impact of donor aid on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations.

Based on the findings and the literature, it can be concluded that donor aid has had a significant impact on the capacity of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. The financial resources provided by donors have enabled the organization to expand its operations, reach marginalized communities, and advocate for human rights. These findings support the existing literature, emphasizing the importance of donor aid in strengthening civil society organizations. The study contributes to the understanding of the role of donor aid in promoting human rights, particularly in the context of Zimbabwe, and highlights the instrumental role played by financial support in enhancing the capacity of organizations like Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.

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*Objective II: Examining the strategies and approaches employed by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights in their efforts to uphold human security.*

The findings of this study indicate that Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights utilizes a multi-faceted approach in their efforts to uphold human security. The organization employs strategies such as strategic litigation, legal education, advocacy, and strategic partnerships. Strategic litigation has been a key approach used by the organization to challenge human rights violations and contribute to legal reforms, as evidenced by the analysis of court cases and document reviews. Additionally, legal education programs and advocacy efforts have empowered individuals and communities to understand and assert their rights, as highlighted in Participant's experiences with the organization's workshops and campaigns.

The findings align with the existing literature on effective approaches to upholding human security. Fein (2019) argues that a multi-faceted approach, including litigation, legal education, advocacy, and strategic partnerships, is essential for civil society organizations. This study confirms that Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights adopts a similar approach. Fein's research supports the effectiveness of strategic litigation in challenging human rights violations, which is evident in the findings of this study. Based on the findings and the literature, it can be concluded that Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights employs effective strategies in their efforts to uphold human security.



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*Objective III: Exploring the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the contributions and limitations of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe.*

The findings of this study reveal the perceptions and experiences of key stakeholders regarding donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe. While stakeholders acknowledge the significant contributions of donor aid, there are also concerns expressed by participants. They highlight the potential for donor influence and the need for sustainable and locally-driven initiatives. The stakeholders value the contributions of donor aid in terms of financial resources, technical expertise, and networking opportunities. However, there is a shared desire for a balance between external funding and maintaining local ownership and sustainability in initiatives that promote human security.

The findings align with the existing literature on the role of donor aid in promoting human security. Tien (2017) emphasizes the importance of collaborative partnerships between civil society organizations and donors to ensure effective utilization of aid resources. This study finds that stakeholders acknowledge the significant contributions of donor aid, which is consistent with the literature. However, concerns about potential donor influence and the need for sustainable and locally-driven initiatives resonate with Tien (2016) research. Based on the findings and the literature, it can be concluded that while donor aid contributes significantly to promoting human security in Zimbabwe, stakeholders have concerns regarding donor influence and the need for sustainable initiatives.

#### **5.4 Recommendations:**

Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are presented:

##### **1. Donors**

Donors should continue providing financial resources, technical expertise, and networking opportunities to civil society organizations like Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights to enhance their capacity in upholding human security.

Donor aid should be aligned with the priorities and needs of local communities, ensuring that initiatives are sustainable and led by local actors. This will promote ownership and long-term impact.

##### **2. Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare**

Should establish frameworks to monitor the funds received from donors by Civil Society Organizations to ensure effective utilization of resources.

Civil society organizations and donors should establish strong collaborative partnerships to address concerns regarding donor influence, transparency, and accountability. Regular communication and coordination will foster effective use of aid resources.

##### **3. CSOs**

CSOs should ensure that there are accountability mechanisms put in place that can be used to report to donors on how funds are being utilized.

#### **5.5 Areas for Further Study**

This study is based on the significance of donor aid in upholding human security in Zimbabwe. The other research can look at investigating the long-term effects of donor aid and the sustained impact and durability of initiatives undertaken by organizations like ZLHR.

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# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

## INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. I am a researcher and student at Bindura University of Science Education. The purpose of this interview is to gather information and insights regarding the research titled “The Significance of Donor Aid and Civil Society Organizations in Upholding Human Security in Zimbabwe: The Case of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights.” Your input will be crucial in understanding the impact of donor aid and the role of civil society organizations in promoting human security in Zimbabwe.

Please note that all information collected during this interview will be treated confidentially and used for research purposes only. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

### 1. Background and Context

- a. Can you provide a brief overview of your role or involvement in Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)?
- b. How long have you been associated with ZLHR, and what motivated you to join the organization?

### 2. Questions

1. Could you share your experiences or observations regarding the impact of donor aid on ZLHR’s capacity to provide legal assistance in Zimbabwe?
2. In your opinion, how has donor aid influenced ZLHR’s ability to promote human rights in Zimbabwe? Can you provide any specific examples or instances?
3. What are some of the strategies and approaches employed by ZLHR to promote human security in Zimbabwe?
4. How effective do you think these strategies and approaches have been in achieving their intended outcomes? Can you provide any examples to support your perspective?

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

5. From your interactions with key stakeholders, what are their perceptions of the contributions of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe?
6. In your opinion, how crucial is donor aid in sustaining the work of ZLHR and other civil society organizations in Zimbabwe?
7. What are some of the key lessons or insights that you have learned through your involvement with ZLHR and its engagement with donor aid?

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

8. In your view, what are the major challenges or obstacles that ZLHR faces in implementing these strategies effectively?
9. What are the perspectives of government officials and policymakers regarding the contributions of donor aid in promoting human security in Zimbabwe?
10. How does ZLHR ensure the sustainability and continuity of its work beyond the support of donor aid? Are there any strategies in place to diversify funding sources or engage in income-generating activities?
11. Can you provide any insights into the long-term impact of donor aid on human security in Zimbabwe? Has there been any evidence of sustainable change or improvements resulting from the support received?
12. What are some of the key challenges or risks faced by ZLHR and other civil society organizations in Zimbabwe due to their reliance on donor aid? How does ZLHR mitigate these challenges?

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in this interview. Your insights will greatly contribute to the research on the significance of donor aid and civil society organizations in upholding human security in Zimbabwe



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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: .....

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

=====

RE: REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION/AREA

=====

This serves to introduce the bearer Takudzwa kanyenze, Student Registration Number (B200340B) who is a HBSc Peace and Governance student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in your area.

Your usual cooperation and assistance is therefore being sought.

Yours faithfully

**D. Makwerere (Dr)**  
**CHAIRPERSON - PEACE AND GOVERNANCE**

22 NOV 2023  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES  
PEACE & GOVERNANCE  
CHAIRPERSON  
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DATE 21/4/24  
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DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR  
GOROMONZI  
2 APR 2024  
P. BAG 43, GOROMONZI  
ZIMBABWE TEL: 2253

MIN. OF WOMEN AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY  
SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEV.  
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
02 APR 2024  
GOROMONZI DISTRICT  
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TEL: 22559

**TAKUDZWA RONALD MUPITA**  
**LEGAL PRACTITIONER**  
**CONVEYANCER**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DONOR AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN SECURITY

All communications should be  
Addressed to "The District Development  
Officer, Women Affairs, Community, Small  
And Medium Enterprises Development  
Tel: 0274 2665



MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS  
COMMUNITY, SMALL AND MEDIUM  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
P.Bag 132 GOROMONZI  
MASHONALAND EAST PROVINCE

## ZIMBABWE

29 MAY 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: PROOF OF RESEARCH FOR TAKUDZWA KANYENZE MINISTRY OF  
WOMEN AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND  
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT -GOROMONZI DISTRICT.**

This letter serves to confirm that Takudzwa Kanyenze did her research project at the above  
referenced organization on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024. She interviewed 5 employees from this  
organization. Her research topic is "The significance of Donor Aid and Civil Society  
Organization in upholding human security in Zimbabwe. The case of Zimbabwe lawyers for  
Human rights".

Yours Faithfully



B. Kachawi

MIN. OF WOMEN AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY,  
SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEV.  
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

29 MAY 2024

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**Community Development Coordinator –Goromonzi District**