



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future Plus (O³ PLUS)





Objectives

Young people aged 18-24 years in higher and tertiary education institutions realize positive health, education and gender equality outcomes through sustained reductions in:

- new HIV infections
- unintended pregnancy
- gender-based violence

A close-up portrait of a young Black man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark blue fabric face mask and white earbuds. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with other people.

**Our Rights, Our
Lives, Our Future
(O³ PLUS) Project**

**Higher and Tertiary Education Institutions
Health Facility Assessment Report, Zambia**

JULY 2021

Background – SRHR needs in HTEIs

In Zambia and Zimbabwe, tertiary institutions are home to over 582'000 young adults.

Many young people still enter their twenties without adequate knowledge, placing them at an elevated risk for unintended pregnancies, sexual abuse and other negative outcomes.

A lot of tertiary institutions do not offer a comprehensive health approach that encompasses the SRHR needs of students and only a few have fully functional and equipped clinics.



SRHR needs in HTEIs

- **1 in 4 young women** aged 20-24 years in sub-Saharan Africa have been physically, sexually or psychologically abused by a partner
- **More than 40% of young women** and **30% of young men in ESA** agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife
- Nearly **4000 adolescent girls and women** aged 15-24 in ESA become infected with HIV every week
- **Only 41.9% of males** and **44.3% of females** aged 15-24 years are able to identify ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV
- **Rates of unintended pregnancies among students are unacceptably high** (75% in Zambia and 63% in Zimbabwe)
- Students represent **a large population** and are the **leaders of tomorrow**

Projects like O³PLUS ensure that our technical graduates leave the institution with not only a certificate, but with a sound mind and healthy body."

Mr Mudoti, Dean of Students, Harare Polytechnic, Zimbabwe

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**Higher and Tertiary Education Institutions
Health Facility Assessment Report, Zimbabwe**

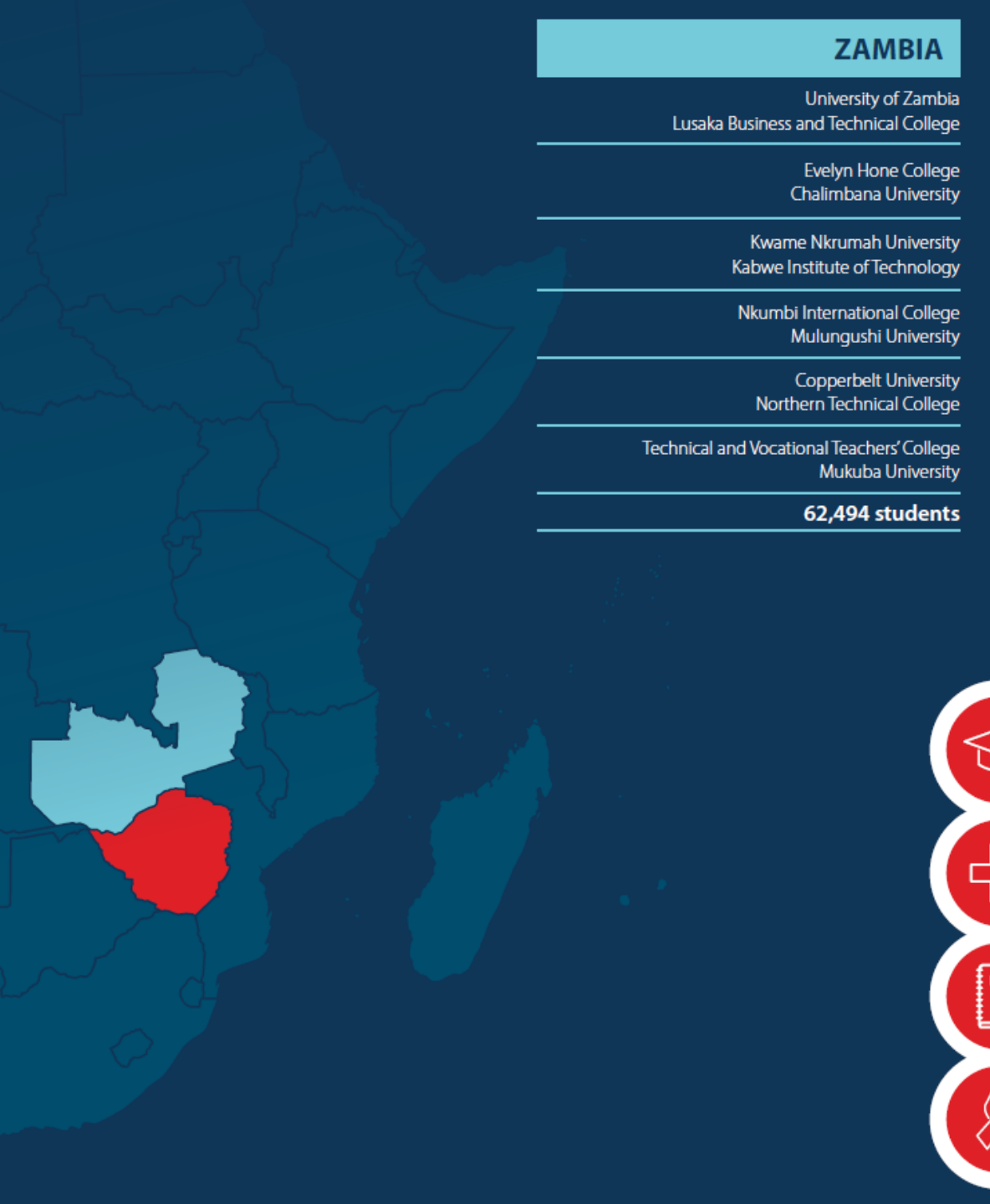
APRIL 2021



Background – O3 Programme

- The project (O3+) expands the reach of UNESCO's existing *Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future* (O3) Programme.
- Leadership of UNESCO
- Other stakeholders: other UN organisations, Ministries of Higher Education, Campus Health Facilities, Civil Society Organisations, SADC Secretariat, Tertiary institutions' communities.





ZAMBIA

University of Zambia
Lusaka Business and Technical College

Evelyn Hone College
Chalimbana University

Kwame Nkrumah University
Kabwe Institute of Technology

Nkumbi International College
Mulungushi University

Copperbelt University
Northern Technical College

Technical and Vocational Teachers' College
Mukuba University

62,494 students

ZIMBABWE

Great Zimbabwe University
Masvingo Polytechnic

Manicaland State University of Applied Science
Mutare Polytechnic

University of Zimbabwe
Danhiko Industrial Training College

Chinhoyi University of Technology
Mupfure College

National University of Science and Technology
Westgate Industrial Training College

Harare Polytechnic
Harare Institute of Technology

79,972 students

By 2025, the project aims to:



Reach 108,254 students in-person or online with accurate, rights-based CSE through the formal CSE module



Train 161 healthcare providers on youth-friendly SRH service provision



Train 4,200 peer educators on youth-friendly SRH services provision



Ensure 70% of students have been tested for HIV

Student health and well-being

Build and strengthen the capacity of campus health facilities to offer a trusted standard package of youth-friendly health services for students

Safe and inclusive campus

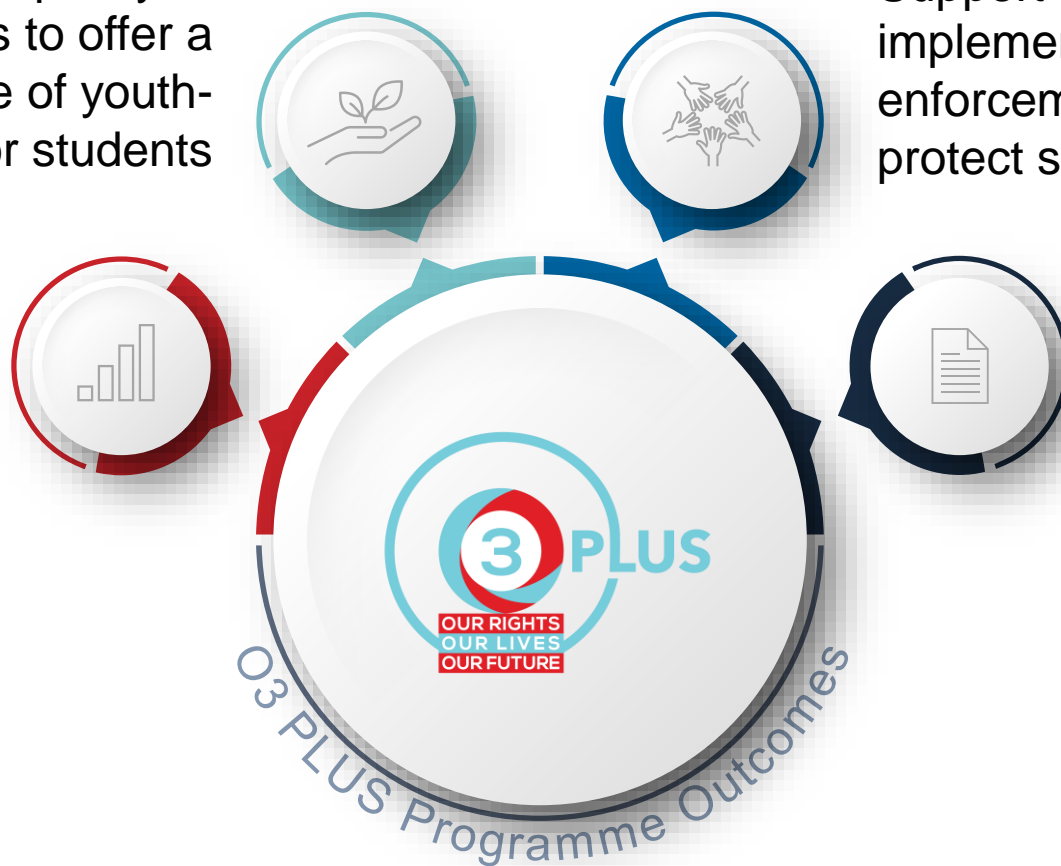
Support the development, implementation, and effective enforcement of laws and policies to protect students from SGBV

Institutional strengthening

Support the institutionalization of CSE, SRHR services, and SGBV prevention/response

Evidence-building and knowledge-sharing

Strengthen evidence on CSE and SRHR in HTEIs





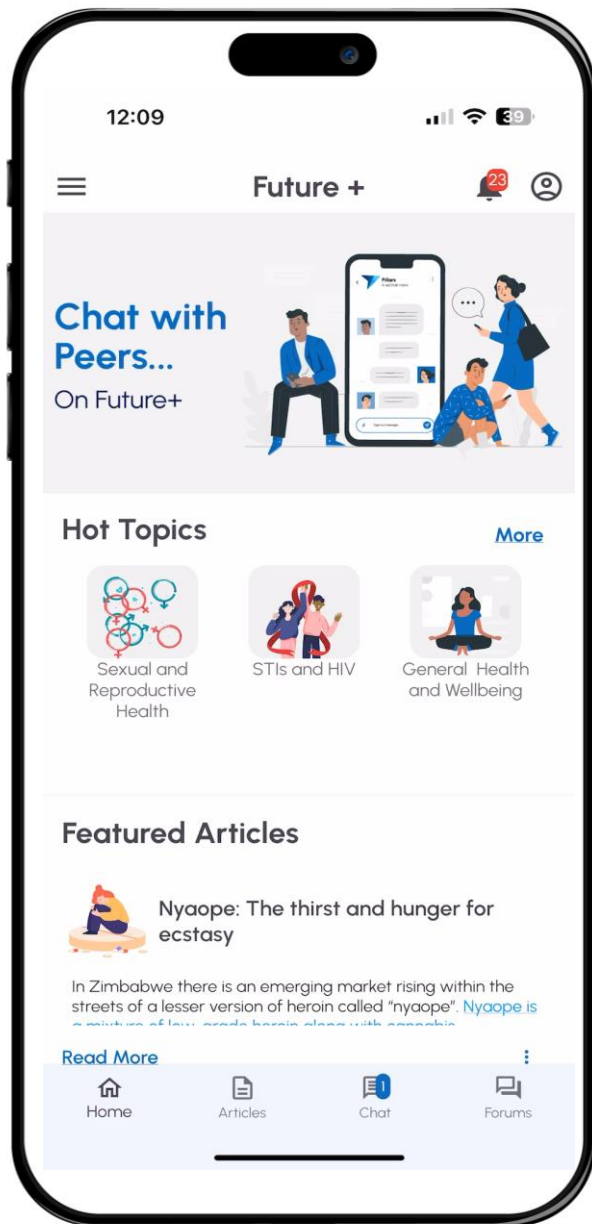
Outcome 1: Institutional Strengthening

Institutionalize CSE:

- Facilitate the development and/or adaptation of a **CSE curriculum framework** to become a compulsory component for all students across all faculties
- **Train college and university lecturers** in CSE to enhance curriculum-based delivery to students
- Support the distribution of **standard resource package** and induction events

Address GBV:

- **Review and/or develop institutional policies** on student welfare including policies on GBV and sexual harassment
- **Enhance policy implementation** by raising awareness among students on the existence of policies



Development of mobile applications to ensure students have **adequate information on SRHR, professional counselling as well as a helpline for emergency situations.**

The development process placed **students at the center.** Students participated in the mobile app design, name, selection of features and development of content.





"I did not know that my attitude towards young people coming to the clinic might be hindering them from accessing health services. This training has opened my eyes and it is a bitter pill to swallow, the introspection, but I have to improve. Thank you to UNESCO and the Ministry of Health."

Healthcare provider, NORTEC

Outcome 2: Student health and well-being

Increase SRHR service uptake:

- **Train healthcare workers** to provide youth friendly services.
- **Renovate health facilities** to offer a more appealing and youth-friendly environment
- **Train peer educators** to disseminate CSE and SRHR information to students
- **Establish mobile health services** to provide family planning, STI screening, HIV self-test on campus
- Engage dialogues with authorities and **advocate to ensure reliable supply of key SRH commodities**
- **Establish gender desks** to strengthen GBV case management and linkages with support services



“GBV tears communities apart and it also makes young people lose confidence in themselves. I myself became a victim of GBV in the form of sexual harassment at a very young age. The O3 PLUS project has given me confidence to talk about GBV and advocate without fear for young people who have suffered or are currently suffering from GBV”

Thomathamsanga Ndlovu, winner of the UNESCO visual art contest organized as part of the 16-days of activism against GBV

Outcome 3: Safe and inclusive campus environments

Raise awareness on GBV and EUP, strengthen institutional complaint pathways:

- **Train** students, academic staff, support staff, campus security staff etc. on identifying, reporting and responding to GBV
- **Conduct campaigns** on GBV and SRH during relevant international days using innovative approaches
- **Support students** to create podcasts, radio shows and social media messages
- **Empower** O3 ambassadors to disseminate messages on GBV, EUP and SRHR
- Review and **strengthen institutional complaint pathways** and whistle-blower protection on sexual harassment and GBV



Objective 4: Evidence-building and knowledge-sharing

Strengthen Evidence:

- Conduct **operations research studies** on HIV/STI and GBV burden in HTEIs and the overall context for SRHR-related activity and service utilization
- Facilitate **policy dialogue** between students, policy makers, college authorities on key issues identified in the research studies
- Foster a culture of knowledge sharing between institutions of higher learning

Enhance Data Management System:

- Support institutions to develop a **functional information system** (databases, health records, surveys, monitoring) for O3 PLUS disaggregated statistics reporting



unesco

**Our Rights, Our Lives,
Our Future (O³ PLUS)
Baseline Study**

Zambia and Zimbabwe

2021



By 2050, the number of young people aged 10 to 24 living in sub-Saharan Africa will be 605 million (UNFPA 2012)

The issues affecting the daily lives, health, and social statuses of adolescents are varied and complex, requiring a close scrutiny of historical legacies, social and cultural contexts, and institutional frameworks.

If young people will drive the development of the country in the next two decades, then concerted effort to invest in their education and health is critical to ensure that these young people become professionals in good health (Joshi 2012; UNESCO 2013; UNFPA 2014; Lancet 2012).



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Thank you!

