



# GRRIPP

Gender Responsive  
Resilience and Intersectionality in  
Policy and Practice

# MACHITENDA WOMEN ECONOMIC RIDERS

ECHOES OF HUMANITY

Masvingo, Zimbabwe

## Background

Dr Charity Chenga founded Echoes of Humanity in 2021, with the aim of using her skills for rural community development in rural Masvingo and surrounding areas of rural Zimbabwe.

The Machitenda Women Economic Riders project affirms that women residing in rural Zimbabwe are working towards economic empowerment and achieving better social outcomes.

It is for this reason that the project built a solar power station that can power a minimum of five solar electric trikes, to promote a women-based transport solution. This would go a long way in enhancing ease of access to agricultural markets for women to earn incomes to sustain themselves and their families.

Through the organisation, Dr Chenga has championed integration of gender equality in resilience programming with a focus on health and social welfare. She holds a PhD in Migration from the University of Kent.

## Objectives

Echoes of Humanity's vision is to facilitate the necessary training to empower women and the community, to achieve sustainability and opening opportunities for others from the benefits of the project.

The organisation's goal on Machitenda Women Economic Riders is to improve the socio-economic status of women by provisioning electric trikes in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

This means beneficiaries would have mobility for their agricultural produce to the market for sale, and food and other resources to their homes.



Solar panel installed after site preparation in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

Credit: Echoes of Humanities

## Courses of action

- Community engagement meeting to inform, discuss and get buy-in of the project from community leaders, women in the community, and the general community.
- Securing and preparing the structure for solar power station.
- Solar panel power station built.
- Training community women on usage and maintenance of solar unit.
- Training community women for provisional license certificates.

## Methodology / Approach

Echoes of Humanity has elected a participatory and consultative approach, which is appropriate for the nature of this project.

The core of Echoes of Humanity's ethos is to preserve and promote the potential, knowledge, and skills of local communities.

## Impact

Community members (especially women) who have been trained have gained knowledge and skills relating to solar powered electric systems. These knowledge and skills will contribute to making the women more resilient, as they open opportunities for women to be independent wage earners.

While the impact is still too early to measure, further skills that beneficiaries will gain include driving skills, as trikes will soon be delivered. Part of their training on the trikes is to undertake minor repairs and maintenance of the vehicles.



*Image: Beneficiaries undertaking tests to prepare for provisional driving licenses in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.*

*Credit: Echoes of Humanities*



*Dr Charity Chenga, Founder of Echoes of Humanity*

**Machitenda Women Economic Riders  
Echoes of Humanity  
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