



LET'S GREEN THE FUTURE
Empowering youth and women for a green future

STRATEGY 2022 - 2030





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Empowering youth and women for a green future

Who We Are



We are a Non-Governmental Organisation that seeks to promote sustainable development through empowering women, youth and other vulnerable groups.

Our Vision



A just, inclusive and prosperous society where women youth and vulnerable groups, fully participate and lead in sustainable development in Zimbabwe and Africa.

Our Mision



To promote women, youth and vulnerable group's economic and social empowerment within the broader sustainable development agenda.

Our Aim



To strengthen women, youth and vulnerable group's socio-economic justice and secure sustainable livelihoods in the face of changing environment.



Our Core Values

- Respect for human dignity
- Integrity and reliability in all operations
- Commitment
- Social justice
- Equality and Equity
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Wholeness and Inclusiveness



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STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR LGF

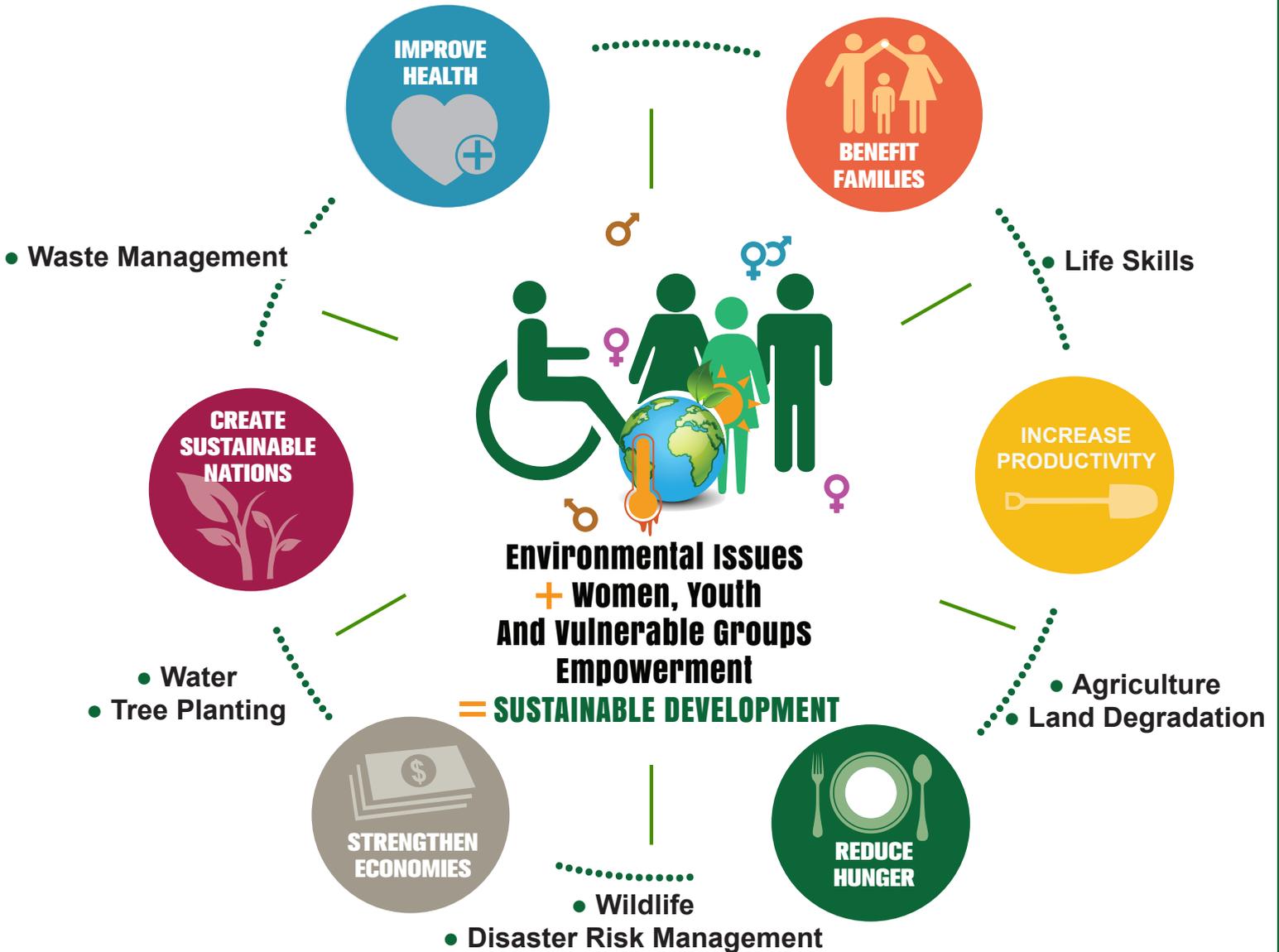
LGF will be focusing on two major Pillars to achieve sustainable development

1 ENVIRONMENT

2 EMPOWERMENT

Women • Youth • Vulnerable Groups

- Gender Based Violence
- Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health



1 ENVIRONMENT

Acknowledge Chapter 4/73 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe which states that every person has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting economic and social development. Also acknowledge Guiding Principle 26 of the Zimbabwe National Environmental Policy and Our Approach which seeks to improve the effectiveness of existing environmental educational programs by promoting both scientific and Indigenous Knowledge and practices in formal and non-formal teaching and learning. With all these and the policy frameworks that intend to make sure that the environment is conducive for human survival, human induced effort is harming the environment to an extent that its inhabitable.

LGF'S STRATEGIC AREAS

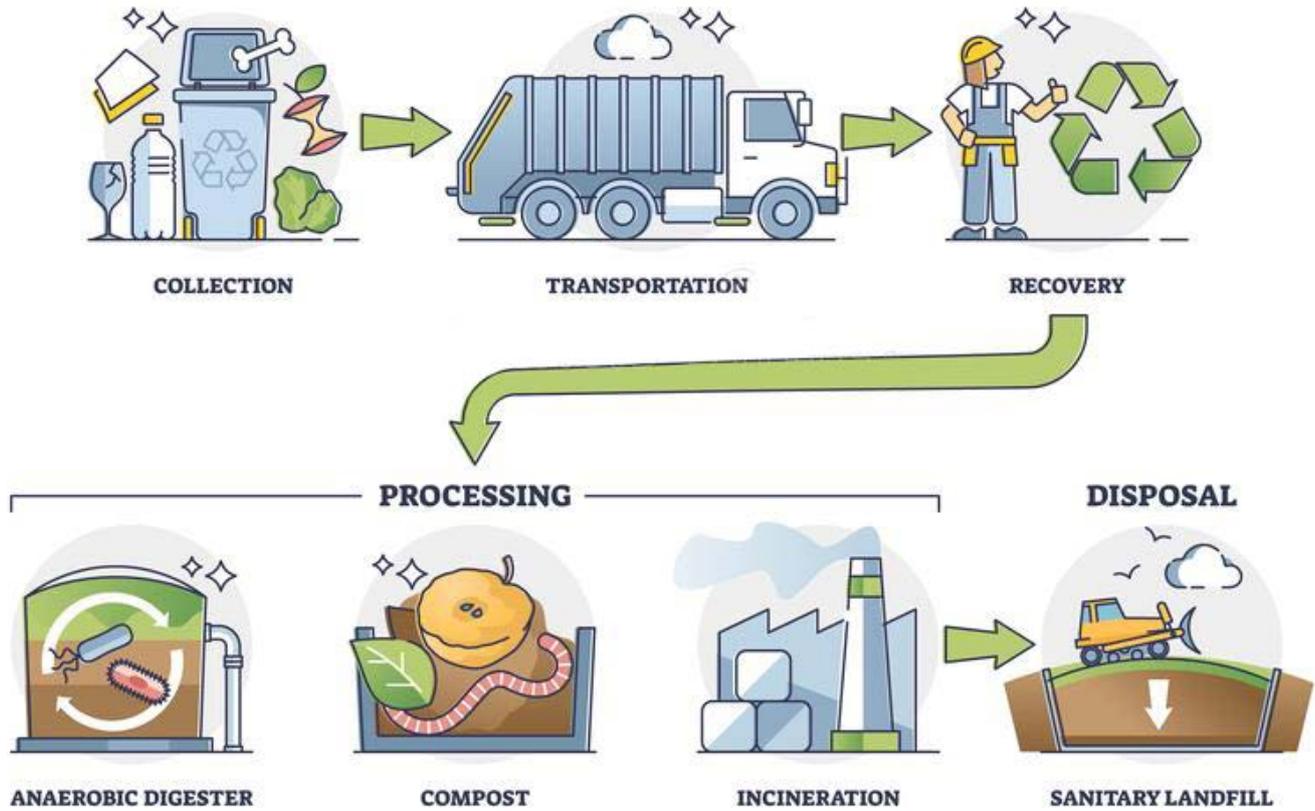
1. **Waste Management**
2. **Tree Planting**
3. **Agriculture**
4. **Water**
5. **Land Degradation**
6. **Wildlife**
7. **Disaster Risk Management**



Climate change, or global warming, is the greatest environmental threat we've ever faced. How we respond to this crisis will greatly impact both current and future generations and all other species. To limit temperature increase to 1.5°C, we must drop our greenhouse gas emissions by addressing the following strategic areas



1.1-WASTE MANAGEMENT



Developing countries share a common problem in terms of waste management. The municipalities are unable to manage the increasing generation of waste due to rapid growth of population, change in lifestyles, urbanization and industrialization. Some of the common problem in waste management includes financial constraints, inadequate infrastructures, poor implementation of policies and undesirable behavior towards disposal of waste. The other problems associated to this are non-segregation of waste at source, open dumping and the major portion of which are diverted to landfills. This poses a threat to health and environment.



While every business on the planet, no matter how small, has a responsibility to dispose of waste properly, as well as to participate with the global community in a search for answers, with that **LGF** will implore the following strategies to improvise waste management in Zimbabwe:

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The municipalities are unable to manage the increasing generation of waste due to rapid growth of population, change in lifestyle, urbanization & industrialization”

OUR APPROACH



- I. LGF** will make use of all social and mainstream media to raise awareness on 7Rs (Radio Program, TV programs, twitter, facebook, etc)
- II. LGF** will do training and capacity building of community members especially the urban dwellers on 7Rs (waste to energy, manure, create livelihood)
- III. LGF** will participate in cleanup campaign in partnerships with other stakeholders
- IV. LGF** will advocate for accountability from stakeholders through developing position paper, statements etc
- V. LGF** will facilitate exchange programs for community members so that they can share best practices of curbing waste in Zimbabwe
- VI. LGF** will connect with like-minded stakeholders in curbing waste)

1.2-AFFORESTATION



1.2 AFFORESTATION

Forests currently cover around 45% of the country’s total land area, but deforestation is an increasingly pressing issue, resulting in forests disappearing at a frightening rate causing land degradation and also climate change. The rate of deforestation in the country accelerated to 327,000 ha per year (1.9%) between 2000 and 2010 and is also currently the highest in southern Africa. In fact, the rate of deforestation in Zimbabwe is one of the highest in the world – directly affecting ecosystems, biodiversity, and livelihoods.



But there are many things we can do to reduce deforestation and to lessen the burden on our forests. LGF will use the following strategies:

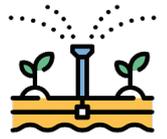
“The rate of deforestation in Zimbabwe is one of the highest in the world”



OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will raise awareness raising on issues to do deforestation ,climate change land degradation, disaster resilience and ecosystem restoration
- II. LGF will establish environmental clubs in schools, churches, universities and other tertiary institutions.
- III. LGF will set up tree nursery in (Norton.)
- IV. LGF will support alternative sources of energy
- V. LGF will promote sustainable land management and alternative ways of farming
- VI. LGF will work hard in strengthen policy and juridical frameworks

1.3 - AGRICULTURE



1.3 AGRICULTURE

Zimbabwe's economic performance largely depends on developments in its agricultural sector. The country has 4,130,000 hectares of arable land, 25 percent of which is cultivated using animal and manual draught power. Following the government's fast-track land reform program which began in 2000, irrigation infrastructure deteriorated, and the majority of the new landowners depend on rain rather than irrigation for their crops. As the weather pattern changes and droughts become more frequent, the country has failed to produce enough grain to meet domestic demand.



LGF will use the following strategies to address food security in Zimbabwe:

OUR APPROACH



LGF WILL WORK WITH LINE MINISTRIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO:

- I. Engage farmers group (capacity building)
- II. Exchange programs (peer to peer learning)
- III. Promote agro ecology (CSA –manuals, organic farming ,zero tillage)
- IV. Value addition to agriculture produce
- V. Support kitchen or nutrition or backyard garden
- VI. Promote fish farming
- VII. promote mushroom production

“

Zimbabwe's economic performance largely depends on development in its Agricultural Sector!



Image Credit: UNICEF

1.4 - WATER

The current water and sanitation situation in Zimbabwe faces many challenges around capacity, behaviors and the lack of investment in these sectors during and after the economic crisis of the last decade. Access to clean water is a basic right that is important for the survival of humanity yet it can be one of the hardest resources to attain. Access to safe water and sanitation remains a major issue, in both urban and rural areas. Access to adequate improved sanitation lags significantly behind at 35 percent.

Assumption is that after very good rains the dams would be full but that's not the case owing to siltation. Most areas are witnessing rise in stream bank cultivation owing to hunger, which has resulted in siltation. Demand of land to build houses, some wetlands have also been disturbed, construction of homes in those areas is contributing to the siltation in water bodies that feeds water to communities.



Wetlands

Water is life and if life is threatened, there is need to take action. Below are the strategies **LGF** will do to address that gap:

OUR APPROACH



- I. LGF will work with relevant stakeholders to restore and protect wetlands
- II. LGF will help communities to access clean water through drilling solar powered boreholes
- III. LGF target to do pilot projects on water harvesting (roof tops, contour)
- IV. LGF will raise awareness of the importance of water efficiency
- V. LGF will take the wetland policy to the community





1.5 LAND

Land tenure rights and land degradation are directly linked. Land tenure can promote land use practices that harm the environment or it can serve to enhance the environment, it has great impact on biodiversity, food security. Equitable land rights are the key to progress on flourishing and healthy societies and a Sustainable Planet.

Equitable land rights also mean peaceful and democratic societies, sustainable and resilient local food systems and gender equality. Women and youths have unequal access to land and associated natural resources.



LGF will use the following strategies to address these issues:

OUR APPROACH

- I. Awareness raising (media engagement) –newsletter, local authority, partnerships, best agriculture practices and sustainable land management.
- II. Land restoration (re-vegetation) – gully reclamation, tree planting vegetation cover, advocate for policy implementation.
- III. Advocacy on land rights and tenure.
- IV. Training of miners e.g. on use of mercury, impacts of land degradation.



Equitable land rights are the key to progress on flourishing & healthy societies & a sustainable planet!



At one time, Zimbabwe had an abundance of forests and wildlife and was the leading destination for wildlife-based tourism; however, political instability is threatening the country's wildlife and tourism industry.

Home to 350 species of mammals, more than 500 birds, and 131 fish species, Zimbabwe is mostly grassland, but its mountains give way to tropical and hardwood forests. In addition, major drought, poverty, a growing population, and a lack of fuel have all led to massive deforestation.

Conservation intervention is critical to ensuring Zimbabwe's natural resources persist for generations to come. While Zimbabwe is a highly educated country, training opportunities are needed for Zimbabweans to learn new skills that aid in conservation and help better the lives of all.



The rate at which the impoverished communities are collecting firewood is unsustainable, and their actions are creating food-security issues.

1.6 WILDLIFE



This, in turn, has caused soil erosion, destroying fertile farming land. Deforestation has accelerated, as rural communities use firewood for fuel as well as the high demand for wood fuel used in tobacco. The rate at which the impoverished communities are collecting firewood is unsustainable, and their actions are creating food-security issues. With the damaged soil unable to grow crops, people continue to turn to poaching as a way to eat and earn income.

OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will raise awareness of wildlife status
- II. LGF will run competitions on wildlife conservation (poem, videos, write ups)
- III. Training and capacity building on wildlife conservation
- IV. LGF will promote nature based solution to climate change impact (apiculture, training)
- V. LGF will participate in parks meeting

1.7 - DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



Zimbabwe is prone to a large number of disasters, in particular droughts, floods, cyclones, storms, fires, and HIV/AIDS pandemic. These disasters cause shortages of food and the spread of disease which will threaten the lives and well-being of children and their families.



To address this, LGF will do the following strategies to manage disaster

1.7 - DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will do community training on managing disaster (fireguard, fire fighter).
- II. LGF will do stakeholder engagement in mapping out disaster prone areas.
- III. LGF will raise awareness on disaster risk management.
- IV. LGF will run competitions to promote disaster risk management.



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

2

EMPOWERMENT

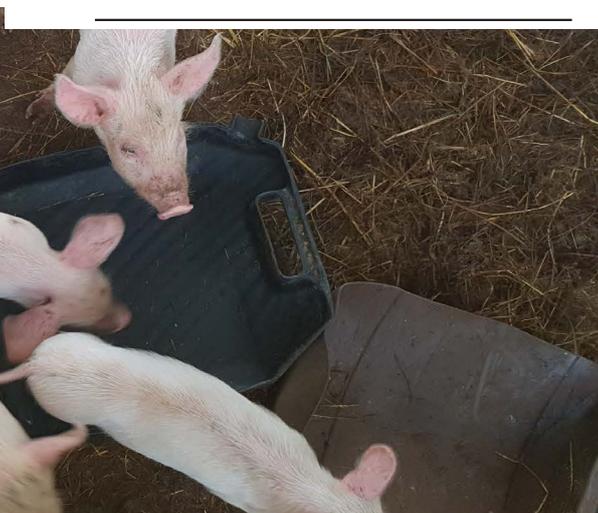
Youth • Women • Vulnerable Groups

Although women & youth are not a homogeneous group & their circumstances vary according to cultural and socio-economic characteristics, they bear a disproportionate burden of global poverty. This has resulted in an increase in substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, school dropouts, gender based violence, period poverty, unequal access to and control over assets and shortages of basic services like wash services. In addition to this Covid-19 Pandemic and natural disasters have further worsened the situation. If you empower the community and if you empower a young person you have empowered today and the future.



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If you Empower the Community and Empower a young person, you have Empowered Today and The Future



LGF'S STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Life skills
2. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)
3. Gender Based Violence
4. Substance abuse and mental health

2.1- LIFE SKILLS

2.1 LIFE SKILLS

Informal employment which is rampant in Zimbabwe requires life skills on how to generate income. Young people lack skills to create employment for themselves which in turn will help them to generate income. That's the reason why most of the youths are involved in illegal ways of earning a living hence making society inhabitable. Despite the progress in achieving gender parity in education girls still make up higher percentage of school dropouts than boys. With that LGF target to employ the following strategies to impact life skills to young people and women such that they achieve economic self-reliance.

OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will train young people with development skills in the following sectors; energy, agriculture, value addition, decision making
- II. To financially support these initiatives, LGF will run a revolving fund
- III. LGF will promote fulfillment of women and young people potential through education

2.2-SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)



In Zimbabwe adolescents are exposed to vulnerabilities to human rights abuses, particularly issues to do with sexuality, marriage and child bearing in addition to that young people also face barriers to reproductive health information and care. In addition to health care **SRHR** is essential for achieving gender equality and promoting women's rights. Sexual rights include rights to sexual education, freedom from sexual violence and coercion. Reproductive rights include access to contraception, access to menstrual and sanitary products, ensuring safe pregnancies and childbirth, violations such as female genital mutilation and forced sterilization. 1 in 5 15-19 year old girls experience pregnancy each year. 41% of girls first sexual experiences were forced or coerced, 7% of boys first sexual experiences were forced or coerced and only 4% of girls who experience sexual violence seek out services

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41% of girls & 7% of boys' first sexual experiences were forced or coerced, and only 4% of girls who experience sexual violence seek out services

OUR APPROACH



- I. LGF will raise awareness in communities and promote access to sexual and reproductive health information
- II. LGF will establish peer to peer education in communities
- III. Advocate for policies that address SRHR



2.2-SEXUAL REPRODUCTION HEALTH RIGHTS

2.3- GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Women play a critical role in sustainable development. When they are educated and healthy, their families, communities and countries benefit. Yet, gender based violence undermines opportunities for women and denies them the ability to fully utilize their basic human rights. In Zimbabwe, about 1 in 3 women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence and about 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. Early marriages rape and forced marriage is rampant in Zimbabwe. To counter that LGF will employ the following strategies

OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will raise awareness on GBV and strategies for prevention
- II. LGF will build Capacity of all gender groups to understand gender issues
- III. LGF will engage with other Stakeholder who are already in the space
- IV. LGF will advocate with police for establishment and enforcement of zero tolerance policies for GBV



2.1 - GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

2.4- SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH



Mental health and substance abuse continues to be on the rise in Zimbabwe. It is more prevalent in urban areas. Despite growing evidence that drug and substance abuse are on the increase especially among young people, there is little being done in terms of interventions conducted to reduce drug and substance abuse among the youth. Prevalence of drug abuse is at 57% among young people, the most commonly abused drugs and substances are marijuana and alcohol. Peer pressure, breakdown of the family support system, limited knowledge about the effects of drug abuse and stress are major factors that drive substance and-

-drug abuse among the youth. The criminalization of the drug and substance abuse continues to make it difficult for young people to seek help when they suffer from the effects of the drug abuse. The shift from the legal approach to a public health approach is needed in-order to address the challenges and complications associated with drug and substance abuse among young people in Zimbabwe.

LGF will do the following strategies to combat drug abuse and mental health in Zimbabwe:

OUR APPROACH

- I. LGF will raise awareness on mental health and consequence of drug abuse on mainstream media and social media
- II. LGF will train young people and activate social networks, livelihood and education activities
- III. LGF will advocate for the ban of drugs
- IV. Establish community peer to peer support structures (peer counselors, youth and women's groups)

2.1 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH



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