



# October 2024 Newsletter



200 Girls receive hygiene packs from EIRWA on International Day of the Girl Child, 2024

October marked a significant month for EIRWA as we celebrated two key dates that resonate deeply with our mission: the International Day of the Girl Child and the International Day of Rural Women. Throughout the month, we dedicated ourselves to amplifying the voices of rural women and girls in Zambia, advocating for their rights, safety, and empowerment. Our reach extended to over 500 women and girls through events, partnerships, and community engagements that highlight the essential role of women in shaping a brighter future. In this issue, we're excited to share our October updates, showcasing how we continue to drive positive change through collaboration and a shared vision for equality.

## Discover This Month

- Organized workshops for rural girls on International Day of the Girl Child.
- Celebrated rural women's contributions on International Day of Rural Women.
- Collaborated with Girls Gone Political Movement to promote female leadership.
- Program Partnership announcement: The Binti Shupavu Project with GLAMI and Daring Girls.
- Reflected on gender equality progress during Zambia's 60th Anniversary.
- Strengthened networks with U.S. Embassy in Zambia and Peer Mentors.

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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2024

On this year's International Day of the Girl Child, EIRWA hosted an engaging side event at the district level, engaging over 200 adolescent boys and girls, featuring quizzes and discussions on menstrual health, girls' rights, sexual and reproductive health, and climate change. Participants actively engaged and received incentives, making it educational and enjoyable, while working towards equality and empowerment.



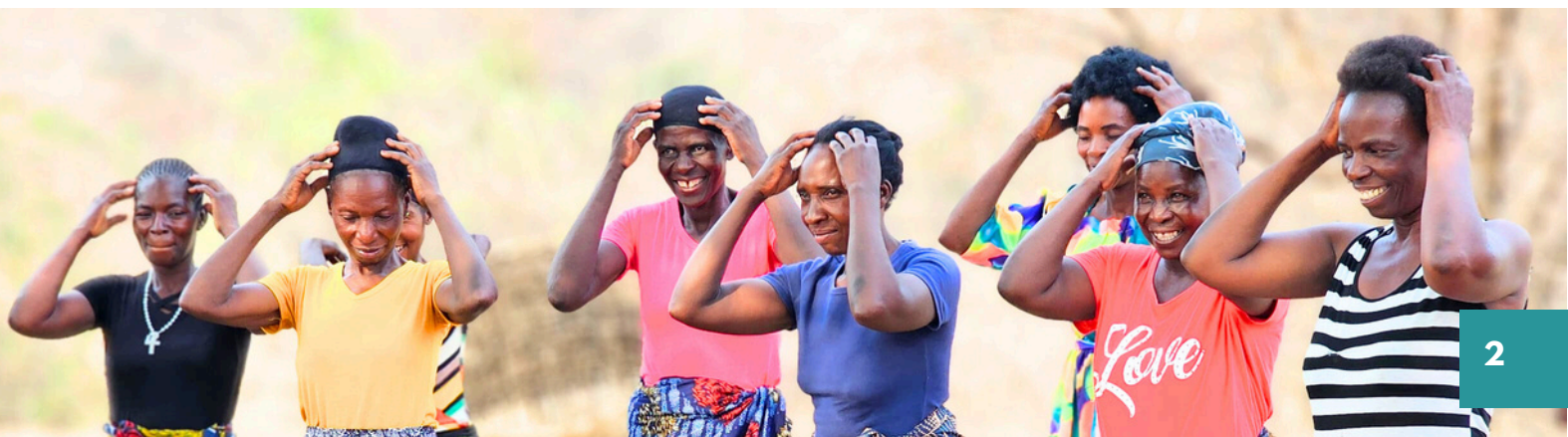
**LET'S INVEST IN GIRLS TO  
CREATE A FUTURE FILLED  
WITH EQUALITY AND  
EMPOWERMENT.**

*Investing in the future of girls  
creates stronger communities,  
drives economic growth, and  
ensures a more equitable and  
empowered world for all.*



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN 2024

In honor of the International Day of Rural Women, we engaged in a meaningful discussion with women from a remote community about their challenges, particularly geographic isolation. They highlighted issues like limited representation and civic engagement opportunities, seeking more support for self-empowerment. EIRWA supports these women and calls on the government to implement inclusive measures for rural communities. By investing in infrastructure, water access, and community projects, we can enhance rural women's voices and empower them to shape their futures.





## THE BINTI SHUPAVU PROJECT IN ZAMBIA

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Daring Girls and GLAMI (Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative) to launch the Binti Shupavu (Courageous Daughter) mentoring program in Zambia! This four-year life skills course for lower secondary school girls focuses on study skills, personal leadership, health, and self-confidence, aiming to boost graduation rates among vulnerable girls.

EIRWA proudly stands with this initiative, and we look forward to sharing more about its positive impact soon!



## COLLABORATIONS: GIRLS GONE POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Civic engagement plays a vital role in empowering communities by educating individuals on the significance of their voice, decision-making, accountability, and leadership. In October, we partnered with the 'Girls Gone Political movement' to connect with young women in Rufunsa, facilitating an important discussion about democracy, rights, the importance of voting, and their role in shaping the future of their communities. We encouraged these young women to participate actively in community matters rather than remaining passive observers. **The event gathered 50 young women from various backgrounds**, going beyond mere awareness to emphasize the importance of collaboration for meaningful change, utilizing the unique strengths each party brings to the table.







## ▶▶▶ EIRWA PEER MENTORS TOUR THE U.S EMBASSY ZAMBIA

As part of our U.S. Funded project, the Girls Can' program collaborates directly with young women who are school leavers and recent college graduates, engaging them as peer mentors. These dedicated young women volunteer their time to guide younger girls in the community who are still in school, focusing on life skills, personal development, and improving access to Sexual and Reproductive Health information while emphasizing the significance of education.

This October, we took A group of 10 peer mentors to the U.S. Embassy in Zambia (American Spaces for Leadership) to empower them with knowledge about American history, educational programs, and exchange opportunities. Rural youth often have limited access to information; through this activity, we aimed to enhance their access to knowledge and exposure, which is vital for personal development and growth. Now, they can share this valuable information with their mentees.

## ▶▶▶ EIRWA PARTICIPATES IN BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH WITH THE ZAMBIA CANCER SOCIETY



*Duku signifies headwrap. We don our Dukus to show solidarity with those undergoing chemotherapy who feel the need to cover their heads due to shame, stigma, and discrimination. Our ongoing mission is to advocate for change and foster a world that is kinder and more empathetic towards one another.*

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Each year, initiatives are launched or amplified worldwide to raise awareness about breast cancer, advocate for enhanced support for those impacted, and express solidarity. One of our goals is to support women and promote good health, which is why we participated in Zambia's annual challenge, DukuTober. This initiative encourages individuals and groups to take action through education, campaigns, and various other forms of support for the cause.



# IN-DEPTH ON THE EVOLUTION OF WOMENS RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP IN ZAMBIA

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know? Despite making up half the population, women hold only 14% of parliamentary seats in Zambia—a major gap in representation. Empowering more women in leadership is crucial for balanced decision-making and inclusive progress.**

*[Source: UN Women, 2021].*

*As Zambia celebrates its 60th anniversary, it's important to elevate the voices of rural women who have valuable insights on the nation's journey. EIRWA engaged 20 rural women to discuss Zambia's progress through a feminist perspective, acknowledging both achievements and ongoing challenges.*

While Zambia has made significant advances toward freedom, true independence must include everyone, especially women. The women highlighted the importance of empowerment and the need for gender equality and financial independence to become realities.

A key issue is the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, which affects national priorities. Women bring unique perspectives and compassion to leadership, yet cultural norms often hinder their full participation.

It's essential to dismantle these barriers to allow women to lead and inspire change. By advocating for women's empowerment, we can create a more equitable Zambia for all.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Our Founder has been honored with the 2024 Girls Human Rights (Safe Haven) award, recognizing our organization, EIRWA, for our commitment to creating safe spaces for girls and safeguarding their rights. A recognition significant for our work with marginalized rural communities in Zambia.



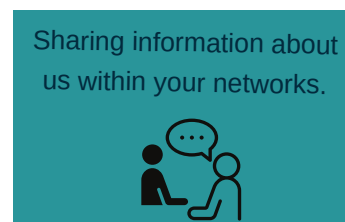
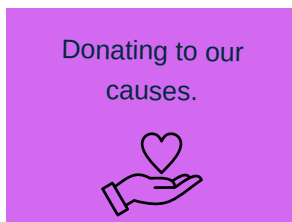
Our peer, Mentor Sharon, has embarked on her journey to Chalimbana University to pursue a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition. This is a significant milestone for her, and we wish her all the best in this exciting endeavor.



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**Thank you for reading EIRWA's newsletter! Your support and engagement mean so much to us as we work to uplift and empower women and young people across rural Zambia. Together, we're building a future where every voice is heard, and every person has the chance to thrive. We hope you find inspiration in our updates and join us in driving meaningful change.**

## Here's How you can support Us?



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