

# Empowerment Initiative For Rural Women And Adolescents (EIRWA)

Embrace. Empower. Thrive: Empowering Rural Women and Adolescents for Inclusive Growth.



## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

September has been an incredibly busy and rewarding month for us at the Empowerment Initiative for Rural Women and Adolescents (EIRWA). From training 100 women in beehive making to hosting mentorship classes, and participating in key events such as World Day of Charity and World Clean Up Day, we've truly been at the heart of community empowerment.

In this issue, we'll share insights from our activities, highlight our partnerships, and reflect on how we're working to foster resilience and growth in the communities we serve.

- Summary of EIRWA's September activities and achievements:
  - Empowering women through beekeeping.
  - Charity initiative for a local mothers' shelter.
  - Restart of Girls Can mentorship classes.
  - Climate change advocacy efforts.
  - Collaborations with CMA CGM, Afroclimates, and the U.S. Embassy in Zambia.
  - Career Day Fair at Mpanshya Secondary School.
  - Community involvement at Chief's Traditional Ceremony.
- Preview of October events
- Closing remarks





## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH BEEKEEPING

A standout moment this month was our progress in the Tukashi Beekeeping Project. We trained 70 women in beehive-making, equipping them with the skills necessary for honey production and entrepreneurship. This initiative is a crucial part of our broader mission to provide rural women with climate-smart, sustainable livelihood opportunities. The ability to earn a consistent income through honey production is not just a skill—it's a step towards financial independence, greater agency, and resilience in an unpredictable economy.

Beyond the practical skills, the Tukashi Project fosters confidence and community among women. They left the training equipped with knowledge, empowered by the potential of new possibilities, and motivated to contribute to the economic sustainability of their families and communities.



## WORLD DAY OF CHARITY

In honor of World Day of Charity, we deepened our commitment to community support by visiting the local mothers' shelter. We shared words of solidarity and hope, along with donations of clothing and food items. This act of service was a powerful reminder that compassion and community support remain at the heart of what we do at EIRWA.



**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT AT  
THE CENTRE OF  
EIRWA'S WORK**

*“Community engagement is not just a strategy—it's a moral imperative. It ensures that the voices of the people we serve are not only heard but are central to the solutions we co-create.”*



# SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## RESUMPTION OF MENTORSHIP CLASSES

We were also excited to resume our Girls Can mentorship program this month. The program, which supports adolescent girls in primary and secondary schools, offers a space where girls are equipped with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to navigate life's challenges. Our peer mentors were thrilled to reconnect with their mentees, resuming sessions that foster personal growth and empowerment. Moving forward, we plan to facilitate opportunities for mentors and mentees to remain engaged even during school breaks, strengthening these valuable connections.



## WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY

In September, we also celebrated World Clean-Up Day, uniting under the theme "Unite to Tackle Waste." With the generous support of our partners, CMA CGM and Afroclimates, we reached over 200 individuals, raising awareness about climate change, environmental conservation, and the importance of maintaining a clean environment. Through creative arts and performances by the youth, we were able to deliver these critical messages in a way that resonated deeply with the community. We also collected over 100 thumbprints as a commitment form community members towards protecting and conserving their forests.



*"Youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the drivers of today's change. By empowering them through art and creative advocacy, we give them the tools to shape a better world."*



## PARTNERSHIPS; HOSTING VISITORS FROM THE US EMBASSY IN ZAMBIA

We were honored to host representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Zambia this month as well. Their visit was an invaluable opportunity to showcase the progress we've made, particularly in our education and health-focused programs across schools in Rufunsa. The support and recognition from such partners affirm the impact of our work and push us to aim higher.





## ▶▶▶ FIRST EVER CAREER DAY FAIR IN THE COMMUNITY

September also saw the first-ever Career Day Fair at Mpanshya Secondary School, an event organized in collaboration with local experts and youth volunteers. Designed to prepare students for the transition from secondary to tertiary education, the event provided critical guidance and insight as they face some of the most important decisions in their lives. This fair aligns perfectly with our mission to equip young people with knowledge and skills to thrive in their future endeavors.



## ▶▶▶ ADVOCACY SIDE EVENT AT MPANSHYA CHIEF TRADITIONAL CEREMONY

Our September activities concluded with a side event at the annual Chief's Traditional Ceremony in Mpanshya Chiefdom. As always, we used our unique blend of community engagement and creativity to reach over 200 men, women, and youth. Our messages on education, health, climate change, and sustainable livelihoods were well-received, reflecting the trust we've built with the community over time.





# OUR CALL TO ACTION THIS MONTH: PRESERVING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Indigenous knowledge, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, plays a critical role in sustainable agriculture, conservation, and food security. Studies show that when traditional agricultural practices are lost, communities become more vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks. The loss of this knowledge undermines local resilience and increases dependency on external systems that may not be suitable for local conditions (Berkes, 2018).

Recent discussions highlight the growing threat to indigenous knowledge and practices, particularly in food preservation and agriculture. As communities shift toward modern systems, their traditional methods, developed in harmony with local ecosystems, are at risk of disappearing. This neglect can leave communities vulnerable to environmental challenges like droughts and food shortages.

It's crucial for organizations to engage meaningfully with these communities, understanding the local context and the value of indigenous knowledge before implementing new ideas.

This month, we urge partners and leaders to prioritize the preservation of this knowledge, ensuring future generations inherit the wisdom of their ancestors. We must support its documentation and integration into current practices to empower rural communities amidst modern challenges. Now is the time to act and preserve invaluable resources for the future.



# A MESSAGE FROM US TO YOU

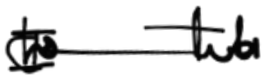
Looking Ahead to October:

October promises to be equally engaging, with a focus on:

- Mental Health Awareness
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- International Day of the Girl Child
- International Day of Rural Women

As we close out September, we are filled with gratitude for the support of our partners and the unwavering dedication of our team. Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we will continue to empower, uplift, and inspire change in rural Zambia.

Stay connected with EIRWA as we move forward, ensuring that every voice is heard, every hand is held, and every community is empowered



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