



Zimbabwe Workcamps Association

Short Term Volunteer Projects in Zimbabwe

Brief Background and History

Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA) is local inspired Youth Volunteer Organisation founded in October 1993. It is non-political, non-sectarian, not for profit, membership organisation. Its membership is open to anyone above the age of sixteen years irrespective of nationality, gender, race, religion, political view, or educational qualification. ZWA seeks to promote inter culture education, international and national understanding through voluntary services, peace, solidarity, and community development. ZWA is registered with the Zimbabwe Youth Council under the Ministry of Youths Empowerment and Vocational Training. ZWA is a member of the Southern Africa Workcamps Cooperation (SAWC), which a regional body that promotes development and voluntary work. ZWA is also a member of a continental platform Network of Africa Voluntary Services (NAVO), a continental body which aim to achieve prosperous and peaceful Africa through youth empowerment, volunteerism and pan Africa exchange as well as scaling up global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change. ZWA is also a member of the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) created under the aegis of UNESCO in 1948. ZWA is also has group status within the Social Civil Society (SCI) family. ZWA is a full member of International Forum for Volunteering in Development. Zimbabwe Workcamps Association employs international voluntary services as a double aged sword namely education and community development. Workcamps are proven developmental techniques aimed at encouraging local communities to do self-help projects, using scarcely available resources in the raising of their socio-economic, cultural and physical standards of living. We strive to

- ✚ To assist with community development,
- ✚ Encourage the concept of voluntary service as a force in the search for equality and international understanding,

- ✚ Enable young people to encounter and understand different cultures Organise and run environmental workcamps in Zimbabwe and in the region either independently or in collaboration with other voluntary organization or government departments.

Scope of Work: Volunteers participate in several different tasks at their respective project host. The work ranges from physical demanding jobs to administrative tasks such as data entry, documentation and data analysis, other most popular tasks are teaching, social work, building, environmental conversation, health promotion, coordinating youth events to mention but just a few.

Working Schedule: Participants work around 8 hours a day from Monday to Friday. The lion's share of our volunteer placements does not require volunteers to work on public holidays and weekends, unless highlighted or in the event of the need arising from the project.

Expectations from Projects: Volunteer projects take place in very humble places around Zimbabwe. The bulk of our projects are not that difficult at all, what is only needed is flexibility, positive mentally attitude as well as openness to new culture, new experience. The secret remedy to, make the most of your time while volunteering in Zimbabwe is to adapt to the local environment. It important to highlight each and every project is unique, hence volunteers should make the most of their time with the community they serve, since this is a chance of a lifetime, to work and live with people in their respective communities, just like them.

Arrival and Orientation: Volunteers will be picked up from the Airport or regional bus station in on request. They will be transferred to any lodge in town of their choice. Two-day orientation will be organized in close collaboration with the volunteers and ZWA staff. The main objective of the orientation is to minimize the effects of cultural shock as well as to build capacities for the volunteers, so as to meet the community with open mind.

Accommodation: The volunteer will live with host families within the community and this will provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn more from the local people and also share in their daily way of life as well as deep understanding of the host community.

Food: Basic meals will be provided in the host family from what is locally available in the local community. Volunteers are therefore advised to be flexible and open minded. This will make it easy to negotiate entry into the community as volunteers.



Detailed Short-Term Programs

ZWA'S FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Volunteerism is an effective way of providing alternative education and training opportunities to people. Participation in volunteer project allows people to broaden their horizons, to familiarize themselves with different social and cultural environment, and develop self-esteem. They will be able to put their energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to good use by participating in practical activities which they have a say in defining. They will learn about taking responsibility and working in a team. The other fundamental principle is the contribution made by volunteers at grassroots level. Projects with strong local roots provide the best opportunity to integrate volunteers into host community. This usually increases the educational value of experience for the volunteer and the host community; in this regard volunteerism has tangible impacts to all stakeholders involved

Ruvhereko Primary School - Project Code ZWA01 - Dates 15-30 April 2026-Number of Volunteer: 10: Theme *Nourishing Minds, Growing Futures: Empowering Youth through Sustainable Nutrition Gardens*

Project in Brief: Ruvheneko Primary School is a school located in Zimbabwe. The name "Ruvhereneko" is Shona, meaning "grain store" or "place of abundance. The school serves the local community, providing primary education to children in the area. The school is located in Glen Noah, a high-density suburb area in the capital city of Harare. Glen Norah was established by the colonial administration in the 60s.

Scope of Work: The volunteer at Ruvheneko Primary School will be expected to support in the following key result areas:

facilitate training and extra-curricular activities for the beneficiaries.

- ® Reviving the nutritional market garden
- ® Making a live fence
- ® Land preparation and planting of different types of vegetables
- ® Reviving the School Orchard

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at the school. Rooms are available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/ aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodations.

Location: Harare

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport

Green Gables High School Project Code ZWA02 Dates 15-30 April 2026-Number of Volunteers 10: Theme *Eco-Warriors": Environmental conservation and sustainability campaign*

Project in Brief: Green Gables High School, located about 22 kilometers from Bulawayo's CBD near the historic Khami National Monuments, has a fascinating history. Established in

2010 by the Apostolic Faith Church of Portland Oregon. Green Gables High School has flourished, becoming one of Bulawayo's top-performing schools, with impressive A-Level pass rates, including 100% in 2019 and 2022. Today, Green Gables High School offers a well-rounded education, emphasizing academic excellence, spiritual growth, and personal development. The school follows both ZIMSEC and Cambridge curricula, offering a range of subjects, including sciences, arts, commerce, and practical skills

Scope of Work: Work: Volunteers who join this exciting international workcamp get an opportunity to immerse into a worthy while experience in the community driven system change programs in Zimbabwe. Volunteers will engage in designing a youth led massive land regeneration programs as well as amplifying the concept of living earth campaign. The Volunteers will work on the following projects among others

- Mobilizes young people to take concrete climate actions in their communities and countries, with a focus on community volunteerism, advocacy, and skills development
 - Planting of the native indigenous trees at Khami national Monuments and the surrounding communities
 - Building Capacity for youth-led and youth-inclusive solutions to environmental and climate challenges, offering mentorship support.
 - do spatial planning and designing and they change roles after agreed days, so that each volunteer can have the opportunity to work on the two programs .
- We are working with other international and regional players on this noble project.

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at school. Rooms are available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/ aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodations.

Location: Bulawayo

Language: English

Terminal: Joshua Nkomo International Airport

**Hillside Dams Conservancy- Project Code ZWA03-Dates 16-30 June 2026-Number of
Volunteer 10: *Theme Ecosystem Restoration and Living Earth Exchange***

Lying within the Bulawayo City boundary, Hillside Dams Conservancy's natural vegetation is still largely intact and includes a wide range of species and a diverse bird life. As a community-oriented project the area has been leased by a group of local residents with the aim of restoring it to being once again one of the prime recreational venues in Bulawayo, to be enjoyed by all of its residents. (www.hillsidedams.com)

SCOPE OF WORK FOR VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer at Hillside Dams Conservancy will be expected to support in the following key result areas:

- ♣ Eradicate invasive vegetation in the dried riverbed to allow free flow.
- ♣ Design and dig a drainage system to direct water flow into the river.
- ♣ Harvest water during rainy seasons, ensuring a consistent supply.

Objectives:

- ▲ Enhanced ecosystem services and biodiversity.
- ▲ Improve water quality and quantity
- ▲ Enhance the scenery and landscape of the conservancy
- ▲ Foster community engagement and environmental awareness.

Volunteers will also contribute to process of Ecosystem Restoration through

- Mechanical vegetation eradication and habitat restoration
- Drain design and construction
- Contribute expertise and any other resources at your disposal

EXPECTATIONS FROM PROJECTS

This project is not that difficult at all, what is only needed is flexibility, positive mentally attitude as well as openness to new culture, new experience. The secret remedy to make the most of your time while Camping is to adapt to the local environment. It important to highlight that this project is unique. It is critical to mention that volunteers should be ready for physical work.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will be accommodated at the camping site. Volunteers should bring their own camping tent, sleeping bag and a small mattress. Running water is available, Water system toilets showers are available.

Location: Bulawayo

Language: English

Terminal: Joshua Nkomo International Airport

FOOD:

Basic meals will be provided in the host family from what is locally available in the local community. Volunteers are therefore advised to be flexible and open minded. This will make it easy to negotiate entry into the community as volunteers.

**Manyanga eVaRozvi - Project Code ZWA04 -Dates 16-30 June 2026- Number of
Volunteer 10: *Theme Preserving Our Past for the Future***

Project in Brief: Khami National Monuments is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located about 22 kilometers west of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. It's a historic site that showcases the remnants of the Khami Empire, which flourished between the 15th and 17th centuries. Khami was the capital of the Torwa dynasty, which ruled the Kingdom of Butua from around 1450 to 1683. The site features impressive stone structures, including walls, terraces, and platforms, built using locally sourced stone blocks without mortar. Khami was an important center for trade, politics, and culture, serving as a key hub for the exchange of goods like gold, ivory, and cattle.

Scope Work: In close cooperation with Manyanga eVaRozvi the volunteer will work with the community at Khami Monuments. The primary objective of this project is to assist in the preservation of our national heritage. The work is physically challenging and will consist of general cleaning and maintenance work at the national monuments such as cutting down grasses, carrying big stones, repairing walking trails, all things be equal volunteers will be given the opportunity to work on the restoration of the walls at Khami Ruins. Experts from the Department of museum and national monuments will dictate the pace. The volunteers will also perform any special task assigned by the department

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated at the camping site. Volunteers should bring their own camping tent, sleeping bag and a small mattress. Running water is available, Water system toilets showers are available.

Location: Khami National Monuments

Language: English

Terminal: Joshua Nkomo International Airport

**Lower Vumba Community Services Project Code ZWA05 Number of Volunteer 10-
Dates 04-14 July 2026-Theme: *Building Resilience, Strengthening Community***

Project in Brief: The Lower Vumba area, located in Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe, is home to a community of small-scale farmers who play a vital role in the local economy. Lower Vumba's fertile land and favorable climate make it suitable for various agricultural activities. The small-scale farmers in this region primarily engage in subsistence farming, growing crops like maize, vegetables, fruits, and tobacco. Many also rear livestock, contributing to household food security and income generation. Despite facing challenges like limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and vulnerability to climate change, these farmers are resilient and dedicated to improving their livelihoods. Their efforts focus on sustainable farming practices, crop diversification, and community-led initiatives to enhance food security, increase income, and promote local economic growth

Scope of Work:

The scope of work for the Lower Vumba Gardens project includes clearing invasive plant species to restore the natural ecosystem, creating water basins around fruit trees to enhance water retention and promote healthy growth, and preparing biofertilizer through composting organic materials to enrich soil fertility and support sustainable agricultural practices. The objective is to improve the overall health and productivity of the garden while promoting environmentally friendly practices.

Objectives:

- ≠ To facilitate hands-on capacity-building activities for the young men and women from around the country, with a focus on empowering youth.
- ≠ To promote agroecology and permaculture practices, providing educational and practical training to youth from different backgrounds.

Through this program, participants will have the opportunity to engage in sustainable agriculture projects, share knowledge, and learn from each other. It's an initiative to appreciate and support community-led projects that safeguard the rights and promote the inclusion of youths from around the country in sustainable development initiatives.

Expectations From Projects

The Lower Vumba project is expected to achieve several key outcomes, including the restoration of the natural ecosystem through the removal of invasive plant species, improved

water retention and fruit tree productivity through the creation of water basins, and enhanced soil fertility through the use of biofertilizers. Additionally, the project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices, support local communities, and contribute to environmental conservation efforts in the region. Ultimately, the project seeks to create a thriving and resilient ecosystem that benefits both the local community and the environment

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at the camping site. Volunteers should bring their own camping tent, sleeping bag and a small mattress. Running water is available, Water system toilets showers are available.

Location: Lower Vumba

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport

Tose Respite Care Home - Project Code ZWA06 Dates 01-14 July 2026 Number of Volunteer 10: *Theme Nurturing Minds and Bodies*

Project in Brief: To provide respite, rehabilitation and consultation services to families and individuals with severe mental and physical disabilities through training, outreach, and advocacy programs so as to promote a dignified life at Tose, in the community, nationally and beyond. Tose Respite Care Centre was registered as a National Welfare Organization in November 1992, Registration number WO17/92. The present National Headquarters has been functional since June 1998. The Centre has 2 units, a Residential home with a capacity of 50 clients. An outpatient department which can accommodate up to 20 clients per day. The founder members; Desi Page (Nee Matongo), and the late Tim Page, after months of research discovered that there were tremendous gaps in the care and rehabilitation of people with severe mental and physical disabilities (learning) in Zimbabwe and decided to start this new initiative. At Tose we aim to provide a service of care and relief to people with learning disabilities (PLWDs) and that the services remain a shared responsibility with the families or careers. We also aim to facilitate the care of people with learning disabilities so that they are given dignity and respect both at TOSE and their communities.

Scope of Work: Tose is home for people with severe and multiple disabilities. It provides respite care, rehabilitation and training for caregivers. The volunteers will work with the staff members at Tose to provide respite care as well as rehabilitation for the disadvantaged. The volunteers will also help in the garden, kitchen laundry and any specific request from administration at Tose

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at Tose Respite Care Home. Rooms will be available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/ aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodations.

Location: Harare

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport

Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre - Project Code ZWA07 Dates 16-30 July 2026

Number of Volunteer 10: *Theme Nourishing Our Community*

Project in Brief: Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre works towards achieving food secure Zimbabwe that depends on sustainable land-based food systems (permaculture). Activities thrive on skills training in sustainable agriculture methodologies. Trainings are supplemented by practical demonstrations illuminating the ecological and economy viability of permaculture. Creating enhancing and facilitating market opportunities for farmers produce remains a key mandate. FPC also focuses on climate justice and leadership with the primary objective of community development through training, awareness raising and advocacy.

Scope of Work: The volunteer project seeks to mitigate the harmful impacts of climate change. The work will involve varying activities which shall be spread across. This will include but limited to gender, climate colonisation and environmental work around, making tsotso stove, water harvesting dams, Bio fertiliser (Bokashi) making, reforestation programs as well as working with people in their respective communities around Gutsa village The program requires a willing workforce of volunteers, to facilitate wonderful experience camp. This is a highly participatory projects, which will empower volunteers and communities in a remarkable

manner. The project will valorise the importance of grassroots gender awareness programs climate change mitigation strategies and climate colonisation. In a nutshell the project will accord the young men and women a very rare opportunity to gain skills in gender, permaculture, and agroecology, which are critical and essential in improving their livelihoods in their respective communities. The community may ask us to perform other necessary specific tasks outside the scope of our agreement. This is seen as a way of promoting community driven development.

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre. Rooms are available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/ aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodation.

Location: Harare

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport

Tsungirirai - Project Code ZWA08 Dates 16-30 August 2026- Number of Volunteer 10-

Theme: Education and Empowerment

Project in Brief: Tsungirirai is a Shona word meaning to persevere and being courageous. The organisation was founded by Mrs Phillipa Henderson in 1994. Witnessing the ravaging effects of HIV/AIDS in the early 1990s in the Norton community, Mrs Henderson moved into action due to her compassionate and mission focused nature. Thus, in 1994 she initiated Tsungirirai and became the founding Director of the organisation. At first, the organisation started by offering counselling and home-based care services for HIV affected and infected persons. Two years later, the organization got registered through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare in 1996 as a formal welfare organization that focused on HIV/AIDS programming. Since its inception, the organisation had a two-tier governance structure comprising of a 5-member Board of Trustees at the top followed by an Executive Committee made up of 7 members. However, due to new regulatory requirements of the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Act, the board of trustees is no longer applicable thereby rendering it redundant.

Programmes offered by the organisation have evolved over the years being shaped by the changing HIV and AIDS environment. At inception, the organisation's core focus was on the provision of home-based care as many people were being discharged from the hospitals while in a bedridden condition. Thus, the Home-Based Care (HBC) project was amongst the first major initiatives of the organisation. Still within the formative years albeit at a later period, HIV prevention activities like stepping stones and Auntie Stella initiatives were also implemented to increase awareness on HIV/AIDS. These educational programmes had a massive impact in the community with a core focus on preventative measures aimed to reduce the rate at which people were being infected. During the period of the late 1990s and early 2000s, a lot of children were orphaned due to the effects of the pandemic and many more were left vulnerable due to the bedridden nature of their infected parents and loss of bread winners. This increasing incidence of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) resulted in the organisation broadening its scope to include OVCs programming to ensure strong social safety nets for affected children.

Around 2008-9 medication in the form of Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARV) was now available to the public at cheaper prices. As a result, Tsungirirai implemented the New Life project that offered post-test counseling including intensive education on drug adherence. Support groups for infected persons were also formed during this era and these initiatives had a lasting impact on beneficiaries and their families. Since 2010 to date the organisation's programming has largely targeted children and youths still focusing on the area of HIV and AIDS. This shift was necessitated by the fact that children and youths had been neglected in previous programming initiatives not only of Tsungirirai but of various organisations. Thus, since the year 2010 children are now being identified for HIV testing and counselling and Support groups for children have also been formed. Several prevention activities targeted at youths are also being implemented.

At present, the organisation is implementing an OVC project that incorporates aspects of economic strengthening, education assistance, integrated management of podiatric AIDS care and treatment, school health assessments, child protection, ARSH and psychosocial support. The HBC project is still being implemented in the community even though most people are now mobile. Caregivers visit children living with HIV in their homes offering psychosocial support and other forms of help and care depending on needs.

Scope of Work: Volunteers on this program facilitate training and extra-curricular activities for the beneficiaries. The idea of the centre is to provide hands on training, so as to be self-reliant. The centre also addresses issues of child abuse among other challenges. Volunteers work together with representatives of the Town of Norton, Faith based organisations and Tsungirirai staff to identify and resolve issues related to people who are disadvantaged. Volunteers will also have an opportunity to engage in indoor and outdoor games with the beneficiaries. It is basically an opportunity for international volunteers to appreciate initiatives around safeguarding the rights of the less privileged members of the community.

Food: Basic meals will be provided from what is locally available in the local community. Volunteers are therefore advised to be flexible and open-minded. This will make it easy for them to negotiate their entry into the community.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated at the Tsungirirai Centre. Rooms are available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/ aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodation.

Location: Norton

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport

Victoria Falls Musi OA Tunya - Project Code ZWA09- Dates 14-28 October 2026:

Number of Volunteer 10-Theme Number of Volunteers 8- Education and Empowerment

Project in Brief: United Children of Africa (UNICA) is a nonpolitical and non-religious NGO governed by a board of Trust, made up of competent development practitioners coming from diverse backgrounds. UNICA work in collaboration with numerous partners and local volunteer to deliver educational, health care and other support services to the community.

Scope of Work: This project focuses on supporting Kindergarten education for children at a local rural school in Victoria Falls. Early Childhood Education is key to the promotion of cognitive, physical and social development of children in the first 1000 days of their lives. This project's aim is to promote access to ECD services to children and promoting the education of ECD children through play. Volunteers in this project are engaged on a day-to-day basis with children in ECD as Teacher Assistants. They provide a conducive platform for children to

access educational services and promoting play as the pivot of education for children in this grade. Children in this grade are between the ages of 3 to 6 years of age. Volunteers have an opportunity to be innovative and initiate educational games for children as well as facilitating coloring and paintings. It is a project for those volunteers who wish to be immersed in visionary artwork, painting and play (indoor or outdoor).

Requirements: Desire to work hard as well as being comfortable to work with people with from different backgrounds

Accommodation: Volunteers will be accommodated by host family Rooms will be available to individual volunteers. Volunteers with special needs like seniors/aged, families and physically challenged will have special arrangements for their accommodations.

Food: Basic meals will be provided from what is locally available in the local community. Volunteers are therefore advised to be flexible and open-minded. This will make it easy for them to negotiate their entry into the community.

Location: Victoria Falls

Language: English

Terminal: Victoria Falls International Airport

Nzeve Deaf Centre – Mutare- Project Code 10-Dates 14-28 October 2026- Number of Volunteers 12- Theme: *The Hands that Speaks*

Project in Brief: Nzeve Deaf Centre is an organization for deaf and hearing people. It was formally registered in 2005 but started its work in the 90s. The organization works to promote deaf culture and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their communities. Our vision is to see the Deaf Community valued in an inclusive society. The Centre provides hearing tests and early childhood learning classes for deaf children so that they develop sign language and social skills before they join a mainstream school. Deaf youths come to the center for vocational skills in carpentry, building, sewing, and horticulture to prepare them for independent living. Livelihoods training is provided to the parents of deaf children and youths as well as other persons with disabilities in the Manicaland province. Disability/deaf awareness occupies a greater part of Nzeve's work so that communities are inclusive and can support persons with disabilities to live quality life.

Scope of work:

This program facilitates extra-curricular activities for children and youth through a child center which supports those who need it most. The idea of the Centre is to provide educational and recreational services to children and youth who are deaf. The center also addresses issues of child abuse among other challenges as it is a safe home to deliberate and receive support from. Volunteers work together with representatives of the Protection Committee. At the Centre, volunteers have an opportunity to engage in indoor and outdoor play games with the youths who occasionally visit the Centre for play. It is basically an opportunity for international volunteers to appreciate initiatives around safeguarding the rights of children and youths who are differently enabled.

Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated at Nzeve Centre. Rooms will be available Females and Males. Volunteers should bring their own sleeping bag and a small mattress. Running water is available, Water system toilets are available.

Location: Mutare

Language: English

Terminal: Robert Mugabe International Airport

