



Looking back over 2020, the ECID programme has shown innovative ways of connecting marginalised people with service providers and power holders to improve access to services. From hosting radio shows that broadcasts community's issues, to building reporter networks that amplify community voices, and leading public campaigns to promote inclusion in elections. In all of this we are putting the voices and experiences of marginalised people at the forefront, showing that they hold the expertise needed to find solutions to issues affecting them.

In this issue of our newsletter you will read about some successful actions and the impact on people we aim to reach, but also the inequalities and gaps in services which we continue to challenge.

Creating channels to open up community dialogue and reduce social exclusion

ECID partner On Our Radar (OOR) are working with the project teams in Nigeria and Zimbabwe to provide accessible technology for marginalised communities to document, gather and share insights into the challenges in accessing everyday services in their communities.

Using their community insight platform *Radius*, OOR have trained community reporters to research and share real experiences via SMS, voice and chat apps which are analysed and used as evidence.

We will be sharing the reports from February 2021 so look out for updates by following #ECID on Twitter.

[Click here to read more](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

.....

Global update
Community reporter network

.....

Our work in Myanmar
ECID launch events
Election campaign

.....

Our work in Zimbabwe
Improved access to health and water
LILO workshop

.....

Our work in Nigeria
Support for farmers
ECID hour radio
Access to education

OUR WORK IN MYANMAR

Official launch events generate high level endorsement

In August and September ECID was launched in Kayin and Kachin states to an audience of partners, media, government officials and community organisations. The events generated a lot of great interest with discussions on potential extensions to the project in future.



ECID launch event in Kachin State in September 2020 hosted a range of key stakeholders for the programme.

U Thet Htun Hlaing, Director of Kachin State Department of Social Welfare said:

“Nowadays, governments and civil society organisations should not be working separately on development projects. We all must work together for the development of our country. This event is an opportunity to create links between government departments and civil society organizations for better collaboration.”

During the launch, the needs of people with disabilities from internally displaced (IDP) camps were presented to the attendees, highlighting the increased needs due to the current pandemic. Members of the ECID team worked to advocate for increased support for people with disabilities from the government. Immediate results from this saw 75 people with disabilities in the camp receive cash support from the Department of Social Welfare.

[Click to see more about the launch events](#)

Highlighting inclusion in elections

The team ran a campaign **Inclusion in the time of Election - Let's Vote Together** to raise awareness on the importance of inclusion in Myanmar's election and highlight the challenges of marginalised communities. The campaign featured documentaries highlighting the voices of people who are often excluded, which were shared through Facebook.

[Click here to find out more](#)

Zau Maw is returning home

Since Zau Maw* (right) quit using drugs, his past still still haunts him. As a drug user, he lost the respect of his friends and community, leaving him depressed.



“Nobody is willing to talk with me. Although I try, they avoid me. I am not able to participate in any community events”.

Zau Maw attended ECID's awareness raising sessions supporting people who use drugs on how to rehabilitate and integrate back into society. Since then, things have started to improve for Zau Maw who now knows his rights and how to access services for rehabilitating from drug abuse.

He has also used what he has learned to support other people in similar situations by speaking out about the issue of excluding people who use drugs.

“I used to explain to my family that there should not be discrimination of drug users and we need to support them. Now, I dare to speak out to everyone, including community leaders”.

[Read Zau Maw's full story.](#)

*Name changed to protect identity

OUR WORK IN ZIMBABWE

Actions from ECID partners secures health clinic and access to water for communities in Mutare City

In Zimbabwe, the ECID team and partners have been successful in mobilising a health clinic, ambulance and improved water infrastructure in Mutare City, improving the lives of women and people with disabilities.

In October, following efforts from the ECID programme, officials from the municipality reported that they had begun construction of a clinic in Hobhouse, a high-density area. The clinic will remove the need for women and persons with disabilities to travel long distances to access quality health services. An ambulance was also procured to ease transport challenges at all city-run health care facilities in times of emergency. This will particularly benefit women vulnerable to maternal health emergencies.

In addition, worn out water infrastructure in Dangamvura, another high-density residential area, was refurbished to improve the quality of water supply and therefore sanitation. This creates a safer environment for people to access water, particularly benefiting women who often travel long distances to collect water.



Refurbishment of water infrastructure that supplies water to Dangamvura area in Mutara, Photo credit, City of Mutare

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LILO workshop in Harare advances GESI strategy in Zimbabwe

In November, Zimbabwe held a Looking Inward, Looking Outward (LILO) inclusion workshop as part of the programme's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy. The aim of these workshops is to achieve attitude change through a personalisation approach. ECID partner Frontline AIDS worked with consortium members and Positive Vibes in Namibia to develop a bespoke session, "LILO Inclusion", which focuses on gender and specific marginalised groups.

[Click to read more about the workshop](#)

"Clean water will liberate women and reduce social inequalities", says community reporter

Faris Davison (right) from Dangamvura is a community reporter for ECID who has reported on water access for women and the dangers they face.

She reported *"there is virtually no water provided by the local authority"*, going on to explain that *"residents depend on unprotected shallow wells for water."* Describing the dangers of this, Faris explained *"At the water points, women and girls are abused and some are even molested. Some unscrupulous men claim that the shallow wells belong to them, so women are forced to pay in cash or in kind. Physical fights are the order of the day where women suffer various forms of indignity."*

Following commitments from Mutare City to improve water infrastructure, Faris said. *"We really appreciate this initiative by the local authority and the partners for their effort to bringing clean and potable water to residents which will liberate women and reduce social inequalities"*



[Click to watch Faris's video report in full](#)

OUR WORK IN NIGERIA

Action from local government to support farmers in Anambra State

Following a series of engagements between ECID and the Ministry of Agriculture in Anambra State in October, essential support commenced for poor rural farmers in hard-to-reach areas. ECID partner Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) are assisting farmers in Ayamelum and Ogbaru to access agricultural loans, grants and farm subsidies provided by the State's Ministry of Agriculture which addresses a key concern of poor rural women in these areas.

Although the State government regularly provides such support to farmers, those living in rural, hard-to-reach locations are excluded due to their inability to register on the e-portal. Following meetings with ECID partners where evidence from farmers was presented, the Ministry committed to making the registration on the portal more accessible.

[Click to read the full article](#)

ECID Hour

In October, the Nigeria team launched a weekly radio programme 'ECID hour' to provide an accessible platform for citizens to raise the issues affecting them with service providers. Each week the show is themed around issues and to commemorate relevant international days such as international day for the eradication of poverty, 16 days activism, international day people with disabilities and day of the girl child. During the discussion on the day of the girl child, issues about early and forced marriages were raised. Solutions discussed included increasing awareness of the implications of early and forced marriage within poor rural communities.



Follow @CAID_Nigeria on Twitter to keep up to date on these programmes and to tune in, wherever you are.

Complexities in access to formal education for girls in Anambra, Nigeria

In Nigeria, one priority for ECID is access to education for adolescents, poor rural women and people with disabilities. We are working in Anambra and Kaduna states to facilitate the increased use of evidence in policy and decision-making. In a visit to rural communities we heard about the complexities faced by women and girls in gaining an education.

According to 18-year-old Evelyn Daniel, high rates of illiteracy and poverty among women and girls in the community is due to the obligation to spend their futures with uneducated men who place no value on education, especially for women. This she believes has perpetrated the prevalence of poverty and illiteracy over time.

"After struggling to go to school, we end up getting married to uneducated boys who will only take us to farming and in the end, have nothing to show for it," she said.

[Click to read the full article](#)

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