VALUES

The following core values guide our work in Zimbabwe:

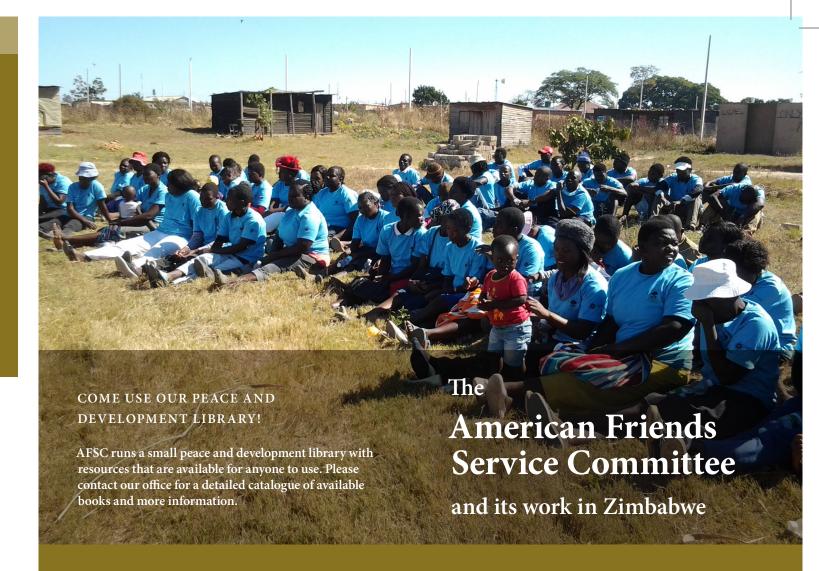
- Peace
- Equality
- Simplicity
- Community
- Integrity

Binding these key tenets together is the Quaker belief that there is that of God in each person, leading us to respect the dignity and worth of all people.

OBJECTIVES FOR AFSC'S WORK

In partnership with many local groups, AFSC fosters peace, economic sustainability, community cohesion, and reconciliation. We seek to:

- Help people develop secure and sustainable livelihoods—especially among vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and displaced communities—in a way that supports and promotes peace and reconciliation.
- Enhance the capacity of local groups and civil society networks to engage in non-confrontational dialogue.
- Enhance people's capacity to advocate for necessary policy changes.
- Strengthen youth leadership and youth organizations in order to encourage greater civic engagement on peace and development issues.





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The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

AFSC'S EVOLVING WORK

Together with local organisations and the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise and Co-operatives Development, AFSC work in Zimbabwe focuses on strengthening local capacities for peace and economic recovery in marginalized & vulnerable communities.

Through its Livelihoods Restoration Project, AFSC provides communities with technical skills and training in conflict transformation, business management, and advocacy. AFSC also facilitates community savings and loan associations. Working together, participants develop marketable income-generating activities and foster peaceful relationships.

The success of the project in Hatcliffe Extension led to subsequent projects in Enyandeni village and Hopley Farm, where the focus is on peacebuilding & livelihood restoration for vulnerable women and youth.



AFSC's strategic focus in Zimbabwe

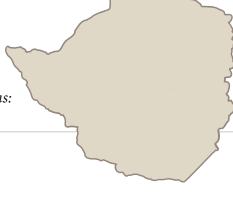
AFSC's fundamental goal is to build sustainable and peaceful communities in Zimbabwe. The work is divided into four key focus areas:

Promoting peace through income security

AFSC's efforts to enhance the livelihoods of people in "displaced" communities have reached close to 1,300 households in Hatcliffe Extension, Hopley Farm, and Enyandeni. By focusing on income-generating activities that encourage community participation, the Livelihoods Project brings together people with different socio-political views in order to foster nonviolent engagement. For example, community savings and loan associations give people an alternative and cheaper source of capital to grow their businesses while building social cohesion among participants. Greater social cohesion has enhanced the peace-building potential of youth and women, two vulnerable groups with which AFSC works.

Strengthening local institutions

AFSC strengthens local institutions by reinforcing existing networks between local organisations and government agencies to ensure that development efforts are sustainable and locally driven. In one recent accomplishment, AFSC supported residents of Hatcliffe Extension as they built a factory shell that can be used by 120 Livelihoods Project participants. Similar workspaces are planned for Enyandeni and Hopley Farm. AFSC and its community partners also developed a training manual that others can use to replicate this work, as well as a toolkit that outlines how to integrate conflict management and livelihoods programming.



Building social and community cohesion

AFSC helps to rebuild communities and relationships torn apart by conflict and violence. To do this, AFSC offers conflict transformation trainings, monthly learning group meetings and community dialogues, and coordinates ongoing dialogue and exchange programs. The goal is to create cohesive communities that can help ensure sustainable peace and development.

Promoting peaceful dialogue

AFSC's Dialogue and Exchange Program (DEP) brings together grassroots, civil society, and government leaders to share experiences on peace and socio-economic justice, and develop cooperative strategies for shared security. DEPs demonstrate AFSC's convening capacity and use of quiet diplomacy to bring together divergent voices to develop shared solutions to shared problems.