

ZIMBABWE CHAMBER OF INFORMAL ECONOMY ASSOCIATIONS



“THE CHAMBER THAT DELIVERS”

STUDY CIRCLE BASIC EDUCATION MANUAL
FOR
INFORMAL ECONOMY WORKERS

BOOK 8



**CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE
INFORMAL ECONOMY**

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Foreword

ZCIEA is an umbrella organisation for informal workers and their associations that was formed fifteen years ago through the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions' initiative. Its goal is to protect the rights and advance the interests of all small and unregulated businesses and workers in Zimbabwe as these are not covered under the existing labour laws. One of its key functions in advancing the interests of the members is developing capacity through education and training.

A research by Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe on Decent Work in the Informal Economy confirmed the following.

1. It is now widely accepted that the informal economy involves income generating activities that fall outside the purview of state regulation. The International Labour Organisation defines the informal economy as "... all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements" (ILO 2002). Most workers enter into this economy not by free choice but out of frustration of lack of job opportunities after being retrenched or graduating from high school or college.
2. Informal economy thrives in the context of high unemployment, underemployment, poverty, gender inequality and precarious work. In such circumstances, the informal economy also plays a significant role in income-generation due to the relative ease of entry and low requirements of education, skills, technology and capital. Most people enter the informal economy by necessity rather than by choice, as a means of survival.
3. This sector is characterised by:
 - ✓ easy entry, meaning anyone who wishes to join the sector can find some sort of work which will result in cash earnings;
 - ✓ lack of stable employer-employee relationships;
 - ✓ small scale of operations, and
 - ✓ Minimum skills gained outside of a formal education.

ZCIEA has therefore planned education for all its members in the informal economy to empower them with knowledge and skills that assist them to effectively address the challenges and gaps in this sector.

This basic informal economy workers education manual is designed in a simple manner for convenient learning. The method is in a study circle group which means members need to organise themselves into small groups of between 5 and 10 people. Each group should have a leader who will lead the discussion and this can be done in rotation where one can lead discussion of a topic. This is a popular approach just like in the shona tradition of "padare" where specific issue is discussed to find solution or way forward.

The organisation has trained Study Circle Leaders from the territories who will assist in coordination and organising of groups in Chapters and Zones. It is expected that this low cost and membership centred approach will open opportunities to all members of ZCIEA to acquire basic knowledge of their sector and be able to contribute to the improvement of the labour standards and conditions of work.

The manual is in eight chapters which cover information necessary for elementary knowledge that will enable participants to appreciate their important role in building the organisation, resources and contributing to national development.

These chapters include:

1. Informal Economy Organisation;
2. Occupational Health, Safety and HIV & AIDS;
3. Mobilising and building Capital Resource;
4. Good Leadership qualities and skills;
5. Economic Literacy and Decent Work Agenda;
6. Laws Affecting Informal Economy;
7. Gender Issues in the Informal Economy;
8. Climate Change and the Informal Economy Climate Change and the Informal Economy.

Participants who complete all the eight chapters will be awarded a certificate of completion and thus qualifies to be enrolled in further education and training courses such as Negotiators, Organisers, Educators, Researchers, etc.

Through this effort, our objective is to build a formidable and strong membership organisation that champions the workers agenda from grassroots to national level.

Wisborn Malaya

SECRETARY GENERAL

Acknowledgments

The ZCIEA Informal Economy Study Circle Education is a programme that was designed after consultation with the members on their needs in their organisation. Consultations done with membership indicated a number of needs and among these was the need for knowledge of the organisation, rights, work skills, legislation, policies and other information that assist the informal workers to efficiently operate.

In respect of its membership rights and to address the identified needs, the organisation established the education and training programme that targets the rank and file membership. As the ZCIEA slogans outline “the Chamber that Delivers – Nothing for Us without Us”, the chamber has the responsibility of empowering the membership with knowledge and skills to be able to actively participate in and contribute towards recognition and respect of the informal economy and the workers’ rights.

In the process of developing this basic education material whose objective is to enlighten all members of ZCIEA and workers at large, the organisation and programme received support in various ways. Therefore acknowledgement is attributed to the members who participated in the consultation activities that were done in the territories, those who participated in the research by LEDRIZ, participants to the collective negotiations workshops. All the information provided from these activities assisted ZCIEA in identifying the education and awareness needs as well as the specific areas that shaped focus of this material.

We also acknowledge the research done by LEDRIZ on Informal Economy whose report informed the writers on the status of the informal economy, working conditions and the decent work standards.

Special gratitude is given to the writers of the Study Circle Manual Lucia Chinyamakobvu – ZCIEA Harare Territory Secretary, Ropa Chikoore - Midlands State University Student Intern, Dyke Munetsi – Chitungwiza Territory Youth Forum Chairperson, Agatha Chabwinja – ZCIEA Administration Secretary and Wisborn Malaya – ZCIEA Secretary General who were skilfully guided by Miriam Assumpta Chikamba – Trade Union and Community Organisation Development Mentor to put together all the information required and produced this manual.

Our most sincere gratitude is extended to the Fredrich Ebert Stiftung (FES Zimbabwe Country Office) for their unwavering support and faith in ZCIEA’s capability by technically and financially supporting the production of this education manual that will go a long way in empowering and liberating the informal economy workers in Zimbabwe.

We also thank the ZCIEA National Assembly, all structures and other supporters whose encouragement, motivation and initiatives contributed to the success of this informal economy workers basic education programme and material.

We wish all the informal workers and those who encounter with this material the best in transitioning the informal economy towards formalisation, respect of workers' rights and implementation of better labour standards.

ZCIEA – THE CHAMBER THAT DELIVERS

Loraine Sibanda

PRESIDENT

ABBREVIATIONS

CBA	Collective Bargaining Agreement
CBD	Central Business District
DWA	Decent Work Agenda
EMA	Environmental Management Authority
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LEDRIZ	Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe
NSSA	National Social Security Authority
OPC	Open
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
ZCIEA	Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations
ZCTU	Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

CHAPTER 8: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

1. Objectives of the Chapter:

1. Participants will know the causes of climate change and their effects on workers, businesses and society;
2. Discuss and identify measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
3. Strategise how the informal economy can draw climate change programmes and effectively participate in such activities.

2. Introduction

This chapter looks at the main concepts of climate change, the causes, effects and impact of climate change on the Informal Economy. In addition it also looks at the role of informal economy businesses, workers and ZCIEA in climate change.

3. Key Concepts of Climate Change

3.1 Definition of Terms

Weather is the hourly or daily conditions that people experience at a particular place.

Climate is average weather experienced over a long period, typically 30 years. It includes temperature, wind, rainfall patterns, humidity and cloudiness.

Climate Change is the state of weather patterns that persists for a period of 10 years or longer.

Greenhouse gases are gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect.

Greenhouse effect occurs when greenhouse gases act as a blanket absorbing radiation and preventing it from escaping into outer space thus causing global warming.

3.2 Origin of Climate Change

The history of the scientific discovery of climate change began in the early 19th century when ice ages and other natural changes in paleoclimate were first suspected and the natural greenhouse effect first identified. In the late 19th century, scientists first argued that human emissions of greenhouse gases could change the climate. Many other theories of climate change were advanced, involving forces from volcanism to solar variation. In the 1960s, the warming effect of carbon dioxide gas became increasingly convincing. Some scientists also pointed out those human activities that generated atmospheric aerosols (e.g., "pollution") could have cooling effects as well. During the 1970s, scientific opinion increasingly favoured the warming viewpoint. By the 1990s, as a result of improving fidelity of computer models and observational work confirming the Milankovitch theory of the ice ages, a consensus position formed: greenhouse gases were deeply

involved in most climate change and human caused emissions were bringing discernible global warming.

Since the 1990s, scientific research on climate change has included multiple disciplines and has expanded. Research has expanded our understanding of causal relations, links with historic data and ability to model climate change numerically. Research during this period has been summarized in the Assessment Reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Climate change is a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in average weather conditions, or in the distribution of weather around the average conditions (such as more or fewer extreme weather events). Climate change is caused by factors that include oceanic processes (such as oceanic circulation), biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions, and human-induced alterations of the natural world. The latter effect is currently causing global warming, and "climate change" is often used to describe human-specific impacts.

3.3 Causes of Climate Change

3.3.1 Human causes

- Burning fossil fuels such as coal
- Forest clearing by burning
- Deforestation
- The use of non-renewable sources of energy e.g. generators
- Dumping of waste like plastics that take a long time to decompose



3.3.2 Natural causes

These are interactions between the ocean, the atmosphere, snow and ice, land surface and living beings, changes in the Earth's orbit; fluctuations in energy received from the sun; and volcanic eruptions.

4. Effects and Impact of Climate Change

4.1 Effects of climate change on the production sectors

- Increase in temperatures causes increase in natural disasters like floods and droughts this will affect productions sectors like agriculture as the yearly yields will decline this will further cause price increases of the produce to increase thus affecting that the traders' income levels.
- Floods can also affect education sector as the children will not be able to cross flooded rivers as well as may cause a rise in water borne diseases.
- Transport networks such as roads maybe destroyed by intense rains, thus affecting transportation of goods such as agricultural products,
- The government may not have enough financial capacity to deal with these challenges.

4.2 Effects of climate change on the economic development

- Droughts causes' food insecurity
- The energy sector will be affected when there is a drought or floods such as in Zimbabwe where we rely on Hydro- electric power, power-cuts will be experienced thus affecting production processes that use this energy.

4.3 Effects of climate change on human life.



- Climate change affects employment from sector to sector the most being climate sensitive sectors such agriculture, energy and tourism. Jobs may be lost without replacements e.g. in production sectors where they have high carbon emission.



- Droughts may result from climate change
- Climate changes like rise in temperatures give rise to diseases like malaria etc.

5. Impact of Climate Change

5.1. Impact of climate change on the production sectors

- Production levels will decrease due to droughts affecting the crops.



- There will be reduced productivity for energy related production sectors as there will be power cut due erratic rains.
- Tourism sector will also be affected as there will be decline in the number of tourist visiting due to unstable weather conditions.

5.2. Impact of climate change on the economic development

- Government revenue sources will decline and this will result in a decline in the provision of social services
- Production and revenue from agriculture –linked sectors such as manufacturing will decline.
- Unemployment will increase due to closure of companies caused by floods etc.
- Decline in foreign currency.

5.3. Impact of climate change on Human life

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Migration of people
- Deterioration in health status of people
- High mortality rates
- High dropout rate at school especially girls.
- Decreased access to education.

6. The Role of Informal Economy Workers in Climate Change

6.1. The Role of Informal Economy Workers at the work place

There is need to ensure that they have a clean working environment by:

- Workers need to manage waste that is making sure that they have waste containers such as bins at their workplace and also separate such waste for recycling.
- Use renewable energy sources e.g. solar, biogas for their businesses production and processing.
- Educate and inform other workers on the effects of climate change and benefits of taking precautions.

6.2. The Role of Informal Economy Workers in Society

- Adopt good practices and not dump waste that will pollute the environment.
- Organise environmental clubs in communities to promote a clean environment;
- Ensure collection materials for recycling and teaching even the children to be environmentally friendly.
- Participate in and demand environmentally friendly policies and laws.

7. The Responsibility of ZCIEA

- Develop material for information and awareness on Climate Change
- Embark on education and training programmes
- Conducting awareness campaigns
- Encourage the use of renewable energy amongst workers
- Collaborate with environmental safety promoters

8. Management of Climate Change

8.1. Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation refers to any strategic intervention or human action taken to remove green- house gases released into the atmosphere, to reduce any risk and hazards of Climate Change to human life and environment.

8.2. Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation is anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise.

9. Policies and Programmes

9.1. Policies

- The Environmental Policy 2009: It acknowledges the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the benefits arising from good use of the environment.
- The Energy Policy of 2012: It promotes research and development of the use of renewable energy sources which include bio-energy, hydropower, solar power and wind power.
- The Industrial Development Policy of 2012-2016: It focuses on promoting environmentally friendly industrialisation.
- The National Gender Policy of 2012 – 2017: It focuses on conducting research to collect gender-segregated data that highlight environment challenges and climate change induced gender inequalities and recommend gender-responsive strategies. Also support interventions aimed at increasing the participation of females and males in the sustainable utilisation of natural resources for economic benefits, including opportunities for carbon trading.
- The National Youth Policy of 2013: Promotes the participation in tree planting, forestry, combating desert creep, waste reduction, recycling and other sound environmental practices.
- The Zimbabwe National Trade Policy of 2012 -2016; Looks at the impact of environmental policies on trade.
- Comprehensive Agriculture Policy Framework of 2012 -2032
- National Occupational Health and Safety Policy of 2014: Waste management and sustainable use of chemicals

9.2. Programmes

At Local level in Harare OPC has been conducting Health and wellness campaigns in Harare Central Business District (CBD) area.

EMA is education and training and promoting formulation of Environment Clubs that champion management of waste.



ZCIEA with ZCTU conducting Climate Change Awareness campaigns

10. Institutions active in climate change

1. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate
2. The Ministry of Mines
3. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Planning
4. Department of Meteorology, under the Ministry of Transport and Energy.
5. Environmental Management Agency (EMA).

11. Conclusion

Climate Change is inevitable therefore everyone should make every effort to have a clean environment even for the future generations. It should not only be the responsibility of the government alone but of everyone. In the Informal Economy everyone should be actively involved and adopt best practices to reduce greenhouse effect and pollution.

12. Exercise

What actions can you take to ensure that the environment is clean and remain clean for the business?