



COMMUNIQUÉ Of The Inclusive Cities of the Future: Experiences from Zimbabwe in a Global Perspective in 9-10 May 2016, National Art Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe

On 9 and 10 May 2016, Hivos Southern Africa in partnership with the Social Innovation Exchange (SIX) held a workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe under the theme, *'Inclusive Cities of the Future: Experiences from Zimbabwe in a Global Perspective.'*

This two day gathering brought together 26 Zimbabweans comprised of representatives of residents associations, local government officials, creative artists, youth activists, international experts and members of Parliament to explore and debate the concept of inclusive cities in Zimbabwe. Of particular importance was how Zimbabwean citizens living in cities can be more involved in designing urban spaces and transforming their cities into thriving living spaces.

The key questions addressed by the two day gathering were in relation to the extent to which Zimbabweans understood the idea and practice of inclusive cities as well as how best to share global experiences and examples of inclusive cities.

In the course of proceedings participants affirmed the importance of inclusive cities that allow all Zimbabwean citizens to contribute to urban innovation, participate in all public policy decisions and harness the creativity of all sectors to improve the quality of life in the country's cities.

In order for a democratic process with the ultimate aim of creating broader discussion and public acknowledgement of the importance of inclusive cities, participants identified a number of pragmatic steps that can be undertaken in Zimbabwe. These were, in summary, outlined as follows:

- a) Enhanced advocacy and dialogue with all urban local government authorities on the concept and innovative, creative and democratic significance of inclusive cities.
- b) Ensuring that stakeholders understand the importance of starting with small, incremental steps in their own cities in order to foster a culture of inclusivity, creativity and transparency.
- c) Integration of the creative arts sector in building inclusive cities especially in relation to urban infrastructure design and utilisation.
- d) Embracing urban tourism as a key area that allows for the exchange of ideas, sharing of city experiences and histories for residents of all cities.
- e) Involving young citizens in all aspects of local government policies and practices to ensure inclusivity and

The two day gathering concluded with an interaction with the former Mayor of the City of Harare, Mr. Muchadei Masunda who urged all stakeholders to embrace the concept of inclusive cities in order to help improve service delivery, resource utilisation and accountability to Zimbabwean cities.

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