



2024 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW III (VNR)



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



Manhize USD1.5 Billion Steel Plant Project



Gwayi - Shangani Dam Under Construction

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables	iv
List of Figures	vi
Acronyms	viii
Foreword	xi
Acknowledgements	xii
Executive Summary	xiii
Localisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 through Vision 2030	1
SDGs Implementation architecture in Zimbabwe	2
SDGs Governance and Coordination Framework	2
The Review Process and Methodology	3
SDGs Prioritisation	4
ZIMBABWE CHILDREN'S VNR ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT	5
Methodology	5
Child Rights -Specific SDGs	6
Challenges	8
Recommendations	10
VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLRS) KEY MESSAGES	10
Bikita Rural District Council	11
Bulawayo City Council	11
Zvishavane Town Council	11
Mutasa Rural District Council	12
City of Mutare	13
Murewa Rural District Council	14
VLRS Challenges and Recommendations	16
END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE	19
Status	19
Major programmes/ projects and interventions:	23
END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	29

Status	29
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	32
ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES	35
Status	35
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	39
ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL	42
Status	42
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	47
ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS	49
Status	49
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	52
ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL	55
Status	55
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	58
ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL	61
Status	61
Innovative approaches and good practices adopted	65
Opportunities	65
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	65
PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	68
Status	68
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	71
BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION	73
Status	73
Opportunities	79
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	79
REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES	82
Status	82
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	83
MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE	86

Status	86
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	90
ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS	93
Status	93
Opportunities	96
Major programmes/ projects and interven	97
TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS	99
Status	99
Innovative approaches and practices adopted	101
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	101
CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	104
Status	104
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	105
PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS	107
Status	107
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	110
PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS	112
Status	112
Major programmes/ projects and interventions	115
STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	117
Status	117
Major Programmes/Projects and interventions	119
HIGH LEVEL EMERGING ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	121
Emerging Issues	121
High level challenges and Recommendations	122
ANNEXURE: VNR Provincial Consultation Findings	127

LISTS OF TABLES

Table 1: Children's VNR focus goals	6
Table 2: City of Mutare SDGs implementation status	13
Table 3: Murewa RDC - SDGs implementation status	15
Table 4: Proportion of households accessing basic services	20
Table 5: Summary of disasters that affected Zimbabwe between 2017-2024	21
Table 6: Budget allocations towards poverty reduction programmes source MoFEDIP 2023 National Budget	22
Table 7: Prevalence of stunting, wasting and overweight among children under 5 years	29
Table 8: Crop production between 2020-2023	32
Table 9: Programmes under Goal 2	33
Table 10: Programmes and Projects and interventions Goal 3	39
Table 11: Vaccination programmes 2021-2023	40
Table 12: Anti-Malaria programme	40
Table 13: Percentage of Pupils achieving at or above grade - appropriate level after completing grade 2	43
Table 14: Teacher enrolment	44
Table 15: Polytechnics enrolment	44
Table 16: Number of students graduated in critical skill trade areas	44
Table 17: STEM teacher enrolment	45
Table 18: Electricity access for primary and secondary schools in 2022	45
Table 19: Programmes and projects and interventions Goal 4	47
Table 20: Physical, sexual and emotional violence	49
Table 21: Persons subjected to sexual violence by source of committing person	50
Table 22: Women participation in national parliaments and local governments	50
Table 23: Programmes, Projects and Interventions Goal 5	52
Table 24: Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative beneficiaries	53
Table 25: Economic empowerment Initiatives	53
Table 26: Borehole Drilling Programme	59
Table 27: Major dam constructions projects	59
Table 28: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 7	66
Table 29: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 8	71
Table 30: Financial Inclusion Indicators, RBZ Microfinance Quarterly Industry Report June and September, 2023	75
Table 31: Programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 9	79
Table 32: Refugees in Zimbabwe by country of origin	83
Table 33: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 10	83
Table 34: Initiatives Goal 11	90
Table 35: Major programmes/ projects and interventions - Goal 11	91
Table 36: Legislative Documents reviewed in 2023	93
Table 37: Penalties Imposed on Environmental Polluters	93
Table 38: Major programmes/ projects and interventions - Goal 12	97
Table 39: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 13	101
Table 40: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 14	105
Table 41: Trends in forest cover as a proportion of the total land area.	107
Table 42: GEF 6 tree seedling production and tree planting achievement	108
Table 43: ODA and Public Expenditure on conservation and sustainable biodiversity	110
Table 44: Summary of disciplining methods among children 1-14 years	112
Table 45: Summary of adolescent girls and women who experience sexual violence who sought help	113
Table 46: National Mobile Registration Exercise	116

Table 47: Programmes/ projects and interventions - Goal 16	116
Table 48: Zimbabwe's share of global exports	119
Table 49: Programmes/ Projects and interventions - Goal 17	120
Table 50: High level Challenges and Recommendations	123
Table 51: Provincial inputs	128

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Localisation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063	1
Figure 2: National Vision alignment to National Plans and Budget	1
Figure 3: SDGs implementation framework	2
Figure 4: SDGs Governance and Coordination Structure	3
Figure 5: VNR methodology	3
Figure 6: Prioritised goals for Zimbabwe	4
Figure 7: Children engaging in a focus group discussion.	5
Figure 8: 2023 disbursement of total grants and non-debt creating inflows	23
Figure 9: Food Deficit Mitigation Programme	24
Figure 10: Beneficiaries of sustainable livelihood programme	25
Figure 11: Integrated Social Protection-Management Information System Training	26
Figure 12: Assistive devices being distributed at one of community outreach events in Zimbabwe	27
Figure 13: Food insecurity in urban and rural areas	29
Figure 14: Volume of milk production and dairy herd	31
Figure 15: New infections and AIDS related deaths	36
Figure 16: Mobile X-ray truck for TB screening in the community	37
Figure 17: Reported road traffic accidents 1st and 2nd quarter 2023	37
Figure 18: Completion rates from Early Childhood Development, Primary, Lower Secondary to Upper Secondary.	42
Figure 19: Early childhood development Index	43
Figure 20: Pupil-to-teacher ratio	46
Figure 21: Summary of water security situation in Zimbabwe	55
Figure 22: Proportion of households with access to safely managed water	56
Figure 23: National Action Committee	58
Figure 24: Borehole drilling programmes	58
Figure 25: Clean up campaigns	59
Figure 26: Energy Access in Zimbabwe	61
Figure 27: Proportion of Rural and Urban Energy access population	62
Figure 28: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	62
Figure 29: Proportion of rural and urban population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	63
Figure 30: Rural and Urban use of different energy fuels	63
Figure 31: Zimbabwe's energy intensity level	64
Figure 32: Annual real GDP growth rates and NDS1 targets	68
Figure 33: Unemployment rate sex and age group	59
Figure 34: Industry Capacity Utilisation	74
Figure 35: Distribution of foreign currency allotments between the Main Auction and the SME Auction in 2022	76
Figure 36: CO ² emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production	76
Figure 37: Grants disbursements by sector between 2022 and 2023	77
Figure 38: Access to means of communication	78
Figure 39: Rural and Urban distribution of means of communication	78
Figure 40: Summary of discrimination or harassment rate from MICS 2019 survey	82
Figure 41: Type of dwelling unit	86
Figure 42: Household Tenure Status	87
Figure 43: Tenure Status by Rural/Urban Areas	87
Figure 44: Type of Dwelling Unit by Rural/Urban areas	88

Figure 45: Access to public transport 2019-2022	88
Figure 46: Distribution of Households by Solid Waste Disposal Methods and Rural/Urban areas	89
Figure 47: Urban renewal projects	90
Figure 48: Organisations practising sustainability reporting	95
Figure 49: Organisation's reporting status	95
Figure 50: Map showing Ambient Water Quality monitoring	104
Figure 51: Red list index	109
Figure 52: Primary Government expenditures as a proportion of original budget	114
Figure 53: Summary of discrimination or harassment rate from MICS 2019 survey	116

ACRONYMS

Africa Legal Support Facility	ALSF
African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	ACRWC
African Continental Free Trade Agreement	AfCFTA
Agricultural and Rural Development Authority	ARDA
Agricultural Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy	AFSRTS
Antiretroviral	ARV
Assisted Medical Treatment Orders	AMTO
Basic Education Assistance Module	BEAM
Civil Society Organisations	CSOs
Climate, Adaptation, Water, Energy Programme	CAWEP
Community Information Centres	CICs
Crop, Livestock And Fisheries Assessment	CLAFAs
Department of Civil Protection	DCP
Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS free, Mentored, and Safe	DREAMS
Dinson Iron and Steel Company	DISCO
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	DPT
Disaster Risk Management	DRM
Disaster Risk Reduction	DRR
District Health Information System	DHIS
Early Childhood Development	ECD
Early Childhood Development Index	ECDI
Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme	ERRP
Enhanced Resilience of Vulnerable Households in Zimbabwe	ERVHIZ
Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme	SIRP
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA
Environmental Management Agency	EMA
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO
Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy	FDMS
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	FIES
Foreign Direct Investment	FDI
Friends of the Environment	FOTE
Gender Based Violence	GBV
Global Environment Fund	GEF
Global Forest Survey	GFS
Global Partnership for Education	GPE
Government Project Support and Implementation Agreement	GPSIA
Gross Domestic Product	GDP
Gross Enrolment Ratio	GER
Harmonised Social Cash Transfer	HSCT
High-Level Political Forum	HLPF
Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome	HIV/AIDS
Independent Power Producers	IPPs
Infant and Young Child Feeding	IYCF
Information Communication Technology	ICT
Integrated Management of Maternal, Newborn and Childhood Illnesses	IMNCI
Integrated Social Protection Management Information System	ISPMIS
Internal Savings and Lending Schemes	ISALS
International Health Regulations	IHR
International Labour Organisation	ILO
Joint Monitoring Programme	JMP
Labour Force and Child Labour Survey	LFCLS

Labour Force Survey	LFS
Low Emission Development Strategies	LEDS
Maternal Mortality Ratio	MMR
Memorandum of Understanding	MOU
Micro Small and Medium Enterprises	MSMEs
Migrant Resource Centres	MRCs
Minimum Energy Performance Standards	MEPS
Ministries, Department and Agencies	MDAs
Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion	MoFEDIP
Ministry of Health and Child Care	MoHCC
Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education	MoPSE
Multi Indicator Cluster Survey	MICS
Multi-sectoral Community Based Model	MCBM
National Development Strategy 1	NDS 1
National Disability Policy	NDP
National Employment Councils	NECs
National financial inclusion Strategy II	NFIS II
National Health Strategy	NHS
Nationally Determined Contribution	NDC
Net Enrolment Ratio	NER
Non-Formal Education	NFE
Non-Governmental Organisations	NGOs
Office of the President and Cabinet	OPC
Official Development Assistance	ODA
People Living with HIV	PLHIV
Persons With Disabilities	PWDs
Population and Housing Census	PHC
Private Employment Agencies Association of Zimbabwe	PEAAZ
Public-Private Partnerships	PPPs
Pupil to Teacher Ratios	PTR
Pupil to Trained Teacher Ratio	PTTR
Real Estate Investment Trusts	REITs
Renewable Energy	RE
Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe	RBZ
Rural District Council	RDC
SADC Trans frontier Conservation Areas	TFCA
School Health Policy	SHP
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	STEM
Southern Africa Development Community	SADC
Southern African Transport and Communication Commission	SATCC
Standard Operating Procedures	SOPs
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
System of National Accounts	SNA
Technical and Vocational Education and Training	TVET
Transitional Stabilisation Programme	TSP
Tuberculosis	TB
United Nations	UN
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	UNCRC
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	UNFCCC
United Nations Security Council Resolution	UNSCR
Value Added Tax	VAT
Victim Friendly Unit	VFU
Victoria Falls Stock Exchange	VFEX

Village Business Units	VBU's
Village Health Workers	VHW
Vital, Essential and Necessary	VEN
Voluntary Local Reviews	VLR
Voluntary National Review	VNR
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	WASH
World Food Programme	WFP
World Health Organisation	WHO
Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission	ZACC
Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey	ZDHS
Zimbabwe District Health Information System	ZDHIS
Zimbabwe Early Learning Assessment	ZELA
Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company	ZETDC
Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority	ZERA
Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee	ZIMLAC
Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange	ZMX
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency	Zimstat
Zimbabwe National Water Authority	ZINWA
Zimbabwe Republic Police	ZRP
Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund	ZRBF
Zimbabwe Revenue Authority	ZIMRA
Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Rural Report	ZimVAC
Zimbabwe Youth Council	ZYC
Zimbabwe's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	ZUNSDCF

Foreword

The 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) presents a transformative process in our nation's resolute journey towards Sustainable Development. The review underscores unwavering commitment by my Government to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aligning the national vision to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

The main objective of this VNR is to share experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learnt with a view to accelerate the implementation of 2030 Agenda. The review also served to provide evidence and data driven decision making on the implementation of SDGs. The synchronisation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 ensures cohesive implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting by my Government.

The VNR celebrates notable achievements in food and nutrition security, agricultural transformation, healthcare, education and training, gender equality, disability and youth inclusion, renewable energy adoption, and economic growth. These milestones exemplify Zimbabwe's dedication to equitable development and resilience-building amid global challenges.

However, our journey is not devoid of challenges from the impact of climate induced shocks to pandemics, global conflicts and restrictions in the global financial architecture that have called for adoptive mechanisms to fill in the gaps for a sustainable future. My Government extends our gratitude to all our stakeholders who have stood with us in addressing the aforementioned challenges.

In conclusion, going forward, my Government will continue to take stock on progress made in implementing the SDGs as we thrive for a better Zimbabwe for all, living no one and no place behind.



Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Acknowledgements

The Government of Zimbabwe recognises the critical role and consultative processes played by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and stakeholders in supporting the VNR process. The financial and technical assistance rendered during the review process cannot go unmentioned.

The support, guidance, invaluable encouragement and direction provided by the Minister and other Principals throughout the report's development process is highly appreciated.

The VNR Process embraced a broad range of stakeholders inclusive of the special interest groups such as youth, women, persons with disabilities, private sector and development partners.

We are also indebted to all the Provincial Coordinators and participant's feedback that enriched the report. The Ministry would like to express its gratitude to a team of drafters who contributed their precious time, expertise, and insights during consultations, drafting and validation process on the VNR.

This report would not have been possible without the collective effort and commitment of all those involved, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

Executive Summary

Zimbabwe's 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) signifies the nation's steadfast commitment to sustainable development, intricately aligning its strategies with the ambitious goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Developed through inclusive processes involving government bodies, civil society, and various stakeholders, the VNR stands as a testament to the collective effort towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through extensive consultations across all provinces and inclusive of special interest groups, the VNR ensures a comprehensive perspective, amplifying the voices of all Zimbabweans, including Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and child-led perspectives.

Evaluating progress across all 17 SDGs, with a nuanced focus on five goals for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the VNR celebrates notable achievements in food and nutrition security, agricultural transformation, healthcare, education and training, gender equality, disability and youth inclusion, renewable energy adoption and economic growth. These milestones underscore Zimbabwe's commitment to equitable development and resilience-building amidst global challenges.

Efforts to bolster inclusive and sustainable industrialization, coupled with investments in road construction, technology access, and industrial activities, reflect Zimbabwe's dedication to propelling inclusive economic growth. Moreover, initiatives in transport infrastructure and community-driven development reflect a commitment to reducing inequalities and empowering marginalized groups.

Zimbabwe's whole of government and society approach to sustainable development extends to addressing environmental concerns, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation. Leveraging international collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms underscore the nation's resolve to achieve the SDGs. Challenges persist, including inadequate funding, climate change, data management and raising awareness, demanding ongoing efforts towards comprehensive sustainability.

Key reflections of the report:

Social Protection: 66% of the vulnerable groups received support in 2023, up from 61% in 2022.

Health: Maternal mortality ratio decreased from 614 in 2014 to 363 in 2022 per 100 000 mothers.

Education: The existing Heritage based education curriculum provides for a holistic education encompassing not only academic but sports, arts and recreation. Primary school completion rate was 90.98% and for lower secondary school was 65.95%.

Gender Equality: Participation of women in leadership and decision making - 31% for national assembly, 32.5% in the senior management in the public sector, 38.8% for senate and 42% for local government.

Water and Sanitation: 27% accessed safely managed water services, 32% safely managed sanitation services, and 42% had access to handwashing facilities with soap and water.

Electricity Access: 62% of the population have access to electricity.

Renewable Energy: 140 Independent Power Producers projects have been licensed, feeding into the national grid.

Economic Growth: 2021 growth rate of 8.5% and 2022 rate of 6.5% was achieved.

Investment: FDI stood at USD886 million in 2023.

Poverty: Proportion below the international poverty line rose from 30% in 2017 to 38.3% in 2019.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe's 2024 VNR exemplifies unwavering commitment to sustainable development, rooted in inclusivity, collaboration, and proactive measures to address emerging challenges. By leveraging partnerships and embracing innovative solutions, Zimbabwe aims to build a resilient, equitable, and prosperous future for all its citizens, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

Localisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 through Vision 2030

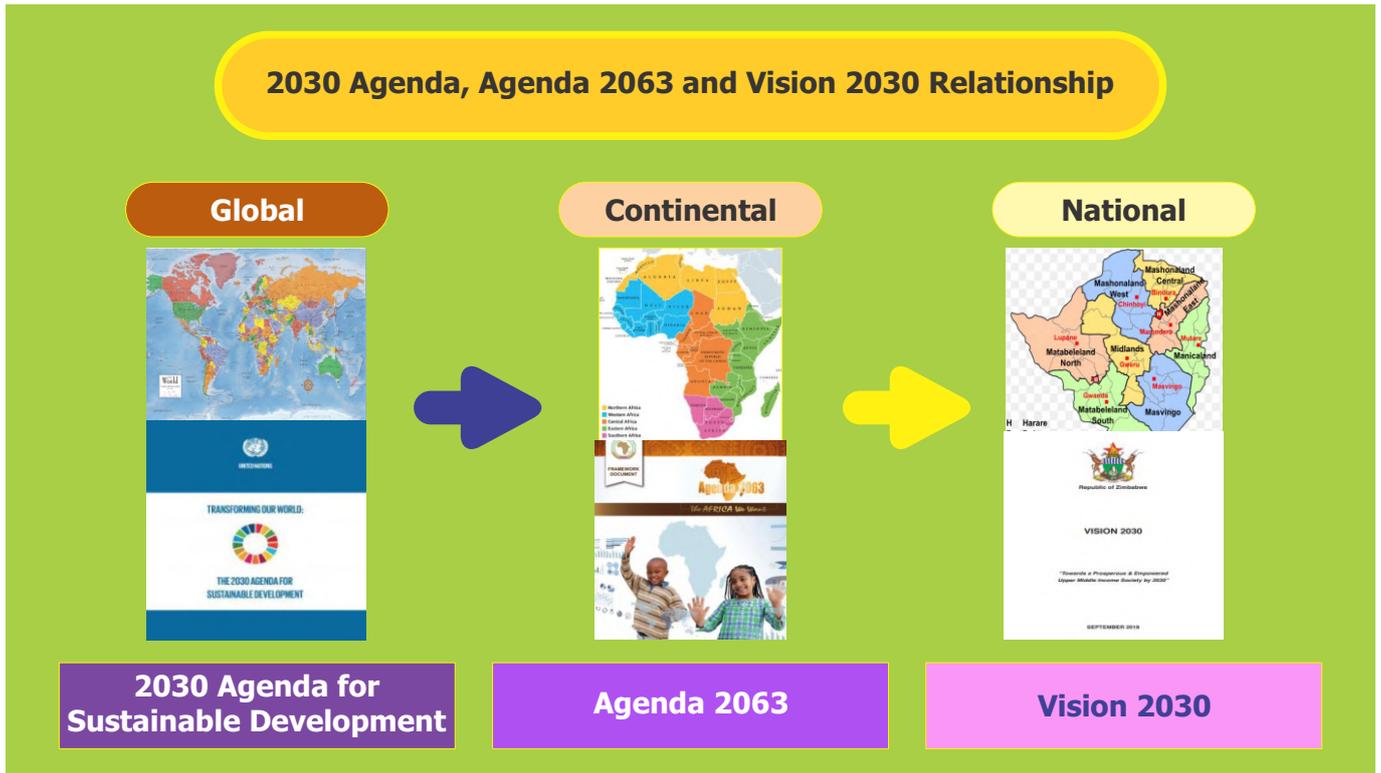


Figure 1: Localisation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Localisation to ensure synchronization of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the blueprints, the country's Vision 2030 mainstreamed and is aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063.

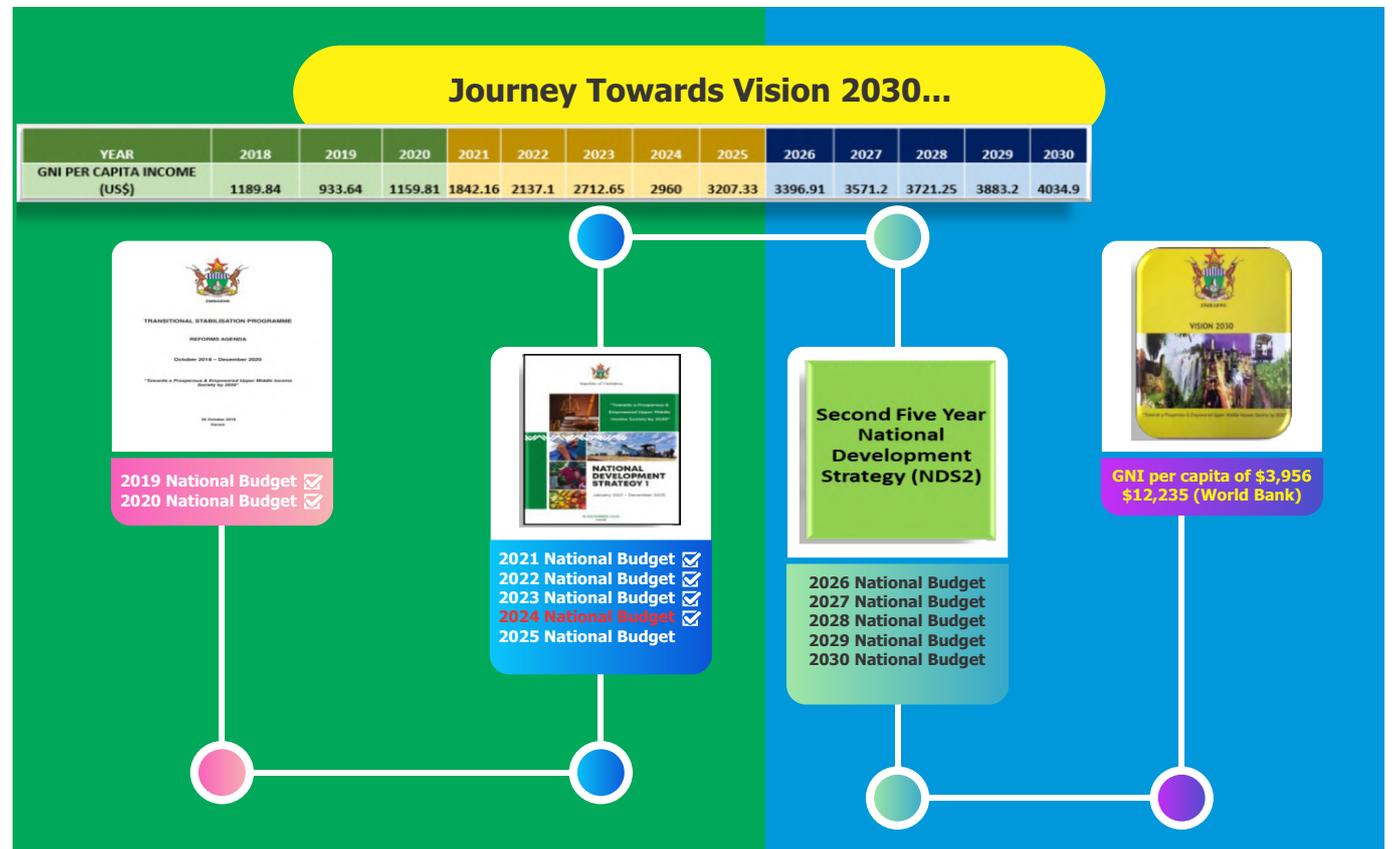


Figure 2: National Vision alignment to National Plans and Budget

Vision 2030 will be achieved through the implementation of the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) 2018-2020 and two- medium plans, National Development Strategy (NDS 1) and (NDS 2), (2021-2025) and (2026-2030), respectively. The Vision is anchored on five strategic pillars namely: macro-economic stability and financial re-engagement; governance; inclusive growth; infrastructure and utilities; and social development. Cross-cutting to the pillars are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise development; youth development; gender equality and women empowerment; as well as, sports, recreation, arts and culture.

SDGs Implementation architecture in Zimbabwe

The Office of the President and Cabinet mandated the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to coordinate the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs as well as the Agenda 2063. In line with the inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach and leaving no one behind principles of the SDGs, the Ministry coordinates the work as shown in the figure below.

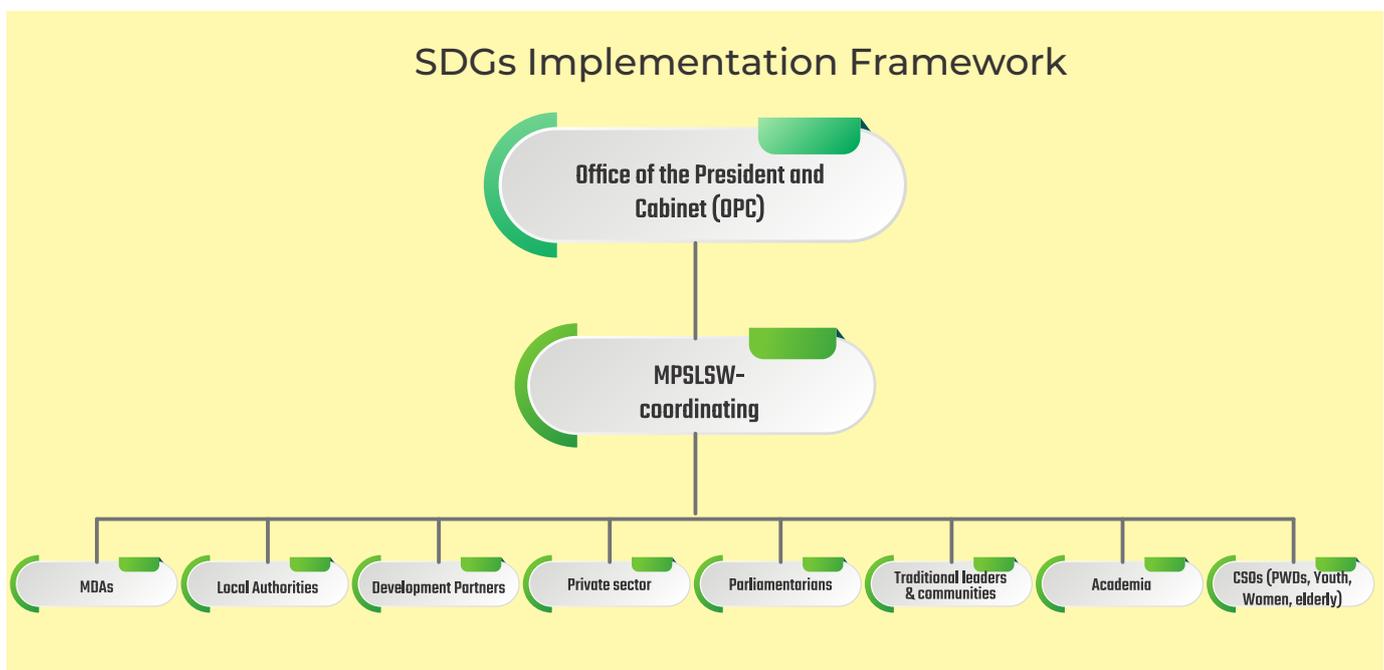


Figure 3: SDGs implementation framework

SDGs Governance and Coordination Framework

The Government established a comprehensive SDGs Governance and Coordination Framework, aligning the coordination clusters with both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Zimbabwe's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (ZUNSDCF) for 2022-2026.

These clusters, dedicated to economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions, correspond to the prosperity, people, planet, and peace pillars outlined in the cooperation framework. Each cluster is overseen by a chairperson and vice-chairperson, with their reports submitted to the SDGs technical committee chaired by the Secretary for Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare. Further reporting is conducted at the Steering Committee level, chaired by the Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC). The figure below summarizes the SDGs Governance and Coordination Framework.

SDGs Governance & Coordination Structure

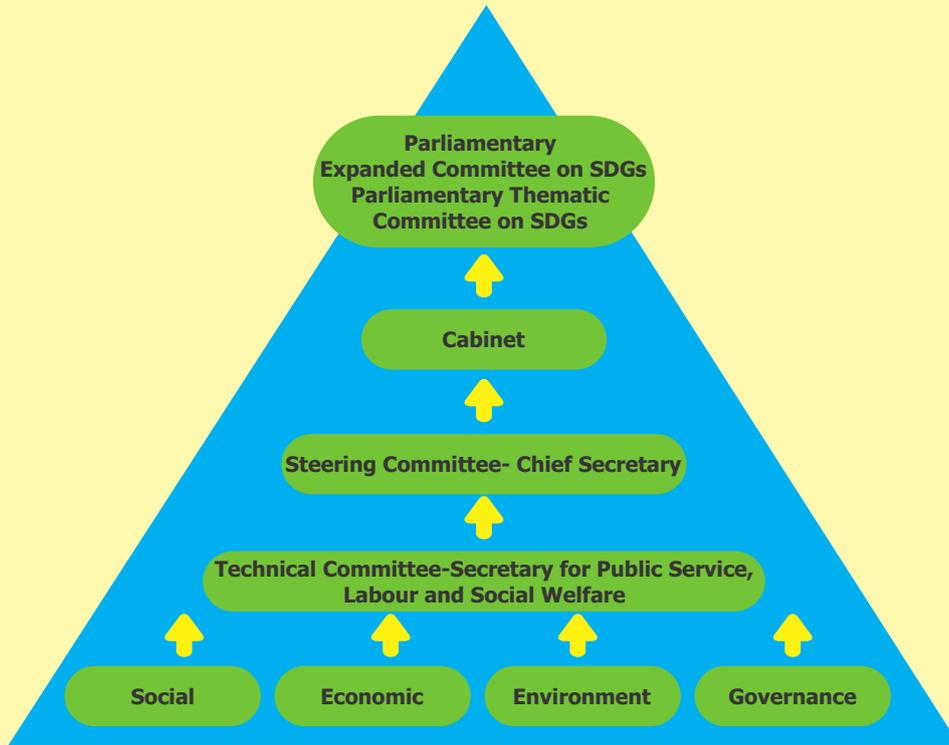


Figure 4: SDGs Governance and Coordination Structure

The Review Process and Methodology

Although Zimbabwe prioritised 11 catalytic SDGs, the report reviewed all the 17 goals, through a multi-stakeholder approach where Government and stakeholders worked closely throughout the review process. Thus, the 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) was collaboratively developed by the Government and stakeholders, departing from previous consultant-driven methods. The process included:

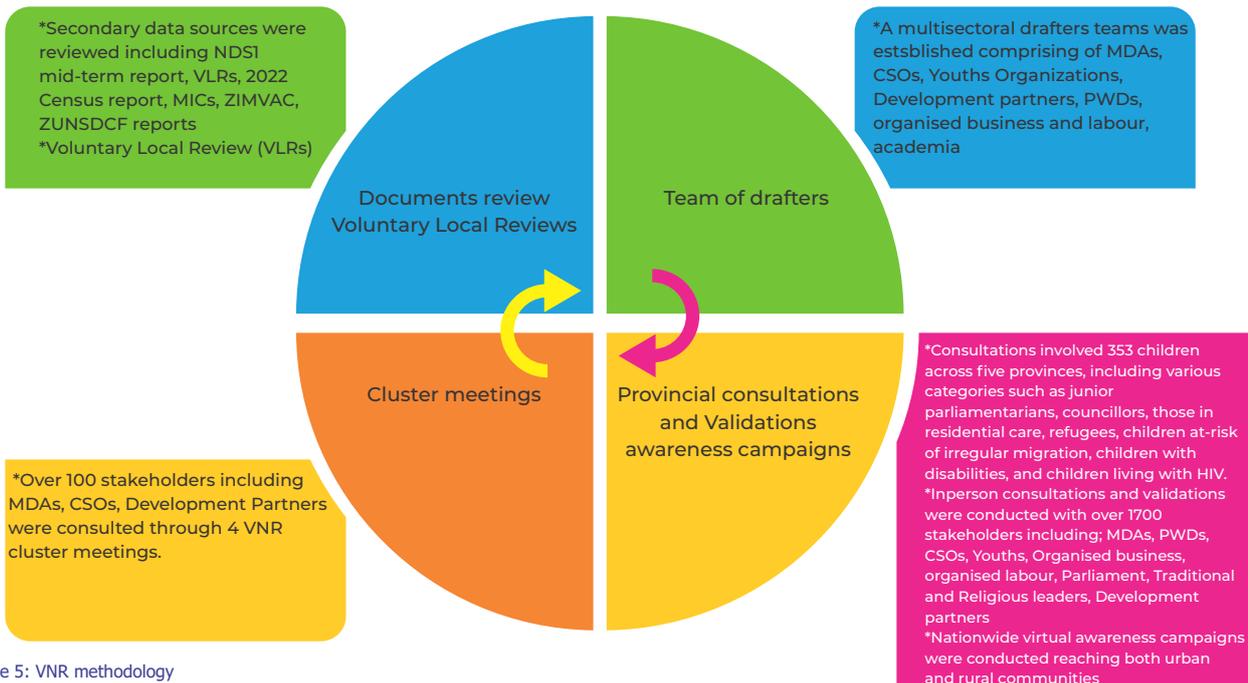


Figure 5: VNR methodology

SDGs Prioritisation

Zimbabwe is actively advancing all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while focusing on 11 catalytic goals deemed essential for accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the interconnectedness, inclusivity, interdependence, and indivisibility of these goals, Zimbabwe has strategically prioritized these 11 goals, understanding that their achievement will catalyse progress across all SDGs.

11 PRIORITISED GOALS FOR ZIMBABWE



Goal 2: End Hunger



Goal 3: Good Health and Well being



Goal 4: Accessible, quality and inclusive education



Goal 5: Gender equality



Goal 6: Water and Sanitation



Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy



Goal 8: Economic growth and decent jobs



Goal 9: Industrialisation, Innovation and Infrastructure



Goal 13: Climate Action



Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Institutions



Goal 17: Partnerships

Figure 6: Prioritised goals for Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE CHILDREN'S VNR ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT



Figure 7: Children engaging in a focus group discussion

Introduction

Children participating in evaluating SDG implementation in Zimbabwe aimed to gather views, exercise rights to participation and freedom of expression. Children's rights, supported by international agreements like United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), ensure fair treatment, education and freedom from violence for all under-18s.

Objectives

In Zimbabwe's Voluntary National Review on SDG implementation, children expressed their views basing on three main objectives:

- To identify programmes that promote child protection, participation and provision of children rights
- To gather the children's views on progress in the implementation of SDGs;
- To identify challenges faced by children in sustainable development in line with child protection participation and provision.

In this review, ethical considerations around children's rights were taken into account.

Methodology

A Children's Scorecard designed for children by children, was utilized to gather first-hand data on progress towards child rights and specific SDGs, focusing on 6 goals (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16) directly affecting children's daily lives. This tool, aligning with the People's Scorecard for adults, enables children to share their perspectives with local, national, and UN leaders, integrating their views into progress assessments, governmental accountability, and policy shaping. Consultations involved 353 children across five randomly selected provinces (Manicaland, Matebeleland South, Midlands, Mashonaland West and Harare), including various categories such as junior parliamentarians, councillors, those in residential care, refugees, children at-risk of irregular migration, children with disabilities, and children living with HIV. Children led the engagement with their peers, contributing to the drafting of the report.

For the purposes of this study, 6 SDGs were reviewed by children which have closer linages with children's right and these are

Table 1: Children's VNR focus goals

SDG	What's the aim?
 1 No poverty	To make sure countries end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030. Poverty denies children their fundamental rights to good nutrition, health, water, education, protection and shelter – undercutting their ability to realize their potential. (This corresponds directly with Articles 6, 19, 26, 27 & 28 of the UNCRC)
 2 Zero hunger	To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. (This corresponds directly with Articles 6, 19 & 27 & 29 of the UNCRC)
 3 Good health & wellbeing	To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. (This corresponds with Articles 6, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 27 of the UNCRC)
 4 Quality Education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. (This corresponds directly with Articles 2, 28 & 31 of the UNCRC, among others)
 5 Gender Equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (This corresponds directly with Articles 2, 19, 34 & 36 of the UNCRC)
 16 Peace & justice	To end violence, including violence against children; and to make the world safer and more peaceful through laws, justice, freedom and access to information. People including children should have a say in decisions that affect them. (This corresponds directly with Articles 6, 13, 15, 17 & 19 of the UNCRC)

Key Findings

1. Children commend Zimbabwe's peace but note economic and climate challenges.
2. Economic crisis and climate change hinder SDGs, affecting children's rights.
3. SDG ratings vary, revealing disparities among communities and children.
4. Violence against children persists, impacting their well-being.
5. Children advocate for economic stability, child rights, and ending violence and corruption.

Child Rights -Specific SDGs

Status

SDG 1: No poverty

¹There have been strides in poverty alleviation with robust scores across No Poverty indicators. Government, partners, and the private sector collaborate to offer food aid and income-generating initiatives, uplifting vulnerable families. Programmes like Pfumvudza and education schemes ensure essential provisions such as food, education, and shelter, complemented by WASH and healthcare initiatives. For instance, mass drug administration bolsters immunization efforts, while laws like the Marriages Act promote protection and gender equity. Provision of shelter for orphans and refugee children elevates living standards. Data signals overall progress in poverty reduction, with community engagement in income-generating ventures. Participants emphasize joint endeavors to curb poverty, underscoring the pivotal role of child rights in community advancement.

¹Annexure of Zimbabwe's children's 2024 VNR report methodology

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Significant strides have been made in addressing hunger in Zimbabwe, with partners playing a pivotal role in advancing SDGs. Collaborative efforts between the Government, CSOs, and private actors focus on providing food, water, nutrition, and agricultural inputs, along with promoting sustainable farming practices. Analysis reveals that initiatives towards achieving Zero Hunger are making tangible progress, with community involvement being key. Programmes and policy interventions such as agricultural input schemes, National Policy for the Care and Protection of Children without parental care, and initiatives like Pfumvudza/ Intwasa contribute to these efforts, alongside cattle and goat rearing initiatives. Children report improved access to food through community support systems, including grain provision and cash transfers, resulting in a decrease in conditions like kwashiorkor. To complement school feeding programme, urban children increasingly carry food to school indicating changes in food security awareness and practices.

SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

Partnerships have driven goal implementation through health facility construction, mass drug administration, and school-based awareness initiatives. These efforts enhance children's access to healthcare, particularly immunizations, and promote hygiene practices to combat diseases like cholera and typhoid. Adolescents receive sexual and reproductive health education, while pregnant and lactating mothers access antenatal care. HIV patients, including adolescents, benefit from ARV treatment and support groups like the DREAMS project. Awareness campaigns help manage the spread of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and address drug abuse while Medical Treatment Orders assist vulnerable children. WASH interventions improve water access, hygiene promotion, and sanitation, benefiting rural areas and schools. Presidential borehole schemes further enhance access to clean water, collectively promoting children's overall health and well-being.

SDG 4: Quality Education

Government and partners continue collaborating to enhance education quality, with initiatives such as BEAM covering fees for 1.5 million vulnerable children yearly. Furthermore, children appreciated the enactment of the Education Act [Chapter 25:04] which helped in making parents send children to school. Development partners support infrastructure development, and other support services. These joint efforts underscore the collective commitment to advancing education accessibility and quality. The existing heritage based educational curriculum provides for a holistic education encompassing not only academic but also Sports, Arts and Recreation.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Significant accomplishments have been attained during the reporting period, notably the passing of the Marriages Act [Chapter 5:17], effectively reducing child marriages. Girls are empowered through diverse initiatives, such as educational support programmes. Furthermore, there has been increased awareness on empowering girls and meeting their various needs, including addressing period poverty. Girls' representation in the Children's Parliament and Councils has notably increased. Of the 210 seats in Parliament, girls' representation increased from 90 (43%) for the 2021-2022 session to 107 (51%) for the 2022-2023 session. The 2021 to 2022 child president was female with a disability, setting the agenda to focus primarily on enhancing the welfare of children with disabilities.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions

In Zimbabwe, notable progress has been made by the Government in reducing all forms of violence against children. Most children affirmed the peaceful environment in the country, acknowledging policies that cater for persons with disabilities and refugees. Initiatives such as enactment of protective legislation such as the Marriages Act [Chapter 5:17] and the Children's Amendment Act, 2023 (No. 8 of 2023) and through bilateral and multilateral agreements have been put in place. Furthermore, the establishment of Child Protection Unit under the Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and Victim Friendly Unit (VFU)- Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) further demonstrates governmental commitment in safeguarding children. Moreover, the issuance of free birth certificates reflects commitment by Government to fulfil children's right to identity consequently impacting positively on all other rights.

Regarding child trafficking, Zimbabwe addresses this issue through robust legal instruments aimed at prevention, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators. Key legislation includes the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act [Chapter 9:23], the Labour Amendment Act of 2023, and the Immigration Act [Chapter 4:02], among others. Additionally, Zimbabwe is a signatory to international conventions and protocols addressing child trafficking, including the UNCRC and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), reaffirming its commitment to combatting this crime.

The Government of Zimbabwe has undertaken significant efforts to enhance access to justice for children across the country. These initiatives are geared towards ensuring that children have equitable access to legal remedies and support systems when they encounter legal challenges. Some key efforts include; establishment of specialized courts, such as family and children's courts, to handle cases involving children. These courts are designed to provide a child-friendly environment where children can participate in legal proceedings and have their voices heard. Furthermore, pre-trial diversion programme has been instituted.

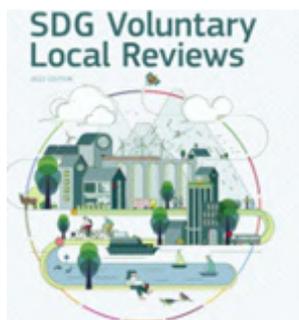
Challenges

Based on the data collected, the following challenges have been identified in the efforts to reduce all forms of violence against children in Zimbabwe:

- Inadequate access to basic services such as education, sanitation and health. There is an opportunity to improve the current Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) and Assisted Medical Treatment Orders (AMTO) to enhance access to i.e. health and education. Insufficient resources and support for vulnerable children exacerbate limit to access to basic services especially children with disabilities.
- Increased number of school dropouts due to vulnerability, child pregnancies and unwillingness to learn. The motivation to continue with education is diminishing with the children being attracted to illegal and harmful activities such as gold panning, drug peddling and prostitution.
- Climate change significantly affects children's livelihoods, posing health risks, disrupting education, exacerbating food insecurity, and increasing vulnerability to psychological stress and conflicts. Extreme weather events like heatwaves, floods, and droughts lead to health issues such as heat-related illnesses and waterborne diseases, while crop failures and food shortages impact nutrition and food security, hindering children's physical and cognitive development. Disruptions in schooling due to climate-related disasters and displacement further impede children's educational progress. Marginalized communities are disproportionately affected, lacking resources to cope with climate impacts and recover from disasters.
- Economic hardships drive children into child exploitation, and involvement in drug and substance abuse, further perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability.
- Weak enforcement of laws, corruption and minimal reporting of child abuse cases undermine child protection efforts.
- Inadequate capacities of community structures and traditional leaders in promoting child rights and protection contributes to gaps in safeguarding children from violence and exploitation.
- Limited access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) services especially in rural areas and children with special needs.
- In many programmes, boys are often overlooked as the focus remains predominantly on supporting girls.
- Language and infrastructure barriers often hinder access to basic services such as justice delivery,

Recommendations

- Ensure free basic education, improved physical and soft infrastructure, and disability-friendly environments in schools.
- Allocate more resources to enhance primary healthcare facilities, decentralize services for improved accessibility, reinforce law enforcement to combat substance abuse and trafficking, and establish specialized clinics for adolescents while enhancing WASH services.
- Improve access to sexual and reproductive health education to prevent pregnancies, holistic counseling and mentorship, vocational training and alternative education pathways to offer practical skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- Community-based initiatives to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal activities like gold panning, drug peddling, and prostitution, while promoting positive alternatives.
- Strengthen partnerships between schools, communities, and relevant stakeholders to provide continuous support and guidance to at-risk students.
- Implement inclusive early warning systems and emergency response protocols to mitigate the impact of extreme weather on children's rights.
- Establish community-based food reserves and distribution systems, alongside promoting nutritional support programmes targeting children in marginalized communities, to mitigate the adverse effects of food insecurity on their health and development during climate-related disasters.
- Enhance child protection measures by raising awareness, implementing confidential reporting mechanisms, enforcing stiffer penalties for abusers, providing relevant support for victims and witnesses, and increasing police presence in both urban and rural areas.
- Enhance gender equality by actively including boys in programmes and initiatives alongside girls, addressing the tendency to overlook their needs and fostering equal support for all genders. Address language and infrastructure barriers to ensure equitable access to basic services for children with disabilities by implementing inclusive policies and providing necessary accommodations and support.



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLRs) KEY MESSAGES

Introduction

Key messages from Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) by local authorities indicated that some generic challenges and recommendations hence, these were provided for at the end. In addition, the Constitutional Amendment of 2023, which mandated 30% representation of women in councils or local authorities, significantly contributed to the increased participation of women in leadership positions.

Bikita Rural District Council

The Bikita Rural District Council conducted a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in July 2023 to assess progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 targets. The methodology involved a mixed methods approach, incorporating qualitative and quantitative data collection from various stakeholders, including government departments, development agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations, PWDs, youth, women, traditional leaders and communities. Stakeholders identified key result areas (KRAs) aligned with national priorities, such as governance, social services, and infrastructure. The review highlighted both progress and challenges across various indicators such as poverty reduction, access to basic services, healthcare, education, and gender equality.

Status

- The proportion of people living below the national poverty datum line decreased from 73% in 2015 to 63% in 2022, targeting to achieve 30% by 2025 (Bikita RDC authority, 2023).
- There has been an improvement in access to basic services, rising from 55% to 60% between 2015 and 2022, with a target of 90% by 2025, (Bikita RDC authority, 2023).
- Initiatives to enhance food security and support small-scale farmers have shown mixed progress, with access to safe, nutritious food increasing from 50% to 65% between 2015 and 2022, aiming for 80% by 2025. However, productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers, while improving from 3,666mt to 6,098mt, remain unstable, with a target of 7,332mt by 2025 (Bikita RDC authority, 2023).
- Reduction of distances to health centers from 12km to 4km between 2015 and 2022, aiming for 2km by 2025 (Bikita RDC authority, 2023).
- Educational infrastructure development has been notable, with the establishment of new educational services increasing from 123 schools to 135, during the period under review.
- Full participation of women in leadership positions progressed from 15% to 30% between 2015 and 2022, targeting 50% by 2025 (Bikita RDC authority, 2023).

Bulawayo City Council

Through extensive engagement with stakeholders and a Corporate Strategy intricately woven with the SDGs, the city showcases its dedication to implementing global objectives. Crafting a VLR of the SDGs involved meticulous stakeholder mobilization and data collection. Drawing from hybrid frameworks, diverse stakeholders engaged in visioning, preparation, and engagement phases, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive review. The VLR process focused on key SDGs such as health, water, and economic growth. Bulawayo tracked progress and identified areas for improvement, navigating through baselines and targets with a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies. Partnerships emerged as a cornerstone for implementation, spanning from international agencies to local entities.

Status

Poverty status: The proportion of people living in extreme poverty stood at 29.7% in 2022 with a target of 5% by 2025 (Bulawayo City Council, 2023).

Urban Food Security: The prevalence of food insecure households was at 40% in 2022, with a target reduction of 5% by 2025. Initiatives such as nutrition gardens are being implemented to address food insecurity at household level in the city.

Maternal and Child Health: The City recorded high percentages of mothers booking for antenatal care (97.26%) and delivering at health facilities (96.42%) in 2022, signifying improvements in maternal and child health services (Bulawayo City Council, 2023).

Education: Strategies such as the construction of new schools, expansion of existing facilities, and support mechanisms like the Basic Education Assistance Module and Council Bursary Scheme have contributed to a minimal primary school dropout rate (0.38%) and an improved completion rate (83.52%) since 2022.

Gender equality in political representation is notable, with the proportion of women councilors reaching 28.6% in 2022 and aiming for 50% by 2025. Initiatives such as lobbying for political parties to field female candidates and implementing the Council Gender Policy have been instrumental. Similarly, efforts to increase women's representation in the council executive group from 19.05% to 50% by 2025 are underway, emphasizing the importance of inclusive governance structures.

Zvishavane Town Council

Zvishavane Town Council, a prominent mining hub in Zimbabwe's Midlands province, embarked on a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) aligning with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. Engaging stakeholders across its ten wards, the process aimed to assess SDG progress, with a focus on governance, social services, and infrastructure. Stakeholders prioritized SDGs 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11, fostering collaborative efforts to address common goals and overcome the silo mentality. The review employed a comprehensive methodology, including inception meetings, stakeholder engagements, and clustering, facilitating interactive discussions on progress and challenges. Stakeholders, including youth, women, and people with disabilities, actively participated in focus group discussions and personal interviews, ensuring inclusivity in decision-making.

Status

Access to basic services: The proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services, increased from 73% in 2021 to 75% in 2022 with a target of 85% by 2025 (Zvishavane Town Council, 2023).

Health services: The proportion of births attended by skilled personnel reached 93% and under-5 mortality decreased to 25%, aligning closely with the 2025 targets (Zvishavane Town Council, 2023).

School infrastructure: Almost all schools completed construction and provided basic WASH facilities.

Gender equality: Proportion of women in managerial positions increased from 7% to 40%.

Improvements in **access to safe drinking water and wastewater treatment**, moving closer to 2025 targets.

Implementation strategies leveraged **devolution funds, partnerships, and internal revenue**, enhancing service delivery despite financial constraints.

Mutasa Rural District Council

Mutasa Rural District Council actively engaged in the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Capacity Building Workshop, demonstrating its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The council emphasized the pivotal role of SDGs in improving the quality of life for residents, underscoring their importance in guiding service delivery at both local and national levels. As an agricultural, mining, and timber-based district, Mutasa RDC has generated numerous employment opportunities and enhanced food security, natural resource management, and social services infrastructure. Collaborative partnerships, both locally and internationally, have further facilitated these efforts.

The preparation of the VLR involved a comprehensive methodology guided by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Global Guiding elements, ensuring the inclusion of key stakeholders and prioritization of critical SDG objectives. Data collection faced limitations such as access and consistency issues, but efforts were made to ensure accuracy and inclusivity.

Participation in SDGs Stakeholder engagement meetings provided Mutasa RDC with valuable insights into progress and challenges in SDGs implementation, guiding its mission to provide infrastructural development, social services, and natural resources management. Aligning with the National Development Strategy 1 and the council's strategic plan, these initiatives aim to achieve Vision 2030 by addressing critical areas such as education, water accessibility, healthcare, inequality reduction, and gender equality.

The council's Voluntary Local Review served as a platform to assess achievements, identify challenges, and outline strategies for improvement. Emphasizing inclusivity, the review process involved key stakeholders such as government ministries, civil society organizations, private businesses, and residents' associations. This participatory approach ensured that no one was left behind in the district's development efforts.

Highlighting key achievements in various SDG areas, Mutasa RDC showcased significant progress in health, water sanitation, education, industry, poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate action, and clean energy. Investments in infrastructure, healthcare facilities, education initiatives, road maintenance, agricultural projects, and climate resilience efforts have positively impacted residents' lives.

Despite notable achievements, challenges such as limited resources, disease outbreaks, inflation, and technological constraints persist. However, Mutasa RDC remains committed to leveraging partnerships and collaborations to overcome these obstacles. By aligning with national policies and programmes and embracing a participatory approach, the council aims to continue its journey towards achieving the SDGs and improving the quality of life for its people.

In navigating the policy landscape, Mutasa RDC has closely collaborated with national government entities, aligning its strategic development plans and budgeting processes with SDGs and the Vision 2030 agenda. Through regular reporting mechanisms and the utilization of devolution funds, the council strives to enhance service delivery and contribute to national development objectives.

In summary, Mutasa RDC's participation in the VLR reflects its dedication to sustainable development and local governance. By leveraging partnerships, embracing inclusivity, and aligning with national policies, the council aims to realize its vision of becoming a pacesetter in local authority service delivery by 2030, thereby improving the lives of its residents and contributing to national development goals.

City of Mutare

Mutare City has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development by aligning its strategies with national and global agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the city has evaluated its progress and challenges across various areas, guiding future actions. Integration of the SDGs into long-term planning processes underscores Mutare's dedication to localizing global sustainability targets.

The city's collaborative governance approach involves stakeholders from government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), private sector, and the community, fostering effective partnerships towards SDG achievement. Notable progress has been made in areas such as healthcare, education, gender equality, water sanitation, and infrastructure development. Ambitious programmes focus on infrastructure investment, social amenities, digitization, and strengthening internal control systems, reflecting Mutare's commitment to inclusive growth.

Efforts towards SDG 11, focusing on sustainable cities and communities, include addressing housing challenges, revitalizing public spaces, and developing disaster risk reduction strategies. The city's initiatives for climate resilience and sustainable forest management align with SDGs 13 and 15, respectively. Moreover, commitments to combat corruption and promote accountable institutions, alongside digital transformation initiatives, underscore Mutare's multifaceted approach towards building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban environment.

Status

Table 2: City of Mutare SDGs implementation status

Key Area	Progress
Localization of SDGs	Mutare has effectively localized and streamlined the SDGs into its strategies and plans, aligning with national and global agendas.
	Integration with Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy and African Union (AU) Agenda demonstrates alignment with broader development frameworks.
Voluntary Local Review (VLR)	Mutare conducted its first VLR, providing an evidence-based overview of progress and challenges across key areas.
	This comprehensive review guides future actions and strategies for sustainable development.
Integration of SDGs	SDGs integrated into long-term planning processes, ensuring local priorities align with global sustainability targets.
Collaborative Governance	Multi-stakeholder engagement fosters effective partnerships and collective action towards SDG achievement.
	Involvement of various stakeholders enhances collaboration and promotes inclusive decision-making.
Significant Progress	Notable progress made in areas such as health, education, gender equality, water sanitation, and infrastructure development.
	Achievements across multiple SDGs demonstrate commitment to sustainable development goals.
Upgrading of existing Rented Houses in Sakubva	Council embarked on rental houses repairs and maintenance with a total of 456 out of the targeted 500 rented houses being repaired or maintained in 2023 committed.

Renovation and refurbishment of public toilets	Of the 9 toilets, 2 were renovated in 2022 and the remaining 7 toilets were successfully refurbished in 2023.
Ambitious Development Programmes	Engaged in ambitious programmes focusing on infrastructure, social amenities, digitization, and strengthening internal control systems.
Commitment to Inclusive Development.	Committed to inclusive development, aiming to ensure equal access to services and benefits for all communities.
Supportive Role	City Council plays a supportive role in facilitating progress towards SDGs, collaborating with stakeholders.
National Commitment	Zimbabwe's commitment to sustainable development aligns with global agendas, ensuring a comprehensive strategy for development.
Local Government's Role	Mutare exemplifies the localization of SDGs, addressing local needs while aligning with national and global aspirations.
Healthcare Access	Significant progress made in improving healthcare access and reducing maternal and child mortality.
Gender Mainstreaming	Robust gender policies and empowerment programmes demonstrate commitment to gender equality.
Water and Sanitation	Initiatives to upgrade water treatment plants and enhance sanitation infrastructure signify progress towards SDG 6.
Partnerships and Collaborations	Collaboration with international organizations and local stakeholders leverages resources for sustainable development.
Education Infrastructure	Efforts to enhance education infrastructure and increase school coverage reflect progress towards SDG 4.

Murewa Rural District Council

In Murewa District, a predominantly agricultural area in Mashonaland East Province, sustainable development efforts are underway, with a focus on assessing progress towards the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through VLR process, the district is engaging in a comprehensive analysis of local contexts and priorities, demonstrating a commitment to transparent governance and accountability. With a structured roadmap guiding the process, involving stakeholders from government ministries, parastatals, and development partners, Murewa District aimed to align strategies with identified SDGs, reflecting its dedication to grassroots participation and inclusive development.

Priority goals identified by Murewa District encompass various SDGs, including eradicating hunger, promoting good health, ensuring access to clean water, and fostering sustainable energy. These goals underscore the district's commitment to addressing socio-economic challenges while promoting environmental sustainability. Significant progress has been reported across various SDG indicators, particularly in areas such as food security, nutrition, economic empowerment, and infrastructure development. Murewa District demonstrated a proactive approach to local development and a commitment to leaving no one behind, striving towards a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all residents. Despite financial constraints, the district has leveraged partnerships to overcome obstacles and advance its sustainable development agenda.

Status

Table 3: Murewa RDC- SDGs implementation status

SDGs & Indicator	Programme	2023 Target	2023 Actual	Sources of Data
SDG 2 Indicator 2.2	Provision of food aid to food insecure households and nutritional support to vulnerable children	23,642 Individuals	743 Adults, (391 Males, 352 Females)	Completed SS1 forms, Pay sheet returns, Reports
SDG 2 Indicator 2.1	Community strengthening on food security programmes	3,000 individuals	2,980 Females, 1,973 Males	Reports
SDG 10 Indicator 10.1	Capacity building, monitoring, and establishment of economic projects and Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISALS)	465 ISALS, 6,903 Females, 3,631 Males	Information sharing, Reports compiled by secretariat, Registers and photos	
SDG 10 Indicator 10.2	Community members capacitated with economic Financial literacy skills and group formation	2,731 Females, 1,679 Males	Goat production, Completed SS1 forms, Registers, Reports	
SDG 3 Indicator 3.3	Treatment Literacy training People Living with HIV (PLHIV)	4,000 PLHIV/Tuberculosis (TB)	3,105 Females, 2,065 Males	GNP+ Treatment Literacy Training Manual, International Federation of Red Cross/ Southern Africa AIDS Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS) toolkit
SDG 3 Indicator 3.4	Mental Health Wellness	3,000	4,786 Females, 2,003 Males	Secretariat reports
SDG 10 Indicator 10.2	Gender & HIV Awareness campaigns	5,000	5,761 Females, 2,015 Males	National Gender Technical Working Group (TWG), NAC Reports, Attendance registers, pictures
SDG 10 Indicator 10.3	Child protection services	670, 270 Females, 300 Males	Registers, Case files, Reports	
SDG 4 Indicator 4.1	Education assistance programme	25,782 Children	12,981 Males, 13,061 Females	Registers, Reports
SDG 10 Indicator 10.2	Rights based services for people with disabilities	60, 137 Males, 63 Females	Loans and grants, Completed SS1 forms, Registers, Reports	

VLR Challenges and Recommendations

Across the local authorities, several key challenges and corresponding recommendations were identified, highlighting common themes and areas for improvement.

Challenges:

Resource Constraints: Inadequate resources are cited as a significant challenge in achieving stable progress, affecting various sectors, including poverty reduction, basic service access, healthcare and agriculture, hindering sustained development efforts.

Food insecurity and Productivity Challenges: Despite initiatives such as climate-proof agriculture, challenges persist in productivity and irrigation due to funding limitations. While the number of functional irrigation schemes has increased, they remain insufficient to address the needs of farmers, reflecting a critical gap in food systems.

During a **disease outbreak**, local authorities face challenges such as strained healthcare resources and infrastructure, coordination issues among stakeholders, and public panic and misinformation. These challenges necessitate swift action to mitigate the spread and impacts of the outbreak.

Awareness Barriers for Gender Parity: The lack of full public awareness regarding the importance of women's participation in leadership poses a significant challenge to achieving equitable representation and inclusive governance in local authorities.

Data Availability and Reliability: Limited availability and reliability of data pose significant challenges in VLR development. Incomplete or outdated data hinder accurate assessments of progress towards SDGs and Agenda 2063 targets, making it difficult to formulate effective strategies and policies.

Inconsistent and inequitable access to **capacity building** opportunities for stakeholders involved in VLR development, particularly those from marginalized or underrepresented communities.

Recommendations:

Financing Mechanisms and Partnership Building: Implementing financing mechanisms and fostering partnerships with various stakeholders is recommended to address challenges such as resource constraints and funding limitations in local authorities. This approach aims to mobilize resources effectively and leverage external support for sustainable development initiatives.

Food Insecurity and Productivity Challenges: Implement targeted funding mechanisms and investment strategies to address the critical gap in food systems. This may include establishing dedicated funding sources for irrigation infrastructure, providing financial support for climate-proof agriculture practices, and promoting partnerships between government, private sector, and community stakeholders to improve agricultural productivity and resilience.

Awareness Campaigns for Gender Parity: Intensify awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of women's participation in leadership roles. Collaborate with local media, civil society organizations, and community leaders to disseminate information, challenge gender stereotypes, and promote inclusive governance practices. Incorporate gender sensitization training into leadership development programmes to foster a culture of gender equality and empower women to take on leadership roles.

Enhancing Data Availability and Reliability: Strengthen data collection systems and improve coordination among relevant stakeholders to enhance the availability and reliability of data for VLR development. Invest in capacity building initiatives to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities at the local levels. Foster partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, and international agencies to access additional data sources and expertise. Implement robust data quality assurance mechanisms, including regular data audits and validation processes, to ensure the accuracy and integrity of VLR data.

Capacity building: Establish a structured and sustainable capacity building programme specifically tailored to the needs of stakeholders involved in VLR development, providing ongoing training, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing opportunities to enhance technical skills, data literacy, and understanding of VLR methodologies and objectives.

1 NO POVERTY



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Introduction

Zimbabwe is reducing poverty through strategic socio-economic initiatives outlined in Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy 1 (2021-2025), aiming to reduce poverty to under 25% by 2030. These efforts involve diverse stakeholders and prioritize inclusive economic growth, job creation, and support for vulnerable groups, emphasizing pro-poor policies. Since 2017, Zimbabwe has uplifted many from poverty, fostering resilience through initiatives including tailored safety nets, capacity building, market linkages, and agricultural support. Progress towards SDG 1 is intricately linked with achieving other goals such as ending hunger, promoting health, education, gender equality, clean water, energy, and sustainable economic growth.

Status

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural):

In 2017, the proportion of population below the international poverty line was 30% comprising of 29.3 % and 29.4% females and males, respectively. Due to global and national challenges, the proportion of population below the international poverty line increased to 38.3% in 2019 (Zimstat SDGs Portal, 2022)

1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable:

In the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Rural Report (ZimVAC) (2023) it was indicated that Government-led social support increased from 61% in 2022 to 66% in 2023. Rural households receiving social assistance have remained at 74% between 2021 and 2023 whereas in urban areas, 26% of the households received some form of support from one or more sources. Institutionally, Government was the main source of support (9.2%) followed by development partners (5.3%) and churches (2.2%). Social protection coverage emanated from various sources such as the Government, United Nations, NGOs, churches, support from relatives within and remittances from those outside Zimbabwe. Social support received included food, cash transfers, vouchers, crop inputs, livestock, WASH and non-food items (NFI), and assisted medical treatment orders, among others, coordinated through the Integrated Social Protection Management Information System (ISPMIS).

1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

Progress regarding this indicator was given using selected indicators from the 2023 and 2021-2022 Rural and Urban ZimVAC Reports. The proportion of access to selected basic services was compiled without taking cognisance of quality and safe management issues unlike the Joint Monitoring Programme Report on Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) that takes quality and safe management into consideration. Other issues pertaining to water and sanitation quality and safe management are considered on SDG 6. Table 4 shows the proportion of rural and urban population accessing selected basic services.

Table 4: Proportion of households accessing basic services

Indicator	Rural			Urban	
	2021 %	2022 %	2023 %	2021-22 %	2023 %
Households with access to basic water services	66	64	60	96	97.5
Households with access to improved water sources	78	78	78	95.5	98
Households who travelled more than 1km to fetch water	16	16	17	1	1
Households who practised open defecation	30	27	29	2.0	2.8
Households with access to a primary school within a 5km radius	70	68.6	73	93	92.6
Households travelling less than 5km to the nearest health facility	54	52	53	-	88.9
Households that received early warning information such as weather, climate change or seasonal performance	-	81	53	-	40

Source: 2023 Rural and Urban ZimVAC

According to the Urban and Rural Zimbabwe Vulnerability Report, the accessibility of basic water services in urban areas saw a marginal improvement from 96% to 97.5% nationwide between 2021-22 and 2023. However, this positive trend was juxtaposed by a concerning decline in rural areas, where accessibility dropped from 66% to 60% over the same period. Consequently, the proportion of rural households compelled to travel over 1km to fetch water rose from 16% to 17%, exacerbating the challenges posed by climate-related water issues. Despite these disparities, the report indicates a stagnant rate of 78% for rural households with access to improved water services between 2021 and 2023, contrasting with a notable uptick from 95.5% to 98% in urban areas during the same timeframe.

In 2023, 85% of surveyed households were connected to either council or the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) water systems. Of these, 25% accessed water seven days a week, while 6% accessed water only once a week. Nearly all sampled households in urban areas, about 98%, were accessing water from improved water sources.

Access to improved sanitation marginally improved from 96.6% between 2021-22 and to 97.2 in 2023, as highlighted by the Urban ZimVAC Reports. However, the number of households without handwashing facilities decreased slightly from 65% in 2020 to 64% in 2023. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, nationally, 84.4% of the population was using basic drinking water services, while 71.7% were using basic sanitation services. The dissemination of early warning information, covering aspects like weather, climate change, or seasonal forecasts, witnessed a notable decline from 81% to 53% in rural areas. This drop may be attributed to resource constraints and a lack of anticipation regarding extreme phenomena.

1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure:

Government has made notable strides in improving land tenure security during the first and second quarters of 2023, a total of 1,515 tenure documents were processed, surpassing the annual target of 3,470. These documents include 1,060 A1 permits, 249 A2 permits, 31 99-year leases, and 175 other types of leases.

1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 populations:

Zimbabwe experienced both climatic disaster and disease outbreaks over the period 2017 – 2024. However, data available is not presented per 100,000 populations but as absolute numbers. Some of the disasters did not occur in the current reporting period but it is important to mention the disasters as their effects are still affecting the people. A summary of these disasters are presented in table below:

Table 5: Summary of disasters that affected Zimbabwe between 2017-2024

Natural Disaster	Year	Affected People/Cases	Deaths	Missing	Injuries	Displaced/ Recovery	Estimated Economic Loss (USD billion)
Cyclone Dineo	2017	14,775	192	-	136	5,666	-
El Nino	2023-2024						2 ^a
Cyclone Idai	2019	52,027	347	344	201	17,608	0.622 ^b
COVID 19	2020 - 2024	266,359	5,740	-	-	258,888	
Cholera ^c	Feb 2023- Feb 2024	21,230	476			20,754	
Measles ^c	2022	7,701	747			6,954	

Source: Civil Protection Unit administrative data

^a El nino disaster response budget

^b World Bank report- Restoring Zimbabwe's Livelihoods, Infrastructure After Cyclone Idai, 2019

^c World Health Organisation (WHO), 2023, 2024

1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to national gross domestic product (GDP):

The World Bank estimated the associated economic loss resulting from Cyclone Idai to have amounted to \$622,344,309.00. Chimanimani and Chipinge districts were hardest hit by the cyclone resulting in destruction of crops, infrastructure and many people lost their livelihoods. The 2023-24 El-Nino induced drought is estimated at US\$ 2 billion towards drought relief, (Presidential declaration, 2024).

1.5.3: Zimbabwe adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

The country has aligned its Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies and frameworks to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Principles of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill were approved by the Cabinet in 2022 and the development of the Act is in progress. The country has also been implementing the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as the draft National Adaptation Plan which also significantly contribute to climate risk reduction through the recognition of the importance of early warning systems and early warning information dissemination. Zimbabwe established a stand-alone Civil Protection Command Centre and Multi-Hazard National Disaster Management and Community based disaster risk management training manual.

1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies is at 100% in Zimbabwe.

All the 92 Local Authorities (100%) are implementing their disaster risk reduction programmes in line with the national Disaster Risk Reduction strategies. The Department of Civil Protection (DCP) provides guidance to all sub-national structures (provincial, district, local authorities, ward and village level).

1.a.1 Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the Government directly to poverty reduction programmes:

According to the 2023 National Budget Statement, a total of ZWL\$ 2,005trillion was allocated towards Housing and Community Amenities; Health; Recreation, culture, and religion; Education; and Social protection, constituting 45.1% of the 2023 allocations. There was a decrease in these allocations compared to 2022 which was 48.3% with an actual outturn standing at 37.3% by September 2022 see Table below.

Table 6: Budget allocations towards poverty reduction programmes source MoFEDIP 2023 National Budget

Function	2021	2022	2023		
	Unaudited outturn (ZWL\$ mil)	Revised Estimates (ZWL\$ mil)	Unaudited to September (ZWL\$ mil)	Approved Appropriation (ZWL\$ mil)	Statutory and other resources (ZWL\$ mil)
Social protection	44,268.06	182,980.08	97,056.36	410,135.03	-
Health	44,485.62	181,324.74	77,328.71	463,586.16	238,554.90
Education	61,224.89	296,662.40	153,974.19	756,058.65	77,805.87
Housing and community amenities	27,359.60	147,984.85	70,443.56	337,003.51	409.00
Recreation, culture and religion	2,598.07	16,426.36	9,640.14	38,541.51	11,431.00
Total	179,936.24	825,378.43	408,442.96	2,005,324.86	328,200.77

1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection):

In 2022, Government spending on essential services included 12.75% for health, 2.31% for social protection, and 17.78% for education. The 2023 national budget allocated 36.7% towards health, education and social protection. For health, 12.9% and 14.3% of total expenditures were allocated in 2023 and 2024, respectively, with a goal to meet the Abuja Declaration of 15%. Development Partner Support for health totalled US\$408.3 million in the first nine months of 2022, focusing on maternal, child, adolescent health, HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria prevention, and health delivery systems strengthening.

In 2023, US\$212.9 million was projected, with actual disbursement of US\$309,387,621 received by September 2023. Education received 18.5% of total expenditures in 2023, aligning with the Dakar recommendation of 20% allocation.

1.a.3 Sum of total grants and non-debt-creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction programmes as a proportion of GDP:

In 2023, disbursements of total grants and non-debt-creating inflows amounted to US\$549.8 million, of which 86.8% was allocated to poverty reduction programmes.

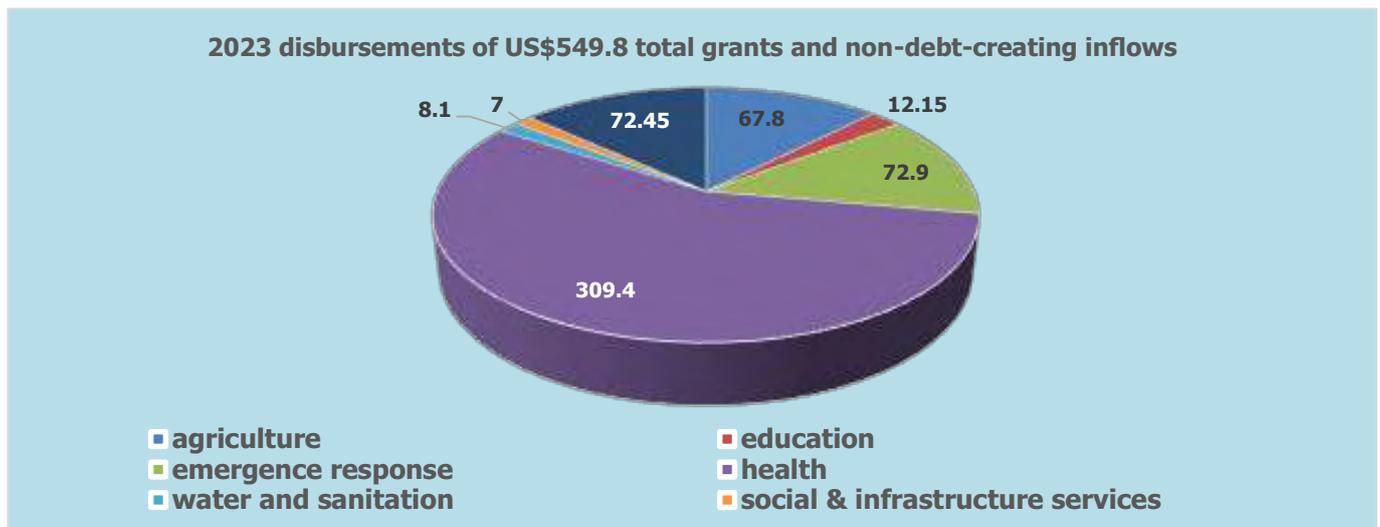


Figure 8: 2023 disbursement of total grants and non-debt creating inflows

1.b.1 Proportion of Government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups:

The Government continues to emphasise gender responsive budgeting across the whole budgeting process. All MDA budgets should reflect gender-sensitive programming, mainly for social protection programmes. In 2023 at least 2.6% of the budget was allocated to the relevant MDAs responsible for women, the poor and other vulnerable groups.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions:

Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS)/Drought Relief: The programme is meant to provide food assistance to food insecure households to ensure that food poverty is eliminated in the country. Under the FDMS targeting of beneficiaries in identified areas is guided by the annual Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC) Report which details how many individuals will be food insecure.

The programme was jointly implemented by World Food Programme (WFP) and its cooperating partners. Government covered fifty-two rural districts whilst WFP covered eight rural districts. A total of 3,895,652 people received food assistance during the peak hunger period, with the Government accounting for 82% whilst WFP assisted 18% in 2023 (Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, 2023).



Figure 9: Food Deficit Mitigation Programme (MPSLSW)

Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT): HSCT is an unconditional cash transfer programme targeting ultra-poor households who are food poor and labour constrained including households of persons with disabilities, child headed, elderly headed and female headed households.

In 2022, a cumulative 344 601 individuals were supported by Government and Partners with cash transfers. During the course of the year 2023, the Government together with its implementing partners reached out to 353,080 individuals with cash transfers in over thirty-three districts. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the Government working with partners has begun the retargeting exercise in Binga, Mudzi, Mangwe, Makoni and Rushinga districts using the pull registration method to pilot cost efficient ways of registering beneficiaries. This will ensure the country has an updated database of beneficiaries and allow for other ultra-poor households to be included into the programme.

Health Assistance (AMTOs): The programme provides medical fee waivers to long term ill, destitutes, orphaned and vulnerable children as well as indigent persons including persons with disabilities. In 2023, 19,280 people who applied for the service were assisted to access health services under the programme

Basic Education Assisted Module (BEAM): This is an education assistance programme meant to cater for school fees, levies and examination fees for vulnerable children in mainstream primary, secondary schools and special schools for children with disabilities. In 2023, a total of 1,515,047 children comprising of 730,321 boys and 784,726 girls' were given education assistance.

Child Protection Services: The amended Children's Act stipulates that all children under the age of 18 years should be protected. In alignment with the amended Children's Act, efforts are made to provide care and protection services to orphans and vulnerable children, aiming to address challenges they face and uphold their rights. These services encompass relocating children from risky environments to safe havens,

connecting them with specialized service providers, and offering probationary support. Throughout 2023, a total of 68,949 children received such care and protection services nationwide. Among them, 4,873 children requiring care were offered alternative options through legal processes, with 4,228 placed in residential care facilities, 600 in foster care, and 45 adopted. The remaining cases involved various forms of child protection services, including those related to violence, custody, conflicts, and legal issues. Additionally, private residential care facilities received grants for their operational and administrative needs, with 206 inspection visits conducted by November 30, 2023, to ensure compliance and quality standards.

Sustainable Livelihood: In order to move from a welfarist approach of social protection to a developmental approach, a number of sustainable livelihood programmes are implemented to promote household resilience and self-reliance among vulnerable people and contribute to the social good and overall socio-economic development of the country. By the end of second quarter of 2023, a combined total of 7 405 beneficiaries had been reached with Sustainable Livelihood projects in 6 Districts namely Mangwe, Tsholotsho, Nkayi, Buhera, Gutu and Gokwe South. Additional two new projects had commenced in Wedza and Mbire districts. Three more projects were established during the year in Wedza, Bulawayo and at Tongogara Refugee Camp. The target for the year was to at least have one sustainable project in each province by the end of 2023 targeting 25 000 beneficiaries.



Figure 10: Beneficiaries of sustainable livelihood programme

Source MPSSLW

Integrated Social Protection-Management Information System (ISPMIS)

Zimbabwe launched the Integrated Social Protection-Management Information System (ISPMIS) in 2023. The ISPMIS will enable all social protection data to be available in one place including safeguarding against double dipping by beneficiaries and help identify beneficiaries that might require additional assistance from other programmes.



Figure 11: Integrated Social Protection-Management Information System Training (MPSLSW)

Migration and Repatriation: In 2023, 18,170 individuals were supported in reuniting with their families and communities via various entry points, primarily Beitbridge and Plumtree border posts. A monitoring tool was created to oversee the well-being of human trafficking survivors and provide appropriate care. The country remains vigilant in assisting different groups of vulnerable migrants. Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) have been established to offer essential information to potential migrants, aiding them in making informed migration decisions. Additionally, the Government aided in the formation of the Private Employment Agencies Association of Zimbabwe (PEAAZ), aiming to enhance professional standards, advocate for recruiters' interests, and serve as an information hub on recruitment policies and ethical practices. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were devised to ensure ethical recruitment practices by agencies, thus combating human trafficking.

Support to Refugees: In 2023, a cumulative total of 16,793 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with social protection services at Tongogara Refugee Settlement. Government working together with implementing partners, continues to support with food, shelter, health and education services, among other interventions to refugees and asylum seekers. The office of the Commissioner for Refugees is currently working on a verification exercise to ascertain the current number of refugees and asylum seekers in Zimbabwe.

Support to Persons with Disabilities: In 2023, efforts to support persons with disabilities (PWDs) included reaching 6,213 individuals with rights-based services such as assistive devices, vocational training fees, and processing injury claims. Awareness campaigns totalled 16, and vocational skills training was provided at three Government National Rehabilitation Centres. PWDs also benefited from mainstream social protection programmes, and coordination with local organizations and development partners was strengthened. The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities played a key role in capacity building and policy implementation.



Figure 12: Assistive devices being distributed at one of community outreach events in Zimbabwe (Source MPPLSW)

Youth Empowerment: Government capacitated 11,899 youths through entrepreneurship training and facilitation of linkages to markets during the first half of 2023. Empower Bank capacitated 5,352 youths through loans, whilst the Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) empowered 652 youths through market linkages, mentorship programmes and enterprise formalisation processes. Youth Focal Desks established in 2019 reached a total of 281,140 youths in 2023 compared to 13,402 reached in 2018, in various sectors of the economy.

2

ZERO
HUNGER



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Introduction

Zimbabwe remains steadfast in its commitment to ending hunger, as demonstrated through its national development agenda. Government has actively pursued initiatives aligned with SDG 2, focusing on improving food access, improving agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable food production, and strengthening agricultural resilience. The agricultural sector, is responsible for feeding the nation and providing livelihoods to 67% of the country's population in rural areas, is also vital for recovery and growth of the economy. The Agricultural Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy (AFSRTS) that sets out the pathways for ensuring improved food and nutrition security, improved self-sufficiency, improved farm incomes, improved access to clean water and sanitation, is strategically integrated into the NDS1 which collectively contributes to attainment of zero hunger.

Status

2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES):

According to ZimVAC reports, the proportion of population in rural and urban areas who were food insecure is summarised in the graphs below.

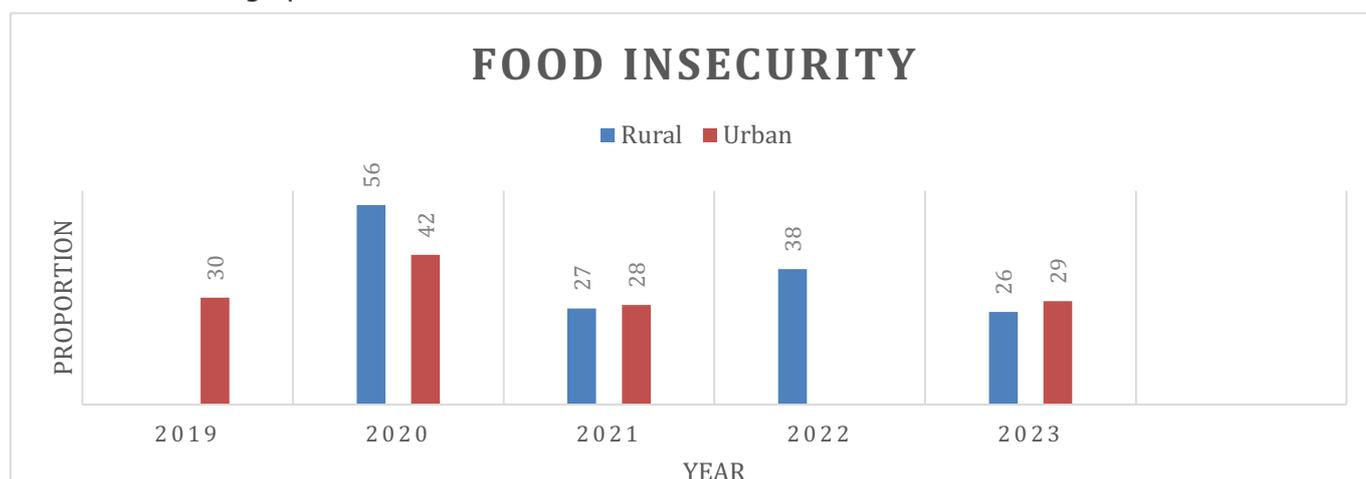


Figure 13: Food insecurity in urban and rural areas

Source: Urban and Rural ZimVAC 2019 - 2023

The prevalence of food insecurity in Zimbabwe exhibited a significant decline from 2020 to 2023, with rural areas experiencing a decrease from 56% to 26%, and urban areas from 42% to 29%. This positive trend can be attributed to favourable climatic conditions and the implementation of various government, private sector, and development partner initiatives aimed at improving food security. However, Covid-19, reduced the coping capacity from 2021 coupled with incidences of drought, dry spells, floods, and waterlogging. Additionally, the 2023/24 agricultural season was adversely affected by El Niño, exacerbating food insecurity challenges. Despite these setbacks, concerted efforts to address these challenges remain essential to ensure sustained progress in enhancing food security across the country.

2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age:

Table 7: Prevalence of stunting, wasting and overweight among children under 5 years

Indicator	2014	2019
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 (%)	27%	23.5%
Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 (%)	3.2%	2.9%
Prevalence of overweight among children under 5 (%)	5.6%	2.5%

Source: MICS 2014;2019

Zimbabwe has made significant strides in addressing child malnutrition indicators between 2014 and 2019. The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 decreased from 27% to 23.5%, reflecting an improvement in child nutrition outcomes. Similarly, wasting and overweight rates also declined during the same period, with wasting decreasing from 3.2% to 2.9%, and overweight dropping from 5.6% to 2.5% (MICS, 2014;2019).

Despite this progress, the burden of malnutrition remains a critical issue in Zimbabwe, with hundreds of thousands of children experiencing food poverty and inadequate dietary diversity. The country's efforts in establishing trained nutrition personnel and implementing multi-system approaches have contributed to being on track to meet global nutrition targets for child wasting and overweight. However, emerging threats such as the climate crisis such as El Nino and gaps in food systems pose challenges to sustaining progress.

Regional disparities exist, with certain areas, like Manicaland, experiencing higher prevalence rates of stunting. Adolescent pregnancy and early marriage contribute to the inter-generational cycle of undernutrition with 1 in 3 girls in Zimbabwe getting married before the age of 18, and almost 1 in 10 babies are born with a low birthweight (8.7% <2.5kg), signifying nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy.

Approximately 160,000 children in Zimbabwe were estimated to suffer from wasting in 2023, including an estimated 19,000 children who needed life-saving treatment for severe wasting. A total of 9,666 children with severe wasting were reached with the treatment services they need. Moreover, while the national prevalence of overweight among children under 5 remains below the global target, rates increase significantly with age, posing risks of chronic diseases later in life.

Addressing these challenges requires continued investment in agriculture transformation, food systems improvements, nutrition programming, multi-sectoral approaches, and efforts to improve dietary diversity and exclusive breastfeeding rates. By prioritizing these interventions, Zimbabwe can further reduce the burden of malnutrition and ensure the healthy growth and development of its children.

2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size:

1. Volume of production of Maize for all farming sectors: Maize production witnessed a significant increase from 1,453,031 metric tonnes in 2022 to 2,298,281 metric tonnes in 2023. This improvement was attributed to well-distributed rainfall during the 2022/2023 season and various interventions implemented through the government, development partners and the private sector. However, the 2023/2024 season was affected by El Nino which is negatively affecting crop and livestock production.

2. Volume of milk production for all farming sectors: Milk production increased from 71.6 million litres in 2019 to 91,4 million litres in 2022 which was supported by 11.3% growth in dairy herd from 47,845 in 2021 to 53,250 in 2022. In 2023, milk production increased by 9% to 99,8 million litres in 2023. The national dairy herd grew from 35,100 cows in 2022 to 39,811 in 2023 (CLAFSA, 2024). Increased milk production was due to the bigger milking herd, improvement in milk production per cow, herd management, pasture management, stakeholder coordination, resuscitation of smallholder dairy, better access to capital and good agricultural seasons which ensured adequate feed and water for dairy production. The main drivers being herd growth from imported dairy animals sourced by individual farmers, processors and development partners implementing dairy projects.

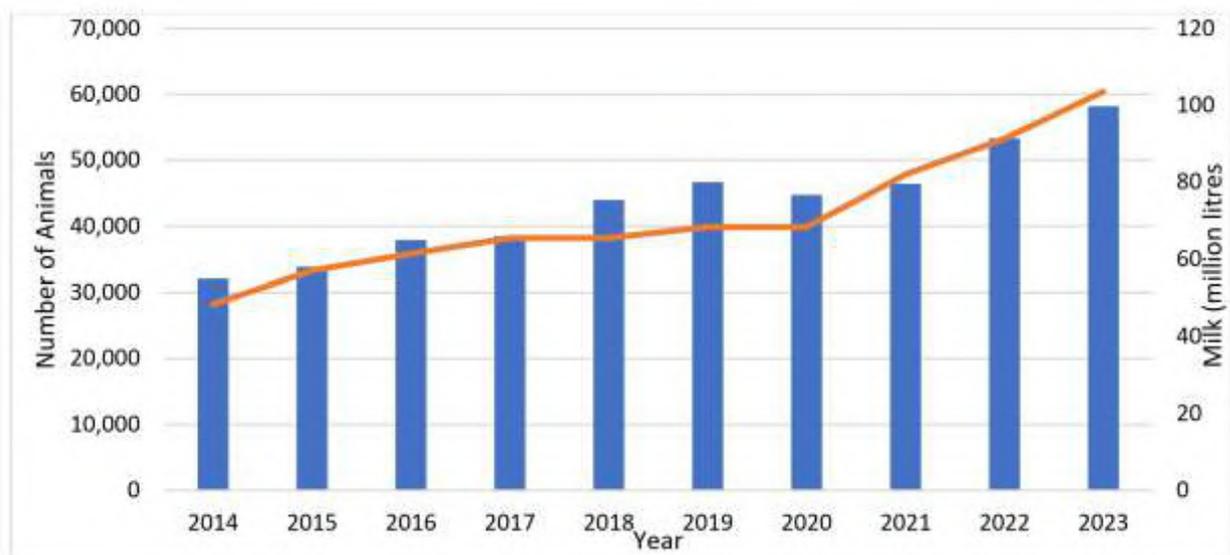


Figure 14: Volume of milk production and dairy herd

Source: Crop and Livestock Assessment Report 2024

3. Volume of production of soya beans for all farming sectors: As at Q2 of 2023 the actual output was 93,000 metric tonnes which was an increase from the 2022 output of 82,000 metric tonnes. There was a marginal increase from the 2021 baseline of 71,290 metric tonnes. This increase was attributed to increased private sector participation in contract farming initiatives and the Presidential Input Support Programme.

4. Volume of traditional grains produced: Total traditional grains output for 2023 was approximately 281,966 metric tonnes, this was an increase from the 2022 output of 194,100 metric tonnes. The improvement is attributed to increased private sector and climate proofed agriculture support programmes promoting the production of climate resilient crops in drier regions of the country. Processing at household level, marketing, inadequate and inappropriate equipment for planting, harvesting, storage, threshing and minimum processing requirements are among the challenges faced by farmers in traditional grain production.

5. Volume of wheat produced: Over the past 5 years, wheat production has seen significant growth, with a remarkable increase of 181% in 2021 and 88% in 2022. In 2022, the actual output reached 380,000 metric tonnes, surpassing national requirements of 360,000 metric tonnes. In 2023, the target was set at 400,000 MT, achieved from a planted area of 90,192 hectares, exceeding the target area by 17%. This rise in production was credited to effective planning, private sector involvement, government support, self-financed farmers, and access to essential resources like consistent electricity and water for irrigation. A2², A1, and large-scale farmers contributed 57%, 13%, and 11% respectively to crop production. Additionally, 10% of the crop was planted by female farmers, and 26% came from FCCA, PIP, and self-financed sources.

2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture:

The hectareage of maize production under Pfumvudza/Intwasa increased from 2020, 37ha in 2020 to 342,860ha in 2021/22, due to strategic distribution of maize seed according to agroecological zones (10kgs maize seed in region 1 and 2 regions which are suitable for maize production and more traditional grains in region 4 and 5). Area under sorghum production increased from 10,634ha to 13,627ha in 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons, respectively. This increase has been attributed to good rain season, government and development partners support, as well as the initiative of matching input distribution to agroecological zones (region 4 and 5).

² A1 farm: 1 – 6 hectares, A2 farm: 7 – 25 hectares, Large scale farmers: more than 25 hectares

Table 8: Crop production between 2020-2023

Crop	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	% Growth (compared to previous season)
Maize	2,298,281	1 453 031	2 717 171	58
Sorghum	191,125	144 633	244 063	32
Pearl Millet	71,221	44 143	90 683	61
Finger Millet	18,610	5 320	13 223	250
Groundnut	214,145	98 765	208 864	117
Round Nut/ Bambara nut	62,159	18 718	37 156	232
Sweet Potato	276,784	207 529	422 613	33
Sugar Beans	31,274	25 388	30 613	23.2
African Peas	34 462	14 884	38 452	132
TOTAL	3 198 061	2 012 411	3 802 838	59

Source: 2023 Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, Zimbabwe

2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities:

Seeds are the focus of the genetic resources for food. The government has 6,300 different accessions (varieties of seed in the national gene bank of crop seeds). The accessions are likely to improve as the government with partners is in the process of carrying out an inventory of gene banks across the country.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

The government in collaboration with partners implemented the following programmes;

Nutrition programmes

Nutrition programming focuses on prevention of all forms of malnutrition, using a decentralised and multi-sectoral community-based model (MCBM). Through the MCBM, there is a network of 10,466 functional Care Groups (DHIS2 data, Dec 2023) in 51 of the 60 rural districts in Zimbabwe, coordinated by the multi-sectoral District Food and Nutrition Committee, under the oversight of the Village Health Worker. In 2023, 83% of health facilities reported having at least one health worker trained in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, while 88% reported training in integrated management of acute malnutrition and micronutrient supplementation to prevent stunting in children in 40 districts in 2021 (up from 4 in 2016). According to the DHIS2 (Dec 2023), a total of 747,525 caregivers participated in counselling sessions on optimal IYCF. Community-based screening for wasting reached an average of 200,000 children per month throughout 2023 resulting in 10,556 children treated for wasting and mainstreaming of Vitamin A Supplementation into primary healthcare services reached 1,561,662 children. The provision of emergency nutrition response in 32 affected districts reached over 398,047 children and 596,157 caregivers with a package of life-saving foods and materials to support early identification and treatment of children with wasting. A total of 15,000 adolescents (7,350 boys and 7,650 girls) in schools were supported with nutrition education. Ready-to-use therapeutic food enabled 99 %of health facilities to offer wasting treatment services according to global standards, up from 80 %in 2016, against the target of 90 per cent. In addition, following the approval of the School Nutrition Guidelines in 2023, 13,031 school-age children received nutrition services through scaling-up of school nutrition programme to eighteen districts. However, the two-dose coverage for Vitamin A Supplementation, which is a well-recognised low-cost child survival intervention, remains low at 38%.

Table 9: Programmes under Goal 2

Programme	Description
Presidential Climate Proofed Input Programme	Provides region-specific input packages to 3 million rural and 500,000 urban beneficiaries for increased productivity and household income.
Presidential Vision 2030 Accelerator Model	Transforms rural irrigation schemes into viable business units managed by Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA), benefiting 1.5 million beneficiaries.
Blitz Tick Grease Programme	Distributes tick grease annually to one million cattle-owning households to eliminate tick-borne diseases.
Accelerated Extension Capacitation Programme	Focuses on enhancing extension services to improve agricultural practices and productivity.
Irrigation Development and Rehabilitation	Expands irrigation schemes and dam projects to increase irrigated area to 350,000 ha by 2025.
Presidential Rural Development Programme	Aims to drill boreholes in 35,000 rural villages and establish profitable village business units, benefiting 1.8 million households.
Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme	This Scheme is aimed at improving access to affordable protein at household level while enabling commerce from the sale of surplus production. The Scheme entails establishment of village, schools and ward fish ponds, two per site. Altogether 180 million fingerlings will be distributed
Presidential Goat Pass On-Scheme	The project is modelled as a pass-on scheme with Government initially financing the first 600,000 households for all the eight rural provinces, equitably distributed according to each province's rural population. The second and third groups of 600,000 households will benefit as a pass-on scheme in the second and third year resulting in all the 1,800,000 rural households benefitting from the scheme
Presidential Poultry Pass On-Scheme	Aims to distribute chickens to 3 million rural beneficiaries and will receive 10 free range chicks each, all together 30 million chicks. A countrywide network of supplies of chickens has been formed.
Mechanization Development Alliance	Pfumvudza/Intwasa mechanisation is being trialled with 600 sets of equipment consisting of tractors, threshers, transport trailers and direct seeders. The set of equipment will be distributed to service providers on a hire purchase basis through (AFC) and (CBZ) (Source: AFSRTS)
Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF)	Programme is designed to build the resilience of individuals, households, and communities in rural Zimbabwe
Enhanced Resilience of Vulnerable Households in Zimbabwe (ERVHIZ)	Focuses on building resilience in vulnerable households
Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP)	Aims to revitalize smallholder irrigation schemes to improve agricultural productivity. SIRP seek seeks to rehabilitate 60 smallholder irrigation schemes covering 5200ha in the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Midlands.

3

**GOOD HEALTH
& WELL-BEING**



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Introduction

Zimbabwe's policies, interventions and programmes seeks to reduce maternal and child mortality, ending pandemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and promoting mental health. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, average life expectancy rose to 64.7 years (68.0 years for females and 61.2 years for males) from 38 years from 2012. Health and Wellbeing thematic area under NDS1 aligns with SDG targets, such as reducing maternal mortality ratio, preventing deaths of children below 5 years, lowering non-communicable diseases' death rates, ensuring universal health coverage, and increasing healthcare workers. The Government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, tracks and reports on SDG3 indicators incorporated in the National Health Strategy (2021-2025), feeding into NDS1.

Status

3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is an indicator that monitors deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth. The goal seeks to achieve that no mother should die while giving birth. Progress has been made with MMR steadily declining over the years, from 614 in 2014 to 462 in 2019 (MICS) to 363 in 2022 (Population and Housing Census).

3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

In Zimbabwe the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is synonymous with proportion of deliveries conducted in health institutions. The proportion of skilled birth attendance has increased from 78% in 2015 (ZDHS) to 86% in 2019 (MICS). The rate of institutional deliveries in Zimbabwe has been equally high, with 2021 performance at 94% against a target of 93%. A decline to 88% and 87% was however realised in 2022 and 2023, respectively (Zimbabwe District Health Information System2 (DHIS2)).

3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate

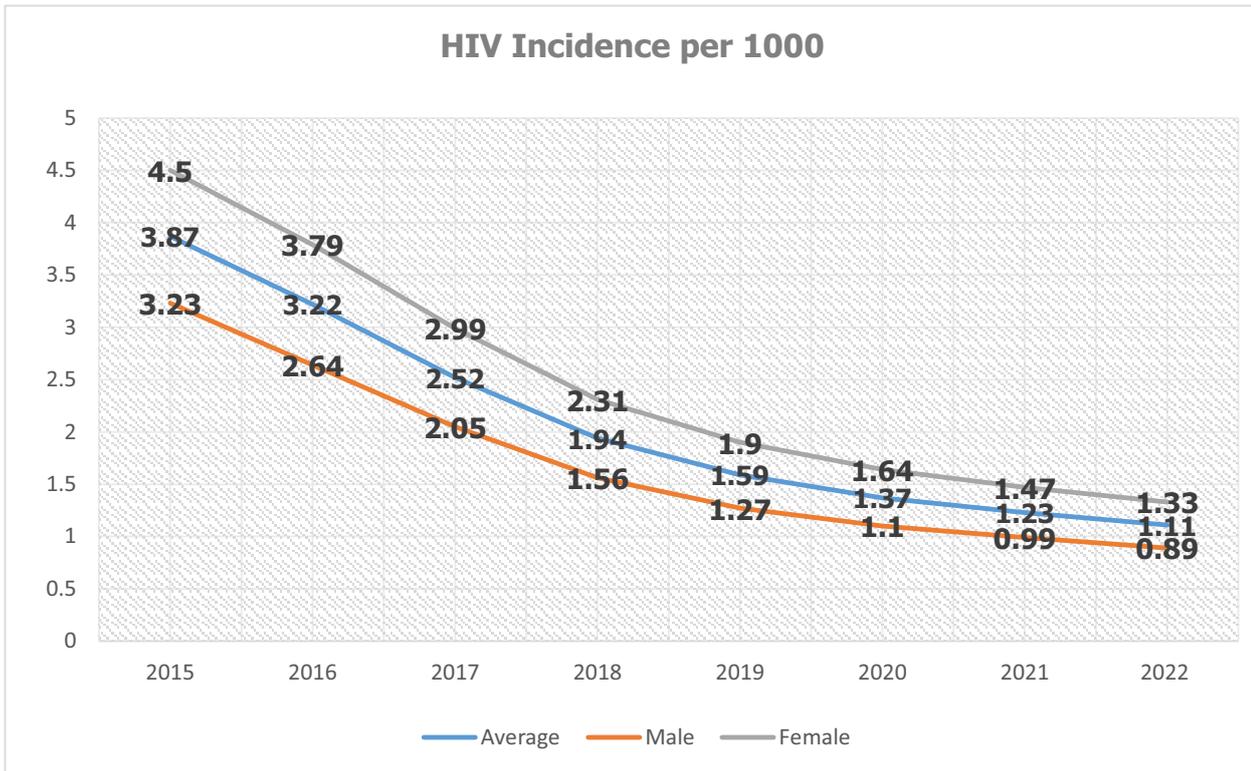
Under-5 Mortality has been steadily declining from 75 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 (MICS) to 65 deaths per 1000 live births in 2019 (MICS). In 2022, 38 deaths per 1,000 live births were recorded using the direct method (Population and Housing Census).

3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate

The MICS shows an increase in neonatal mortality rate from 29 deaths per 1000 live births in 2014 to 32 deaths per 1000 live births in 2019. According to the Population and Housing Census of 2022, neonatal mortality rate was at 9.5 deaths per 1000 populations.

3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected populations, by sex, age and key populations

The number of new HIV infections per 1 000 uninfected populations declined from 1.23 in 2021 to 1.11 in 2022 recorded (Zimbabwe HIV Estimates). This can be largely attributed to a combination of HIV prevention strategies including Pre and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis; National HIV Testing and Counselling, as well as the National HIV Treatment Programme implemented.



Zimbabwe put measures to strengthen the national HIV response to achieve the 95-95-95 targets by ensuring access to key and vulnerable populations and addressing some critical legal and structural barriers to HIV services access. According to Zimbabwe HIV estimates report, new HIV infections among all adults 15+ years declined nationally from 61,700 in 2010 to 20,007 in 2022. Below is a graph indicating a decline in new HIV infections.

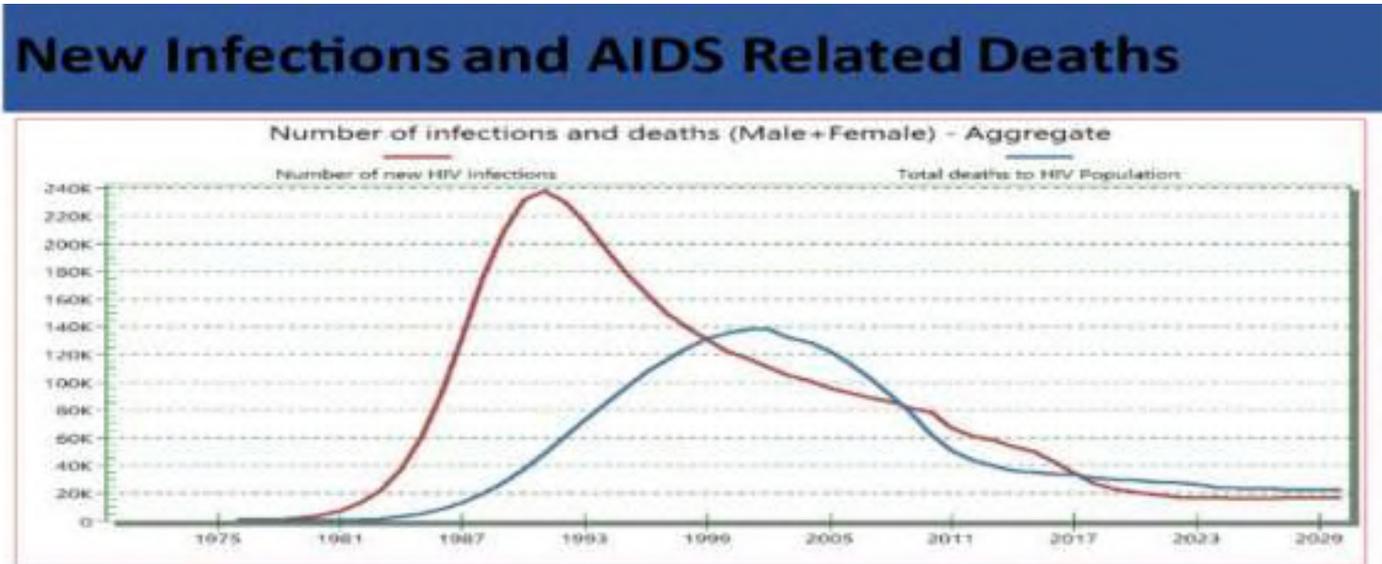


Figure 15: New infections and AIDS related deaths

3.3.2: Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000 populations.

In 2021, the World Health Organisation removed Zimbabwe from the list of 30 high TB burden countries to recognize its success in reducing the burden of TB disease in recent years. Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000 populations has been moderately declining from 193 in 2020 to 190 in 2021. In 2022 the incidence rose to 204 per 100,000 populations. (Zimbabwe District Health Information System 2). The rise was attributed to intensified case finding strategies such as hybrid contact investigation, targeted T.B screening and use of child friendly T.B diagnostic methods. The government has mobilized resources to fight against TB in the country to a tune of USD\$23,000,000 covering 2021 to 2023.



Figure 16: Mobile X-ray truck for TB screening in the community

3.3.3: Malaria Incidence per 1,000 populations.

The national malaria incidence has seen a steep decline of 70% in the last 3 years, from 32 cases per 1,000 population in 2020, to 9 cases per 1,000 populations in 2022. There was however a rise in the incidence with 2023 recording 14 cases per 1,000 populations. Zimbabwe also continues to push the malaria elimination agenda, with the number of elimination districts increasing from 29 in 2021 to 31 in 2022, with 5 districts reporting zero local malaria cases during 2022. These are Chirumhanzu and Zvishavane in Midlands Province, Umguza and Nkayi in Matabeleland North Province, and Umzingwane in Matabeleland South Province.

3.3.5: The number of people requiring interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases

In Zimbabwe, Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) are some of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that Zimbabwe is battling with. According to the NTD prevalence survey conducted in Zimbabwe in 2021, the prevalence of STH and Schistosomiasis declined from 5% and 22.7% in 2010 to 1.9% and 10.7% in 2021, respectively.

3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (Reported Deaths)

A total of 12,981 road traffic accidents were reported during 2nd quarter 2023, reflecting a 3.4% increase from 12,558 reported during the 1st quarter of 2023. Of the 12,981 road traffic accidents reported during the 2nd quarter 2023, four hundred were fatal with the month of May having the highest number of fatalities. Reported road traffic accidents, 1st Quarter 2023 and 2nd Quarter 2023.

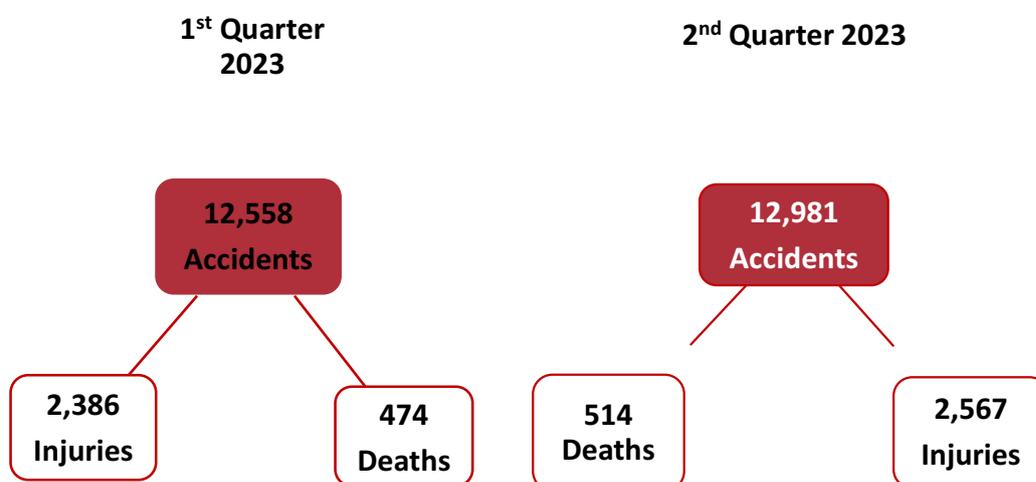


Figure 17: Reported road traffic accidents 1st and 2nd quarter 2023

Source of data: ZRP-PGHQ Statistics Department

3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.

Provision of family planning services in Zimbabwe is commendable, with the proportion of women who had their need for modern contraception met rising from 85% in 2015 (ZDHS) to 86.6% in 2022 (Family Planning Estimation Tool). The unmet need for family planning among married women was 10% (ZDHS 2015); the unmet need for spacing was high among younger women, while the unmet need for limiting child-bearing is high among older women. The difference between unmet need for urban and rural areas is negligible. The modern contraceptive prevalence rate among married women also remained high at around 68% in both 2021 and 2022 and has slightly declined to 66.8 % in 2023.

3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women (10-19 years)

The Adolescent birth rate has declined from 120 births per 1,000 women in 2014 (MICS) to 108 in 2019 (MICS). The Population and Household Census of 2022 shows an Adolescent Fertility Rate of 87 per 1,000 girls. The adolescent pregnancy prevalence rate was 23.7 and a total of 1,532 maternal deaths were recorded during this period and of these, 25% were among adolescent and young women aged under 24 years (National assessment report on adolescent pregnancy, June 2023).

3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services

Proportion of facilities with adequate medicines available (at least 80% of essential (VEN) medicines above minimum levels decreased from 14% in 2020 to 10% in 2022 (NDS 1 midterm review report, 2023). The proportion of women with at least 4 antenatal care visits increased modestly from 70.1% in 2014 (MICS) to 72% in 2019 (MICS). This trend is corroborated by local District Health Information data which shows Antenatal Care of at least 4 visits increasing from 85% in 2018 to 87 % in 2022 and 86% in 2023. Also of concern is that antenatal care coverage was lowest in the urban provinces of Harare and Bulawayo (65% and 69% respectively in 2019, against a national average of 72% and some rural provinces such as Mashonaland Central Province achieving 83%). The most likely cause is that urban clinics charge user fees for maternity services, including antenatal care, while rural provinces observe the no-user fee policy for pregnant mothers.

3.8.2: Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

According to the Zimbabwe National Health Accounts survey, the proportion of total health expenditure paid directly out of pocket of households significantly decreased from 24% in 2015 to 9.51% in 2019, then slightly increased to 10.45% in 2020. The use of medical insurance and the recent surge in the number of registered medical insurance providers explain the recent decline in out of pocket expenditure.

3.b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme

Zimbabwe is tracking the proxy indicator "Penta 3 Coverage" vaccination (also known as DTP 3 vaccine). The coverage for Penta 3 vaccine was 89%, 89%, 86%, 76% and 80% in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively. The 2021 decline in coverage is attributed to COVID-19-travel restrictions. With the increasing recovery from the effects of COVID-19, and the coverage increased to 99% in 2023.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 10: Programmes and Projects and interventions - Goal 3

Programme/Project	Description	Year	Statistics
Antenatal Care	Strategies to reduce MMR: early booking, institutional delivery, skilled workforce, equipment procurement. Tetanus vaccination for pregnant women: 9338 received first dose, 6138 received second dose in 2023. Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance System: 158 maternal deaths audited in 2023.	2023	Tetanus vaccination: 9338 (1st dose), 6138 (2nd dose); Maternal deaths audited: 158
Domestic Funding for FP Commodities	Government-UNFPA compact: USD 1.5M annual funding (2022-2023). Resulted in prevention of unintended pregnancies (780,000), unsafe abortions (190,000), maternal deaths	2023	Prevention: 780,000 unintended pregnancies, 190,000 unsafe abortions, 2,200 maternal
Village Health Worker Programme	Utilizes local community members for healthcare services. 21,587 VHWs in 2023. Decline in Family Planning distribution by VHWs (43.69% in Q2 2023).	2023	Village Health Workers (VHWs): 21,587; Family Planning distribution: 43.69%
Construction of Health Facilities and Maternity Waiting Homes	Construction of clinics: 31 in 2021, 21 each in 2022 and 2023. Maternity waiting homes at 9 facilities in 2022. Over 200 health facilities capacitated for emergency obstetric care.	2021-2023	Clinics constructed: 73; Maternity waiting homes constructed: 9
Anti-TB Programmes	Free screening, diagnosis, treatment of TB. Acquisition of screening equipment. Training of healthcare workers.	2022	X-ray trucks: 10; Gene-Expert machines: 155; Digital X-ray machines: 150
Mass Drug Administrations	Treatments for Schistosomiasis and STH. Increase in treatments from 2020 to 2022.	2020-2022	Schistosomiasis treatments: 404,006 (2020), 1,684,491 (2022); STH treatments: 369,194 (2020), 808,701 (2022)
Solar for Health Programme	Implementation of solar power for vaccine cold chain. Installation in 1080 health facilities by 2022.	2022	Health facilities with solar power: 1080
Port Health Programme	Screening of travellers for diseases. Entry denial due to COVID-19 regulations.	2022	Travelers screened: 936,996; Entry denial: 65
Food Safety Programme	Training on food quality monitoring. Analysis of food samples.	2022-2023	Food samples analyzed: 97,030

Immunization programmes

To increase the survival of children, Zimbabwe has been implementing programmes such as free treatment of children under five in Public health facilities; Integrated Management of Maternal, Newborn and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI); Expanded Programme on Immunisation and Integrated Outreaches. The table below gives a summary of vaccinations implemented against the number of children for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Table 11: Vaccination programmes 2021-2023

Type of Vaccine	Number of vaccinated children		
	2021	2022	2023
Rota 1	429209	274437	488002
Rota 2	402383	261645	435055
Rota 3	-	150	288055
Pneumococcal 1	436314	444704	461263
Pneumococcal 2	411904	423088	445388
Pneumococcal 3	378132	429738	450605
Penta 1	440086	449816	462978
Penta 2	415763	425307	446062
Penta 3	409496	430639	450554
Measles Rubella 1	368186	358711	398544
Measles Rubella 2	320215	415248	431086
BCG	434921	451119	479212
Vitamin A	1046421	1244354	1179350

Source: MoHCC, DHIS2

Anti-Malaria programmes

Malaria related interventions include mass distribution of treated bed nets; indoor residual spraying of houses against mosquitoes; entomological surveillance; as well as community and health facility-based malaria treatment programme. Village Health Workers play a significant role in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria in the community, aiding to the reduction in the number of severe malaria cases presenting at hospitals over the years. The table below indicates yearly statistics on routine anti-malaria programmes from 2021 to 2023.

Table 12: Anti-Malaria programme

Type of intervention and coverage	Years		
	2021	2022	2023
Number of distributed mosquito nets	318904	578929	490874
Households reached on Indoor Residual Spraying	629073	650687	601493

Source: MoHCC Malaria reports

4

QUALITY EDUCATION



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Introduction

Zimbabwe is dedicated to enhancing education quality through human capital development and innovation as part of its NDS 1. This strategy emphasises education to create a knowledge-based economy. Education 5.0 has been adopted, integrating five key elements - teaching and learning, community service, research, innovation, and industrialisation - based on cultural heritage underscoring on competences and skills orientation over theory.

Status

4.1 All girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030.

Zimbabwe Education Fact sheets show that in 2022 an average of 91% of children completed primary education. However, completion rates decline steeply at higher level of education, with only 12.8% of all children completing upper secondary education.

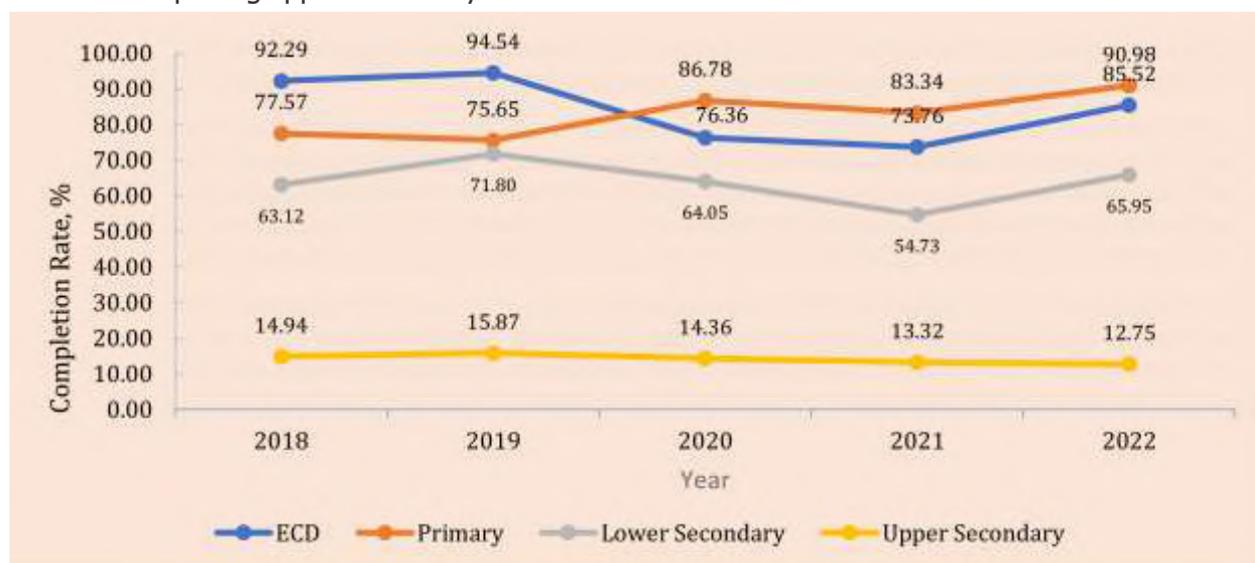


Figure 18: Completion rates from Early Childhood Development, Primary, Lower Secondary to Upper Secondary.

Source: 2022 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report.

The completion rates for Early Childhood Development (ECD) up to lower secondary education have steadily increased over the years, but not so for upper secondary education, which has declined due to high dropouts, repetitions, or delayed completion. Disparities in socio-economic status have a negative impact on completing education levels, with rural and poor children having lower completion rates than urban and richer children. The gap between completion rates for different wealth quintiles widens significantly as children progress through the education system, with only 1% of children from the poorest quintile completing upper secondary education compared to 37% from the richest quintile, (Unicef, 2021)³.

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people in grades 2/3; achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

The Zimbabwe Early Learning Assessment (ZELA) 2022 statistics indicate significant progress in English and Mathematics since 2018. However, around a quarter of infant pupils' transition to junior school lacking basic reading and computation skills. Modest improvements were observed in both subjects from 2019 to 2022. In 2022, 77.1% and 75.9% of pupils performed at or above grade level in English and Mathematics, compared to 75.3% and 72.3% in 2021, respectively. Improvement rates were 1.8% for literacy and 3.6% for numeracy. Below grade level performance stood at 22.9% for English and 24.1% for Mathematics in 2022.

³ MICS-EAGLE Zimbabwe Education Fact Sheets

Table 13: Percentage of Pupils achieving at or above grade-appropriate level after completing grade 2

	2018			2019			2021			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Maths	69.4%	74.4%	72.2%	56.9%	63.1%	60.1%	70.6%	73.5%	72.1%	73.0%	78.0%	75.3%
English	73.9%	78.4%	76.4%	55.7%	66.1%	61.1%	73.2%	77.3%	75.3%	75.0%	80.0%	77.1%

4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial wellbeing by sex

Nationally, 71% of 3-4 year-old were developmentally on track, measured by the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI), MICS (2019). The share of children developmentally on track is higher for girls and urban children as compared to boys and rural children, see Figure 19: Early childhood development Index

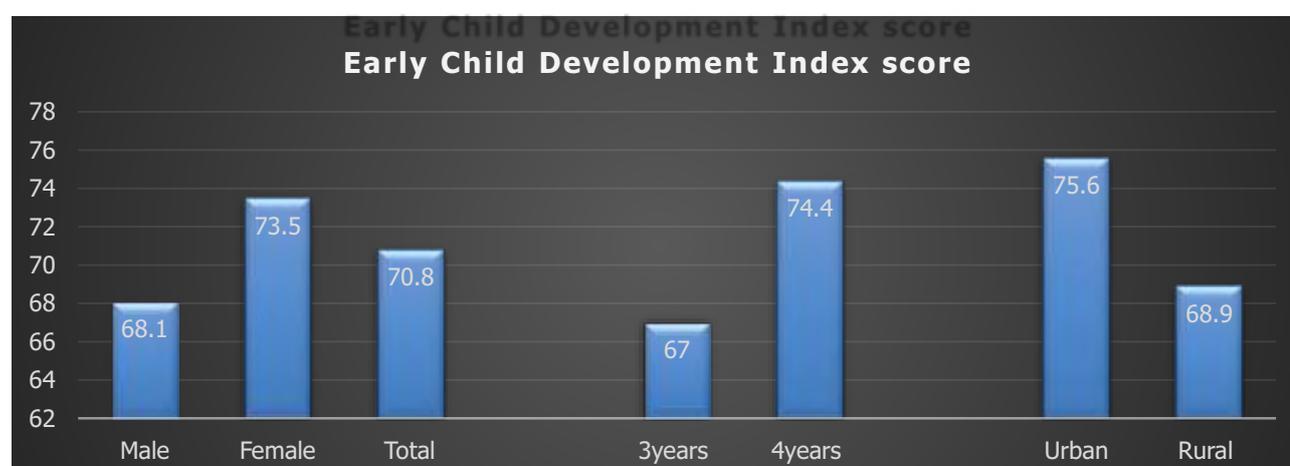


Figure 19: Early childhood development Index

Early childhood, is affected by the mother's education, functional difficulties, religion of household head and wealth index quintile, with a higher index for rich quintile (77.3) compared to 65.8 for the poor.

4.2.2 Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

According to MICS (2019), the percentage of children in the relevant age group (one year before the official primary school entry age) who are attending an early childhood education programme or primary school was 81%, comprising of 82% males and 79.8% females.

4.2.4 Gross early childhood education enrolment ratio in (a) pre-primary education and (b) early childhood educational development.

In 2020 and 2021, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) dropped reaching 45.27%, whereas in 2022 the ECD GER stood at 81.80% (82.45% for males, 81.16% for females). These figures translated to the ECD Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) of 44.15% (44.02% for males, 44.29% for females).

4.3.1: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training by sex.

i. Non-Formal Education

Zimbabwe has prioritised non-formal education with current statistics standing at 91,386 learners (40,181 males, 51,205 females; 44%: 56%) enrolled in non-formal education (NFE) in 2022 at both primary and secondary levels of education.

ii. Number of students taking up Technical Vocational (TECHVOC) learning.

The number of students taking up TECHVOC subjects has increased over the years with 2023 recording 42,420. This is a meaningful increase towards ensuring the participation of youths in formal and non-formal education as compared to 34,230 which was recorded in 2022.

iii. The number of students enrolling in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Colleges of Education and Universities

Table 14: Teacher enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2021	4,927	17,461	22,388
2023	2,894	20,094	22,989

The number of students enrolling in teacher's colleges has recorded an increase from 2021 till 2023. Although this has been a positive notion, the number of males enrolling in teacher's colleges has significantly declined over the years owing to the poor remuneration of the teaching profession.

University enrolment has increased by 69,906 over the past 2 years from 115,352 in 2021 to 185,258 in 2022. This increase has been observed to be mostly contributed to by the high rates of female inclusion in enrolments.

Table 15: Polytechnics enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2021	18,647	14,062	32,709
2022	13,588	10,379	23,967
2023	16,234	10,160	26,394

Polytechnics college enrolment decreased from 32,709 in 2021 to 23,967 attributed to rising demand in critical skill trade areas, although this has been so, an increase of 2,427 has been recorded in 2023.

Table 16: Number of students graduated in critical skill trade areas

Year	Males	Females	Total
2021	21,884	20,999	42,881
2022	21,315	26,536	47,851
2023	21,569	17,668	39,237

The number of students graduating in critical skills areas recorded a 4,970 increase within 2021 and 2022. Although this may be so, 2023 realised a decline in the enrolment numbers by 8,614.

⁴ Non-formal education is a purposeful and systematically organised form of learning that generally occurs outside the formal educational institutions. It is designed to meet the learning needs of educationally disadvantaged persons of different ages and backgrounds, flexible in terms of organisation, time and place and may cover basic and continuing educational programmes to impart basic literacy, including life skills, work skills, general culture, and facilitates lifelong learning and enhancement of earning capabilities for poverty reduction.

Table 17: STEM teacher enrolment

Year	Males	Females	Total
2021	39	111	150
2022	343	587	930
2023	644	1946	2590

Over the years, teacher training institutions had limited Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes resulting in a shortage of STEM teachers which negatively impacted the quality of education within the Zimbabwe's Primary and Secondary schools. To date, there has been an increase in STEM teacher enrolment from 930 in 2022 to 2,590 in 2023.

4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skill by sex.

2022 Census, revealed that national literacy rate was 93.6%. The urban literacy rate of 97% was relatively higher than the 91.2% obtaining in rural area, for regarded population age 15 years and above who had completed at least grade three of primary education. Literacy rate was 95.1% for males and 92.3% for females.

4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

NDS1 and Vision 2030 policies prioritize education for sustainable development, gender equality, and human rights within the education system. Education 5.0 advocates for relevant curricula, teacher education, and student assessment (Zimbabwe Education 5.0 Policy, 2019). Gender parity in education is on track as more females (92%) complete primary education compared to males (86%), but disparities exist between urban and rural completion rates, with significantly lower percentages in rural areas - 86% for primary compared to 97% for urban, 39% for lower secondary compared to 77% for urban, and 6% for upper secondary compared to 29% for urban.

4. a Proportion of schools with access to:

(a) Electricity

All fifty-four (54) Higher and Tertiary Education Institutions have access to electricity. However, this is not the case for primary and secondary schools. The table below summarises electricity access for primary and secondary schools in Zimbabwe, 2022 Primary and Secondary Education Statistics Report.

Table 18:: Electricity access for primary and secondary schools in 2022

Main Electricity Source	Primary		Secondary	
	Number	% Primary	Number	% Secondary
Grid	3851	52.14	1916	61.19
Generator	179	2.42	121	3.86
Solar	786	10.64	270	8.62
Other	79	1.07	22	0.70
Gas Turbine	1	0.01	0	0.00
None	2490	33.71	802	25.61
Grand Total	7386	100.0	3131	100.0

(b) Computers and the internet for pedagogical purposes

Of the 7,386 primary schools in Zimbabwe about a third, (2,247) schools had internet connectivity as of 2022 and the remainder (5,139) did not have. This translates to a connectivity percentage of 30.42%. Internet connectivity ranges from 21.37% in Masvingo to 71.14% in Harare. For secondary schools the situation is better with the region having the least number of schools with internet connectivity being Mashonaland Central at 37.91% and the highest being Bulawayo at 81.44%. The average national internet connectivity at secondary school level stands at 47.49%.

(c) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities

In line with the principle of leaving no-one behind, all new schools are constructed with disability access features. However, a gap remains in schools built before the National Disability Policy (NDP), 2021. Work on this indicator is primarily supported through the School Infrastructure Development Programme, as well as Global Partnership for Education (GPE) support for the upgrading of low-income schools. There are however, challenges in the form of limited resources and this affects progress on the school infrastructure development programme.

Acceleration plans include innovating financing for the accelerated provision of the required additional 3,000 new schools including rehabilitation and expansion of existing school infrastructure.

(d) basic drinking water

Nationally, 88.94 percent of primary and 87.77 percent of secondary schools have access to safe drinking water in 2022, and 98% of higher and tertiary institutions had access to basic drinking water in 2023 compared to 64.2% in 2019. All higher and tertiary education institutions, primary and secondary schools have access to single sex basic sanitation facilities although the user-ratio varies.

4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country.

The figure below summarises the Pupil to Teacher Ratios (PTR) and Pupil to Trained Teacher Ratio (PTTR), according to the 2022 Annual Education Statistics.

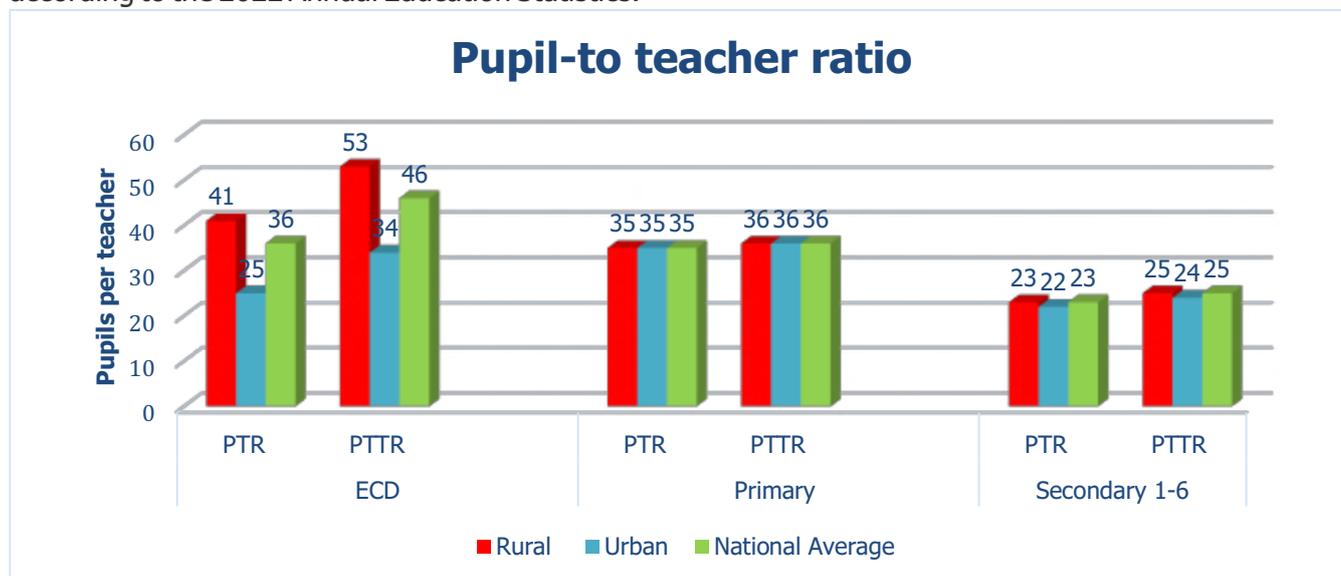


Figure 20: Pupil-to-teacher ratio

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 19: Programmes and projects and interventions - Goal 4

Programmes and Projects	Numbers
Infrastructure Development:	
Construction of teaching and learning facilities	
- primary and secondary new schools	200
- classrooms blocks	1,058
- administration blocks	1,200
- ablution facilities at primary schools	
- Rehabilitation of school infrastructure (including community-based ECD facilities and sustainable, affordable, boarding facilities at rural day schools)	
- Equipping of science laboratories	1,509
- Drilling and rehabilitation of 601 boreholes and water reticulation in schools	601
- Construction of the remaining 4 innovation parks	4
- Innovation parks at Tertiary institutions already constructed	12
- Introduction of technical high schools to spearhead the teaching of technical education, one school in each Province	
Rolling out of assistive devices for persons with disabilities to tertiary institutions	100
Expansion and Enhancement:	
- Registering of satellite schools	
- Establishment of an Open and Distance Learning Centre and Radio lessons platform	
- Strengthening of policies (School Health Policy)	
- Individual profiling of pupils, including health indicators	
- Introduction of sign language in teacher curriculum	
Social Support and Assistance:	
- Education assistance (Basic Education Assistance Module)	
- Low-cost boarding fees	
- Community service fees (Work for fees programme for tertiary institutions)	
- Community fares	32,776

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Introduction

The advancement of gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women and girls is a national development priority reinforced by the country's relatively strong legal framework. This goal seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Its indicators are accelerators of all the other SDGs.

Status

5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.

Zimbabwe's Constitution upholds fundamental human rights, gender equality, and women's rights. Legislative measures mandate gender balance and women's participation in all spheres. The General Laws Amendment Act of 2022 aligned national laws with constitutional provisions on gender equality. Zimbabwe ratified its first United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 National Action Plan in 2023, emphasizing relief, protection, and prevention of violence against women. Laws enacted between 2021-2023 to address violence against women and harmful practices, include:

- Cybercrime & Data Protection Act of 2021, criminalizing online violence.
- Marriages Act of 2022, aligning marriage age with the Constitution and prohibiting child marriages.
- Zimbabwe Labour Amendment Act of 2023, aligning labour laws with International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190, defining Gender Based Violence (GBV) and outlining sanctions for workplace harassment. Government has taken a lead by developing the Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy in 2022.
- Children's Amendment Act of 2023, strengthening children's rights, mandating birth certificates, and providing menstrual hygiene products in detention facilities. This Act strengthens the principle 'of the best interest of the child'⁵ in the country's legal framework.

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months by form of violence and age.

There have been strong national level initiatives to eliminate violence against women and girls and to eradicate harmful practices such as early child and forced marriages and increased awareness among communities on the negative impact of GBV on national development.

Table 20: Physical, sexual and emotional violence

Form of Violence	Ever experienced	Experienced in the past 12 months
Physical violence	37.1	16.3
Sexual violence	9.9	6.0
Emotional	34.2	22.0

Data source: MICS (2019)

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

⁵ In Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC); strengthening the principle in a national law is an illustration of the domestication of an international commitment signed by the State.

Table 21: Persons subjected to sexual violence by source of committing person

Source	Marital Status		Total
	Ever-married	Never-married	
Current husband/ partner	61.6	N/A	55.1
Former husband/ partner	24.8	N/A	22.2
Current/ former boyfriend	3.4	41.5	7.4
Father/Step-father	0.6	4.0	0.9
Brother/ step brother	0.7	2.9	1.0
Other relative	4.4	6.6	4.7
In-law	0.7	Na.	0.7
Own friend/ acquaintance	0.6	2.2	0.8
Family friend	0.7	12.5	1.9
Teacher	0.1	1.2	0.3
Employer/ someone at work	0.3	0.4	0.3
Police/ soldier	0.3	1.7	0.5
Priest/ religious leader	0.9	2.1	1.0
Stranger	4.8	14.8	5.8
Other	1.5	9.6	2.3
Number of women who have experienced sexual violence	1,062	112	1,174

N/A- Not Applicable
Note: even-married women can report up to three perpetrators: a current husband, former husband, or one other person who is not current husband. Never married women can report only person who was first to commit the violence

Source: MICS (2019)

About 13% of never-married women and girls, compared to 0.7% of ever-married women, reported sexual violence perpetrated by family friend and about 15% of never-married women and girls compared to 5% of ever-married women reported sexual violence perpetrated by a stranger⁶.

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.

The 2019 MICS data indicates that 5.4% of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before 15 and 33.7% of the women in this age group were married or in a union before age 18. There were disparities between the rural and urban areas with a higher proportion of rural women in this age group, 8% compared to 2.3% in the urban areas married before age 15.

5.4.1: Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age, and location.

Women's unpaid household and care work falls outside the System of National Accounts (SNA) boundary, but data from the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS) reveals that women spend an average of 14 hours per week caring for children under five and 12 hours per week preparing meals in their own households. This data, however, is not included in quarterly LFCLS surveys.

5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments⁷

Table 22: Women participation in in national parliaments and local governments

Parliament	Men	Women	Total	%W
National Assembly	194	86	280	30.7%
Senate	49	31	80	38.8%
Local Government Councilors	1139	831	1970	42%

Source: Zimbabwe Electoral Commission data (2023)

⁶ MICS 2019

Zimbabwe achieved 30% women in Parliament and 42% in local government through special measures and diverse electoral systems. The Constitution mandates women's representation on Provincial and Metropolitan Councils. Parliamentary representation includes a party-list system and reserved seats where 60 seats in the National Assembly are reserved for women and 10 seats for youths, increasing its size to 280 members. These measures are extended until 2033 by the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 2) Act, 2021. A 30% quota in local government, introduced in the August 2023 elections, raised women's representation from 11% to 42%.

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

As of June 2023, women held 28% of managerial positions in the public sector, with varying proportions across different roles: 29.3% of Permanent Secretaries, 23.5% of Chief Directors, 27.7% of Directors, and 25.5% of Deputy Directors. In the judiciary, women represented 50% of Supreme Court Judges, 36.6% of High Court Judges, 38.4% of Registrars, and 37.6% of Magistrates. Data from the Private Sector is pending verification.

5.6.2 Does Zimbabwe have laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education.

Section 76(1) of the Constitution grants all citizens and permanent residents the right to basic healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare, without restrictions. The Medical Services Amendment Bill of 2022 aligns with this constitutional provision, ensuring access to reproductive healthcare for all. Clause 8 emphasizes parents' obligations to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health services without limitations. The National Health Strategy (NHS) (2021-2025) further ensures equal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, information, and education for individuals aged 15 and above.

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.

ZimStat's 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey revealed that approximately 45% of the agricultural population possess ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, with women slightly lagging behind men. However, over half of agricultural landowners or rights-bearers were women. While a small percentage had documented ownership, both genders showed equal rights to sell and bequeath land, though a higher proportion of men claimed the right to sell.

5.a.2 Does Zimbabwe has legal framework (including customary law) that guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control / Whether or not Zimbabwe has legal framework that guarantees women equal right to land ownership and or/control

The Constitution of Zimbabwe and the National Gender Policy guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

According to the 2022 Population Census a total of 3,335,093 households, constituting 87.3 percent, owned cellular telephones. Mobile cellular devices were owned by the majority in both rural and urban areas. In urban areas, 1,206,536 households, constituting 95.3 percent, owned mobile cellular devices, while on the other hand, 2,128,536 rural households constituting 83.4 percent of the total, owned the same means of communication.

⁷Data as at the end of the 2023 General Elections, Government of Zimbabwe, Leadership Positions in the Public Sector by Sex

5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

In 2007, Zimbabwe adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting to advance gender equality in the public sector and developed Gender Budgeting Guidelines as well as issuing of Gender Sensitive Budget Call Circulars to integrate gender issues into budgetary processes. Gender equality has been prioritized in Budget Strategy Papers and Budget Estimates Books, with Gender Budget Audits conducted and the first National Gender Budget Statement issued in 2022. Public expenditures have increasingly favored gender-sensitive programmes, reaching 65% in 2022.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 23: Programmes, Projects and Interventions- Goal 5

Programme/Project	Description	Key Achievements
High-Level Political Compact on Ending Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices (2021-2030)	Provides an accountability framework for gender equality and women's rights. Includes commitments, plan of action, and M&E framework aligned with SDG 5. Engages multiple stakeholders.	Shared accountability among government, traditional leaders, development partners, civil society, and religious organizations. Signed by President.
Public-Private Sector engagement on GBV & Sexual Harassment at workplaces in Zimbabwe	Addresses high prevalence of GBV in workplaces. Strengthens legal and policy frameworks. Establishes National Strategy for Elimination of Sexual Harassment and GBV. Initiates Model Workplace Programme.	Enactment of Labour Amendment Act, 2023. Development of Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy. Model Workplace Programme reaching over 10,000 workers.
Strengthening Disability Inclusion for the Rights of Women & Girls with Disabilities	Integrates disability inclusion in all SI outcome areas. Supports National Disability Board. Promotes dialogues with government on disability issues. Inclusion in national policy-making processes.	Strategic guidance for National Disability Board. Inclusion of women and girls' rights with disabilities in the National Disability Policy.
Safe Markets for Women	Constructs first Safe Market for Women in Epworth. Integrates women's economic empowerment and GBV prevention. Adoption by Ministry responsible for Women Affairs. Secures funding for additional markets.	Construction of Safe Market with facilities for women. Integration into national Women Economic Empowerment priorities.
Nhanga/Gota/ Ixhiba	Led by First Lady to address GBV and early child marriages. Provides social and economic development opportunities for vulnerable groups. Establishes National GBV Call Centre. Initiates projects for teen mothers and male engagement.	Establishment of National GBV Call Centre. Projects for teen mothers and male engagement.
Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative	Implemented in five provinces with high prevalence of GBV. Reached over 7.9 million beneficiaries. Strengthens GBV service delivery through community models, police and court refurbishments, forensics support, and SOP improvements.	Community-based Shelters for GBV Survivors. Refurbished VFU Police Units and Courts. Support for ZRP's Forensics Lab. Development of SOPs for GBV service providers.

Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative

The Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls (2019-2023)⁸ was implemented in five provinces with high prevalence of GBV and early marriages namely Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South. A cumulative total of 7,930,036 beneficiaries (disaggregation by age and sex below) were reached in the identified 23 most impoverished districts.

Cumulative beneficiaries

Table 24: Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative beneficiaries

Category	Beneficiaries	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	3,496,084	Prevention and Access to Essential Quality Services
Girls (5-17)	1,433,389	Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Schools
Men (18 yrs. and above)	2,092,582	Prevention; changing gender and social norms; engaging men as champions.
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	907,981	Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools
TOTAL	7,930,036	

Economic empowerment initiatives

Economic empowerment initiatives include the Women's Development Fund and the Zimbabwe Women Micro-Finance Bank, alongside grassroots loan facilities targeting women in various sectors. The Women's Empowerment Clubs initiative has trained over 900 women in diverse skills, with 125 clubs established by April 2023, spanning different regions and sectors.

Table 25: Economic empowerment Initiatives

Province	No. of clubs	No. of women trained
Bulawayo	16	269
Mashonaland East	61	365
Matabeleland North	22	245
Midlands	26	87
TOTAL	125	966

⁸ The Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls is a partnership between the UN and European Union, funded by the European Union. Zimbabwe was one of the eight African countries chosen to participate in the initiative, and the country programme received \$US30 million from the European Union. The HLPC provides a strong basis in its Plan of Action for sustaining the gains of the Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative.

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Introduction

Zimbabwe's water, sanitation, and hygiene sector operates under the guidance of an inter-ministerial committee known as the National Action Committee (NAC) on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). The NAC serves as the focal point for coordinating and overseeing WASH initiatives, aligning them with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1).

Status

6.1.1 Water availability for productive use

For the 4th quarter of 2023, water availability for productive use was fairly adequate except for Harare metropolitan province see . The situation of dam levels is likely to worsen due to the current El Nino affecting the country.

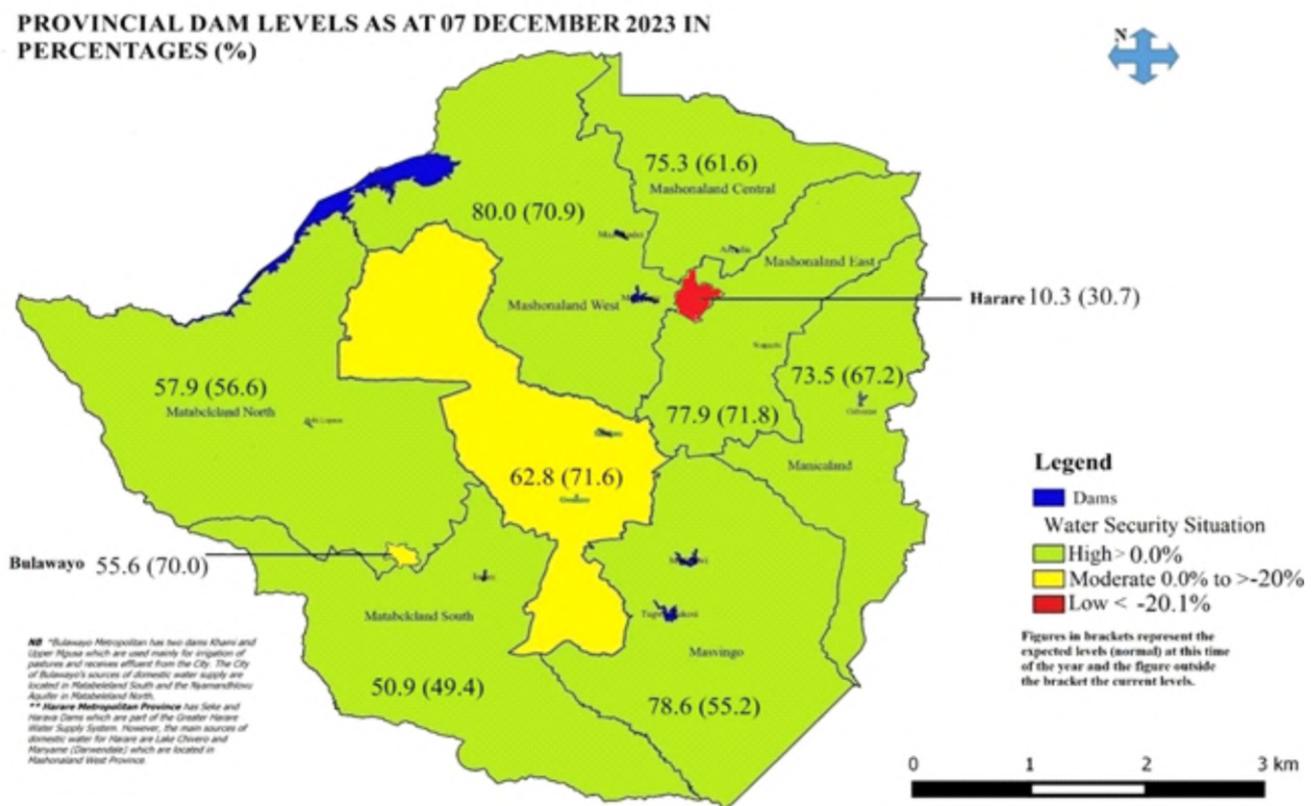


Figure 21: Summary of water security situation in Zimbabwe

6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed water services.

The 2022 Population and Housing Census Report states that Zimbabwe has 3,794,739 households. Subsequently, 27% (1,024,211) households have access to safely managed water services. Urban areas fare better with 55% access (805,623) households, while rural areas lag at 13% (302,896) households. This urban-rural gap underscores the necessity for rural-focused interventions to ensure equitable access to safe water (Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2023 report).

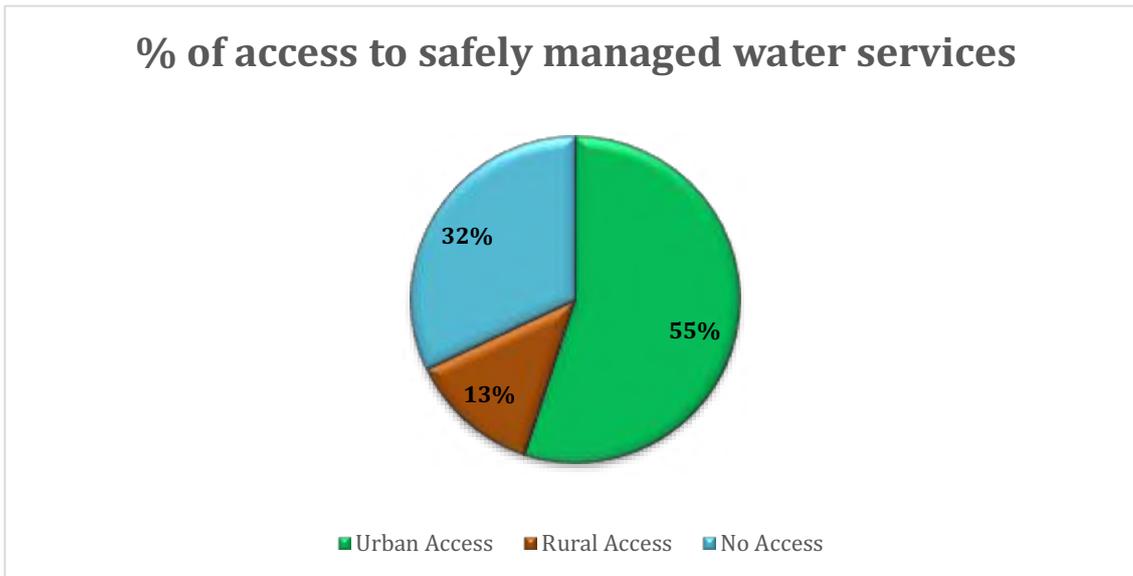


Figure 22: Proportion of households with access to safely managed water

6.2.1.a. Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

The 2022 Population and Housing Census Report reveals that nationally, 32% of households have access to safely managed sanitation services, totalling 1,138,421 households. Urban areas show slightly higher access at 35% (512,593 households out of 1,464,769). Conversely, rural areas, where the majority reside, have 30% access (698,991 out of 2,329,970 households).

6.2.1.b. Proportion of population using handwashing facilities with soap and water

Zimbabwe's effort to promote good hygiene practices hinges on access to handwashing facilities. The JMP 2023 report reveals that at the national level, 42% (1,591,678) households have access to handwashing facilities with soap and water against a total of 3,794,793 households. In urban areas, 56% of households have access, whereas in rural areas, the figure stands at 36%.

6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

Zimbabwe maintains a robust oversight mechanism on its major rivers, including the Runde, Mzingwane, Gwayi, Sanyati, Manyame, Mazowe, and Save, using a network of 346 monitoring points and conducts monthly monitoring to track water quality. A total of 71.4% of these rivers, five out of seven, exhibit good water quality. However, urban proximity affects the ambiance of Gwayi and Manyame rivers negatively.



6.4.1 Change in water use efficiency over time

Water-use efficiency, calculated as the ratio of the dollar value added to the volume of water utilized, encompasses all economic sectors, particularly agriculture, industry, and services. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Aquastats (2020) reported a value of \$4.37 per cubic meter for water, with the next survey slated for 2025 after a five-year interval.

6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resource

The indicator tracks the quantity and timing of freshwater flows required to sustain freshwater ecosystems and the human livelihoods and wellbeing that depend on them. The baseline value for the year 2020, according to FAO Aquastats, was 35.41%.

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)

According to the Zimbabwe Report on global SDG 6.5.1 (2020) the country scored 63 out of 100 in terms of implementing integrated water resources management in 2020 and 2023. To enhance integrated water resources management and stakeholder participation, the country established catchment councils and sub-catchment councils. Zimbabwe has seven water catchment councils namely Runde, Gwayi, Manyame, Umzingwane, Mazoe, Save and Sanyati.

6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Zimbabwe has significantly bolstered its transboundary water cooperation by participating in three key commissions: the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), and the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save (BUPUSA) commission. The cooperation level increased from 69.9% in 2020 to 90.4% in 2022, measured by joint activities among member states.

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission oversees the Zambezi River Basin, comprising eight Riparian States, to ensure benefits from transboundary water cooperation. The Limpopo Watercourse Commission coordinates water issues among Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, emphasizing conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater resources. BUPUSA manages water resources within the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save River Basins, shared exclusively by Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

6.6: By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

There was a 12% change (3,489.35 km²) in the extent of water-related ecosystems by 2020, with the next survey scheduled for 2025 after a 5-year interval (UNEP, 2020). The ongoing programmes being implemented include Ambient Water Quality Monitoring, Wetlands Monitoring Programmes, and Biomonitoring Programmes.

6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan.

Zimbabwe's National budget statement (2024) revealed that development partner support towards WASH was US\$8,095,143 in 2023. However, this was a decline from US\$12.1 million recorded in 2022. The National Budget is the main source of financing for the WASH Sector, particularly infrastructure, averaging 90% of WASH expenditures.

6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management.

Zimbabwe's water, sanitation and hygiene sector is coordinated by an inter- ministerial committee, the

National Action Committee (NAC) on WASH. The NAC superintends over the three subcommittees of Rural WASH, Urban WASH and Water Resources Management and is replicated at provincial, district and sub-district levels by provincial and district and sub-district WASH committees whose structure is shown below:

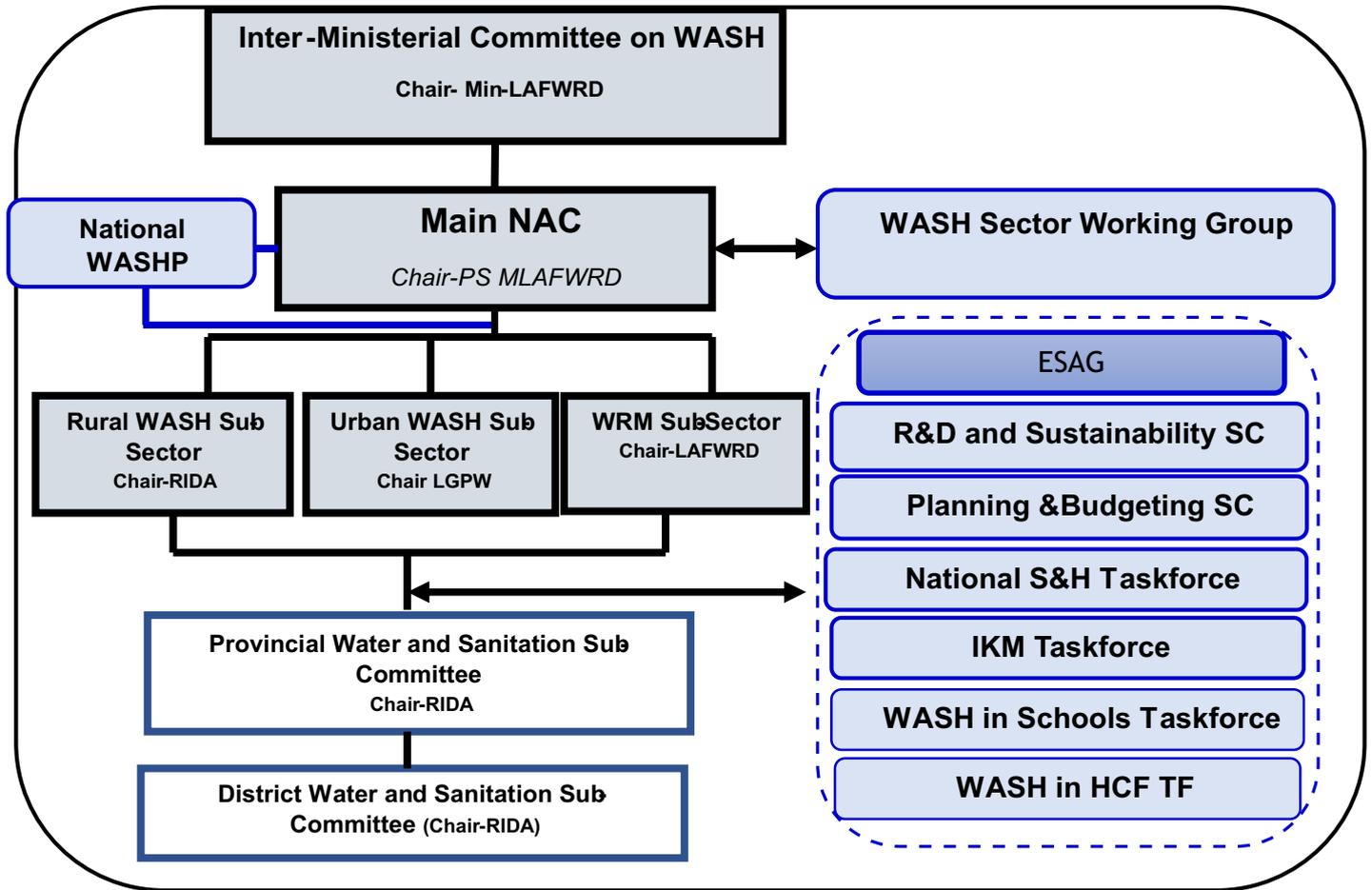


Figure 23: National Action Committee

Major programmes/ projects and interventions



Figure 24: Borehole drilling programmes

Borehole Drilling Programme

Table 26: Borehole Drilling Programme

Programme	Number of boreholes as of Dec 2023
Presidential Rural Development Programme targeting 35,000 community and 10,000 school boreholes by 2025 and upgrading of existing high-yielding boreholes into solar powered piped water schemes.	2,707
Chinese Aid	500
RIDA	189
Ministry Of Primary & Secondary Education	354
Total	3,750

Major Dams Construction Projects as at December 2023

Table 27: Major dam constructions projects

		Name of Dam	Capacity Million M ³
Manicaland	Buhera	Marovanyati	50
Mash East	Marondera	Muchekeranwa	75
	Chivhu	Chivhu	26
	Murehwa	Kunzvi	147
Mat North	Hwange/Binga	Gwayi-Shangani	691.1
	Nkayi	Ziminya	94
Mash Central	Rushinga	Senwa	260
	Bindura	Bindura	100
	Guruve	Dande	160
Midlands	Vungu	Vungu	118
	Gokwe-North	Defe	18
Total			1,739.1

Solar Powered Piped Water Schemes

The government has established over 500 solar piped water schemes, benefitting over 2,500,000 people.

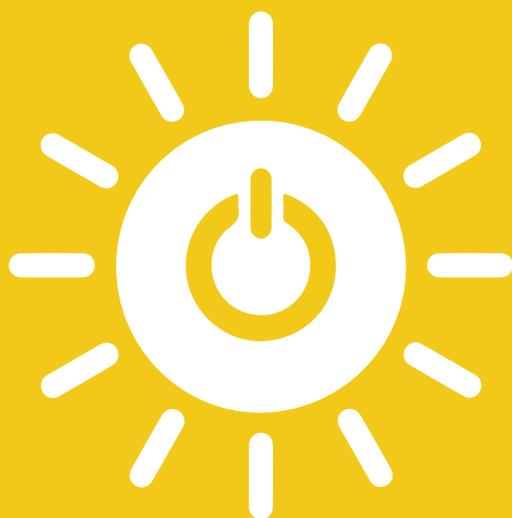
Sanitation and Hygiene

- Promotion of handwashing facilities in schools and health facilities
- Presidential Clean Up Campaigns



Figure 25: Clean up campaigns

7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Introduction

The government is cognisant of the fact that in order to achieve its development goals, adequate energy has to be made available. Energy services are needed to sustain development in all aspects of human activities be they social such as poverty alleviation, provision of food, and provision of education services, or economic activities such as manufacturing, farming and mining. The Government has a task to facilitate the development of energy and power infrastructure and the provision of efficient, adequate, safe and reliable energy services in order to facilitate sustainable economic and social development.

There has been a deliberate move to further promote the use of renewable energy and intensification of the rural electrification programme in schools, clinics, business centres and irrigation schemes. New power supply projects to cater for additional requirements of the growing economy have been licenced for both the public and private sectors. According to the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) records as at 18 February 2024, one hundred and forty (140) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) projects have been licenced to generate electricity from solar PV, mini-hydro, clean coal-fired thermal, bagasse thermal, natural gas fired, biomass (CHP), Coalbed methane (CBM) gas and concentrated solar power (CSP). These have a total installed capacity of 6,943.8MW. Operational projects have a total installed capacity of 222.58MW. Projects under commissioning have an installed capacity of 3.64MW. Projects under construction have an installed capacity of 1,394.75MW. Projects on hold have an installed of 25MW and those at preparation stage have a capacity of 5,297.87MW.

Status

7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity

National access to electricity in 2022 was 62% (Population and Housing Census 2022), up from 49 % in 2021 and 53% in 2020 (<https://www.worldbank.org>zimbabwe>publication>)

The 2022 Population and Housing Census indicated that 1,286,808 households, accounting for 33.7 % used grid electricity, 1,078,308 households constituting 28.3% used off-grid electricity while 1,453,618 households constituting 38% of the total population did not have electricity.

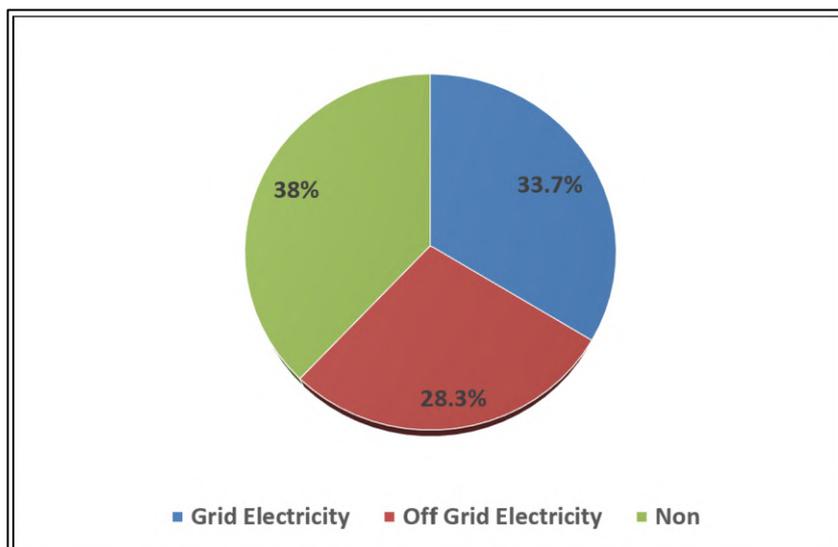


Figure 26: Energy Access in Zimbabwe

Of the households that indicated use of grid electricity, 76.6 % were in urban areas compared to 23.4 % in rural areas. For off-grid electricity, 87.4 % were in rural areas while 12.6 % were in urban areas. For households that did not have electricity, 91.1 % were in rural areas compared to 9.9 % in urban areas.

Of the households that indicated use of grid electricity, 76.6 % were in urban areas compared to 23.4 % in rural areas. For off-grid electricity, 87.4 % were in rural areas while 12.6 % were in urban areas. For households that did not have electricity, 91.1 % were in rural areas compared to 9.9 % in urban areas.

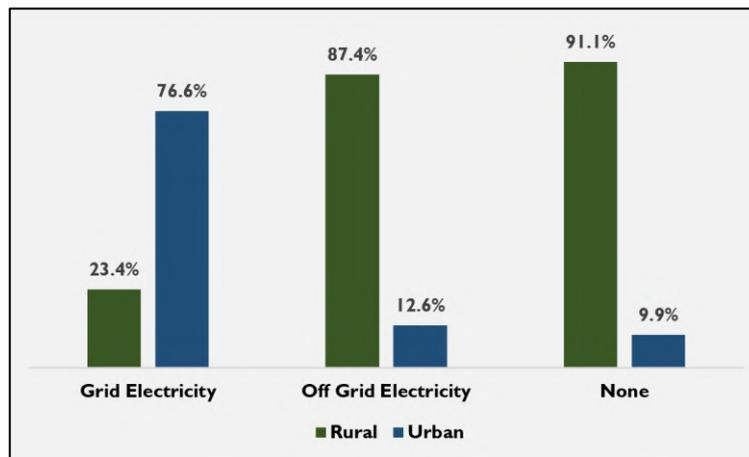


Figure 27: Proportion of Rural and Urban Energy access population

7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

The distribution of households by main source of energy for lighting indicates that a total of 3,482,057 households, constituting 91.2 % of the total, used clean fuels for lighting (Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2022). Clean fuels included electricity, solar lanterns, battery powered flashlights, cell phone flashlight, torches, biogas and LPG lamps. 291,931 households, constituting 7.6 % used polluting fuels for lighting, which included firewood, paraffin lamps, grass/straws, and oil lamps. The remaining 44,746 households accounting for 1.2 % used no lighting.

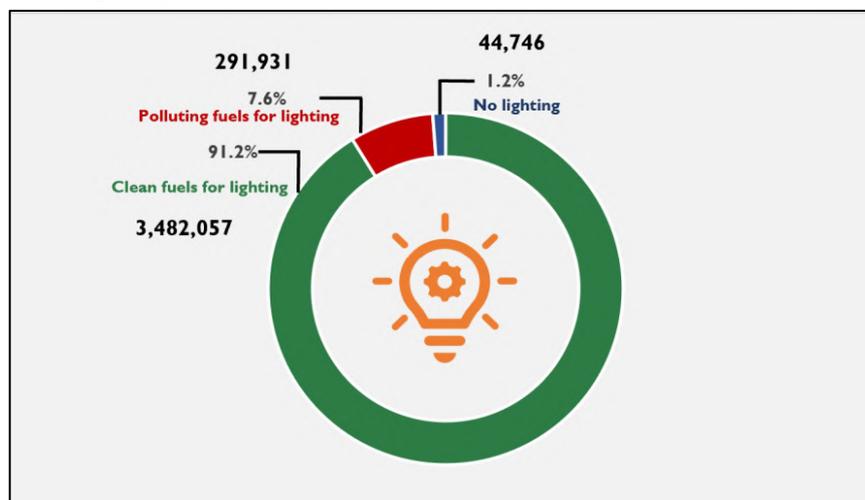


Figure 28: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

A proportion of 93.9 %, of households in urban areas used clean fuels for lighting compared to 89.3 % in rural areas.

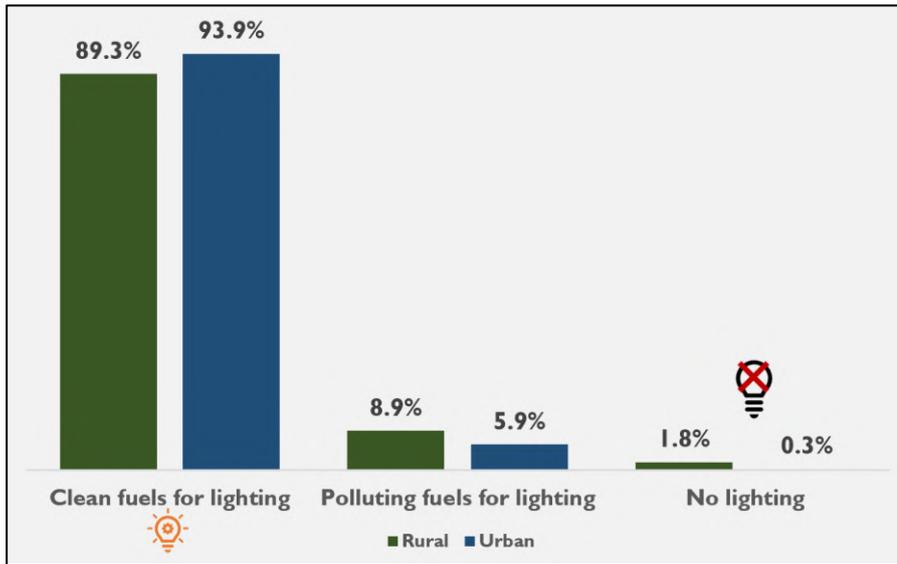


Figure 29: Proportion of rural and urban population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

Most households, 2,314,523, constituting 60.6 %, used firewood for cooking, 1,475,347 households representing 38.6 % used clean fuels, 18,372 households constituting 0.5 % used solid fuels such as coal, charcoal, animal dung, 5,867 households, constituting 0.2 % used paraffin while the remaining 4,625 households accounting for 0.1 % did not cook. While in urban areas, the major source of energy for cooking was clean energy (83.7%), in rural areas the major source was firewood (92.9%).

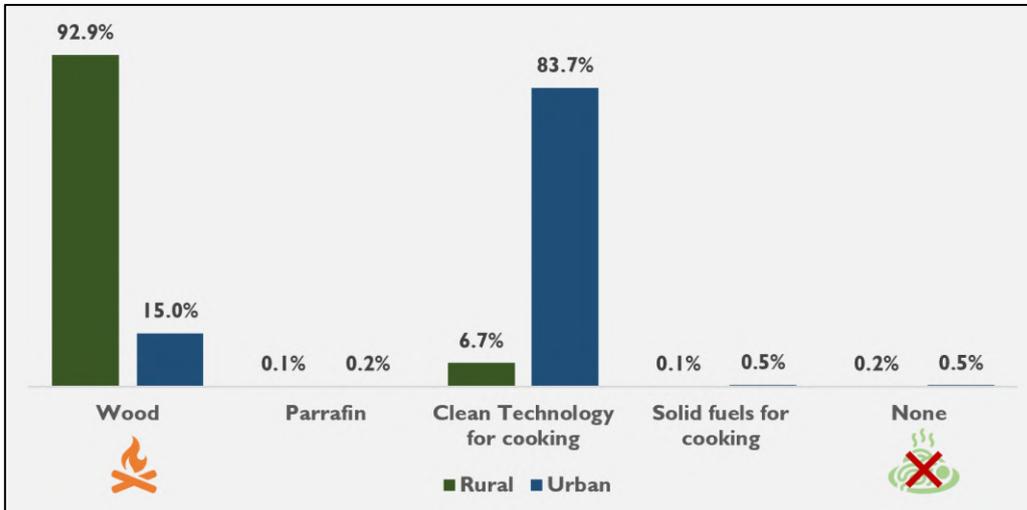


Figure 30: Rural and Urban use of different energy fuels

7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

The goals of the Renewable Energy Policy of 2019 are to increase access to clean and affordable energy through addition of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity to 1,100 MW by the year 2025 or 16.5% of the total generation from RE sources, whichever is higher; and 2,100 MW by the year 2030 or 26.5% of total generation from RE sources, whichever is higher.

Basing on ZERA statistics, the cumulative installed capacity of renewable energy as at 31 December 2022 was 149.53MW excluding large-scale hydropower, which contributes 1050 MW to the grid. The contribution of RE projects excluding large scale hydropower to the installed electricity supply mix in 2022 was about 6.89%.

Government is installing 8 solar mini-grid systems (60kW -200kW) at rural community irrigation schemes, rural business centres, rural schools and clinics, through the Rural Electrification Programme funded from the 6% levy charged on all electricity consumers. Development partners are also installing solar micro-grid systems (5-20kW) at schools, clinics (Solar for Health Project) and irrigation schemes. In 2023, a total of 600kW were installed at 151 primary schools in 5 districts (Buhera, Chipinge, Nyanga, Beitbridge and Insiza), and 420 kW at 3 community projects in Chipinge, Dete and Mashaba in Gwanda. These were funded by development partners.

As at 31 December 2023, renewable energy projects contributed a cumulative 172.56 MW (6.21%) to the total energy mix (ZERA). The decrease from the 2022 figure was a result of the commissioning of Hwange units 7 & 8 in mid-2023 which added a significant 600MW non-renewable power to the grid, (www.zera.co.zw).

Government has taken the decision to support all eligible Independent Power Producers to source funding from local and international financiers by guaranteeing the projects during their lifespan. This Guarantee is restricted to solar Photovoltaic (PV) projects since solar is deployed faster than any other technology. This will be extended to RE projects in future.

7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

According to World Bank Open Data (2023), Zimbabwe's energy intensity level of primary energy expressed in Mega Joules per US Dollar of GDP in 2017 evolved as shown in the graph below between 2014 and 2020. In 2020, the energy intensity level was 13.71, up from 13.4 in 2019 and 12.82 in 2018.

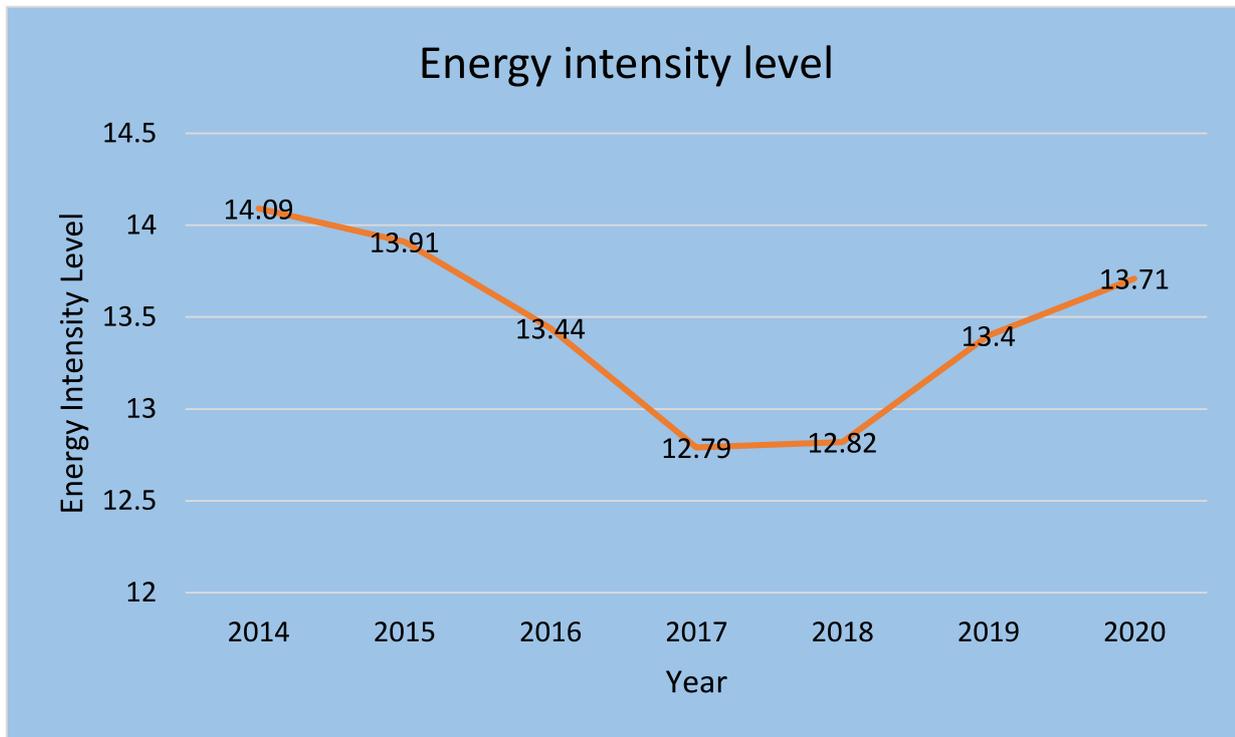


Figure 31: Zimbabwe's energy intensity level

7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems

In 2022 and 2023, the energy sector received development partner support from:

1. UNDP Energy Offer-US\$1.5 million
2. AfDB Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF)-US\$ 1.5million.
3. Climate, Adaptation, Water, Energy Programme (CAWEP)-US\$14 million

The UNDP Energy Offer and CAWEP investment funds are meant to develop sustainable energy sources. The energy component of the programme would improve access to clean and affordable energy to support economic activities with the intention of supporting more sustainable livelihoods. The AfDB Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF) supported the development of procurement documents, standard Power Purchase Agreement and Government Guarantee to support the IPPs in case the off taker defaults in paying for the electricity supplied to it.

Innovative approaches and good practices adopted

- Development of the Government Project Support and Implementation Agreement (GPSIA). This is basically Government Guarantee to provide stipulated incentives and liquidity support to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in case the electricity off-taker defaults in payments. The Guarantee seeks to attract private investors in the renewable energy sector. The support is confined to solar power generation projects and will be extended to other renewable energy technologies such as mini-hydro once the pilot phase is done. Drafting of the Standard Bidding Document, Standard Power Purchase Agreement and RBZ Undertaking has been done with financial and technical support from the African Union's Africa Legal Support Facility (ALSF).
- Climate, Adaptation, Water and Energy Project (CAWEP). It is a US\$14 million project to support development in energy, water, agriculture and climate resilience initiatives.
- Adoption and implementation of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) in refrigeration and manufacturing sectors in SADC countries. These standards were adopted in 2022.

Opportunities

- **Investments in renewable energy** by private sector and international investors, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power initiatives, which not only contribute to sustainability but also provide reliable and affordable energy sources.
- **Participation in Regional Power Markets:** Zimbabwe can leverage its membership in the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) to trade power regionally.
- **Third Party Access to the transmission and distribution network** can facilitate increased competition and efficiency in the energy sector. This could lead to improved service delivery and reduced costs for consumers.
- **Establishment of Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)** presents an opportunity to promote energy efficiency initiatives. These companies can offer services such as energy audits, retrofitting, and implementation of energy-saving technologies, thereby reducing overall energy consumption and costs.
- **Adoption of Micro Solar Systems:** Encouraging the adoption of micro solar systems in homesteads can significantly expand access to clean energy, particularly in rural areas. These systems provide households with a reliable source of electricity for lighting, cooking, and other basic needs, contributing to improved living standards and economic opportunities.
- Development of an integrated resource plan

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

The Government commissioned Hwange Thermal Expansion Project (600MW) to serve as a base load supplier. Fifty (50) power plants were developed by IPPs with a total installed capacity of 222.56MW. They are all operational. Major power plants in terms of capacity are listed below.

Table 28: Major programmes/ projects and interventions - goal 7

Power Station	Capacity	Off Taker
Hwange Units 7 & 8 Thermal Power Station	600MW	ZETDC
Zhongxin Thermal Power Station	50MW	ZETDC
Ratelshoek Solar Power Plant	1.8MW	Own Consumption
Tingamira Estates Solar Power Plant	1.2MW	Own Consumption
Jersey Estates Solar Power Plant	1.4MW	Own Consumption
Tsanga A Mini-hydropower Station	3.84MW	ZETDC
Centragrid Solar Power Plant	2MW	ZETDC
Cross Mabale Solar Power Plant	5MW	ZETDC
Turk mine Solar Power Plant	4.4MW	Own Consumption
Durlstone Farm Solar Power Plant	1MW	Own Consumption
Sunset Solar Park	1.3MW	ZETDC
Blanket Mine Solar Power Plant	12.2MW	Own Consumption
Guruve solar Park	1.2MW	ZETDC
Pungwe A Minihydro Power plant	2.75MW	ZETDC
Schweppes Harare Solar Plant	MW	Own Consumption
Riverside Solar Power plant	2.5MW	ZETDC
Duru Munihydro Power Plant	2.2MW	ZETDC
Kupinga Minihydropower Plant	1.6MW	ZETDC
Nyamingura Minihydropower Plant	1.1MW	ZETDC
Tsanga B Minihydropower Plant	2.67MW	ZETDC
Hauna Minihydropower Plant	2.3MW	ZETDC
Pungwe C Minihydropower Plant	3.72MW	ZETDC
Pungwe B Minihydropower Plant	15.25MW	ZETDC
Green Fuel Cogeneration Plant	18.3MW	Own Consumption
Hippo Valley Estate Cogeneration Plant	39MW	Own Consumption
Triangle Estate Cogeneration Plant	35MW	Own Consumption

8

**DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH**



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Introduction

Zimbabwe recorded 8.5% and 6.5% growth in 2021 and 2022 respectively. This is primarily driven by reforms and policy implementation efforts that have boosted sectors like agriculture and manufacturing and sustenance of social dialogue to promote macroeconomic stability. Efforts to advance the decent work agenda through the Decent Work Country Programme (2022-2026) and operationalisation of Tripartite Negotiating Forum aim to analyse policies' impact on the labour market and propose solutions. Establishment of new stock exchanges Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX) and Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX), and other initiatives to improve the investment climate have attracted investments, driving sustainable economic growth. The ZMX facilitates commodity trading through warehouse receipts, and the VFEX focused on Offshore Financial Services. Automated platforms were introduced for immediate commodity trading, bolstering investment opportunities. Government initiatives, like social dialogue and ease of business measures, catalysed investment, crucial for sustainable economic growth.

Status

8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita.

During the first half of NDS 1 implementation, there was an improvement in overall economic performance, with real GDP growing by 8.5% in 2021 and 6.5% in 2022. In 2023, the Zimbabwean economy is estimated to have grown by 5.5%, slightly surpassing the initial projection of 5.3%, primarily due to better-than-expected output in agriculture, especially tobacco, wheat, and cotton. However, due to anticipated impacts of an El-Nino induced drought forecasted for the 2023/24 summer cropping season and declining mineral commodity prices, the growth rate is expected to slow down to 3.5% in 2024.

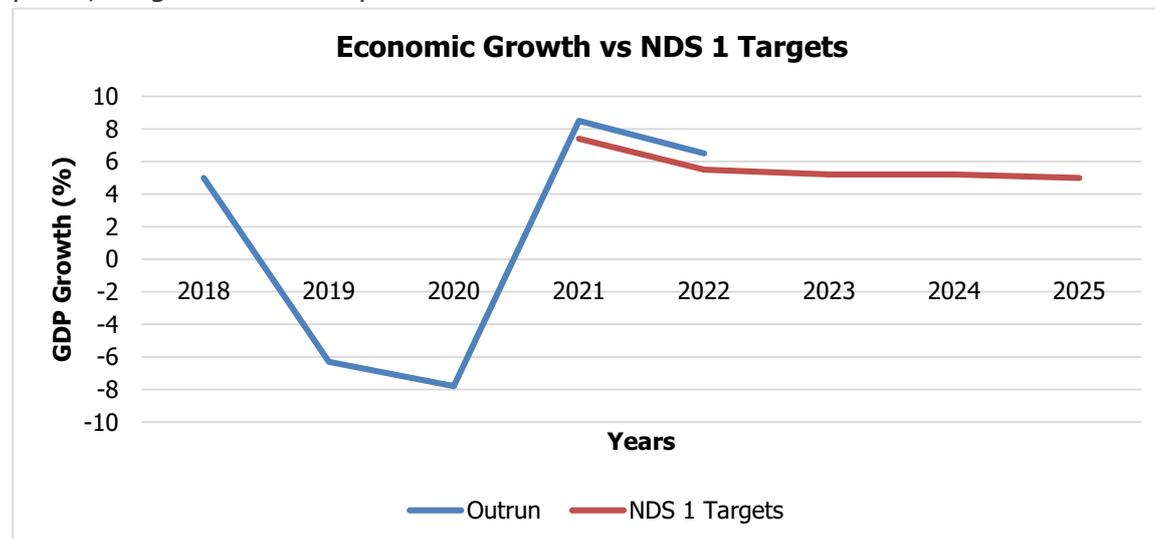


Figure 32: Annual real GDP growth rates and NDS1 targets

Source: ZIMSTAT and NDS 1.

8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex.

According to Zimbabwe Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2023 fourth quarter report, of the total employment 43.7% was informally employed. More females were reported to be informally unemployed (45.8%) relative to their male (42.3%) counterparts. Closely related to this indicator is the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment. There has been a reduction in the percentage of informal employment in non-agricultural employment as a result of various programmes being implemented under NDS 1 across the economy's non-agricultural sectors. According to the Labour Force Survey, in 2022 the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment decreased from 77.5% in 2016 to 75.3% in 2022.

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities.

The total unemployment rate slightly increased from 19.7% in 2016 to 20% in 2022 and 20.7% in 2023 whilst unemployment rate by disability increased from 13.8% in 2016 to 18.59% in 2022 according to Labour Force Survey. The diagram below shows the 2023 fourth quarter Labour Force Survey results where more female (22.8%) were unemployed as compared male (19.2%) counterparts.

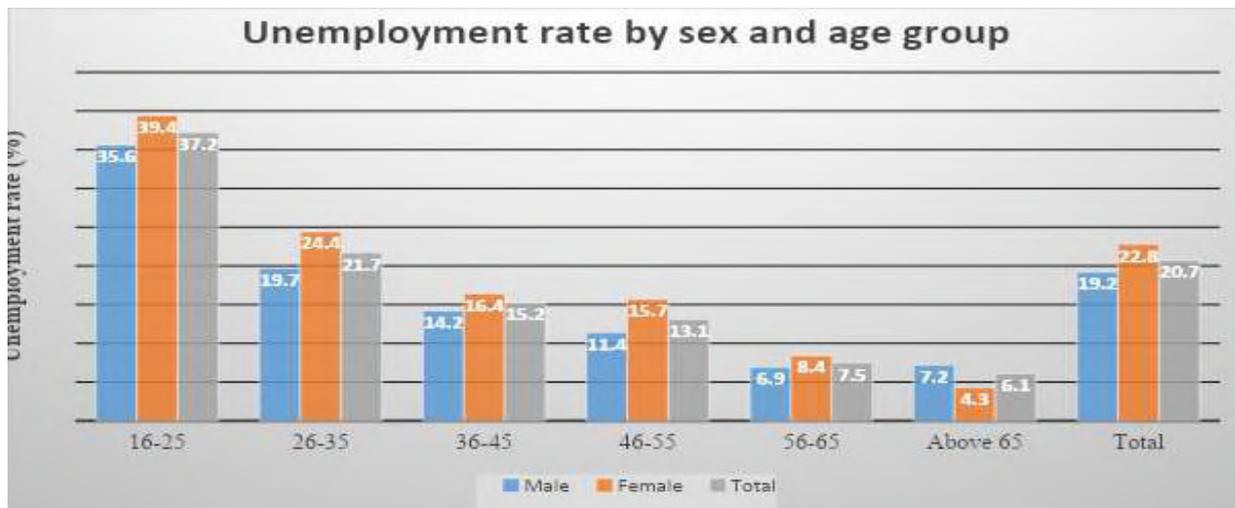


Figure 33: Unemployment rate sex and age group

Source: Zimbabwe 2023 Fourth Quarter Labour Force Survey

The proportion of unemployment rate was higher in the 16-25-year age group followed by the 26-35-year age group. This shows that the unemployment rate is more prevalent amongst the youth.

8.6.1 Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training.

The 2014 Labour Force Survey (LFS) reported that about 27% of youth were not in education, employment or training, while, it was 23% and 31% for males and females respectively. According to the 2019 LFCLS the proportion increased to about 45%, with the proportion for males reported at 37% while for females it was approximately 53%. The 2022 Population and Housing Census, showed that the proportion of youth not in education, employment or training was found to be 47.6%.

8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age.

The 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey results showed that out of the 4.2 million children aged between 5-14 years, approximately 1% were estimated to be in child labour. The probability of engaging in child labour activities was higher for boys relative to girls. In terms of non-economic child labour, 0.16% were engaged in caring for other children in own household, while 0.07% were engaged in food preparation for at least 35 hours per week. Girls were most likely to be involved in non-economic child labour than boys.

8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100, 000 workers, by sex and migrant status

Number of recorded work-related fatalities decreased from 88 in 2020 to 76 in 2022, before further declining to 57 in 2023. The injury incident rate slightly increased from 4.5 in 2020 to 4.6 in 2021, however in 2022 the rate fell to 4.3.

8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organisation (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

The Zimbabwean government has significantly advanced labor rights compliance, emphasizing freedom of association and collective bargaining through extensive legislative reforms and institutional strengthening. Recent years have seen a labor reform journey aimed at aligning statutes with constitutional provisions and global standards, exemplified by harmonizing key legislative instruments like the Labour Act, Public Service Act, and Health Services Act. This effort underscores the constitutional right to freely join trade unions. Simplified registration processes for federations, associations, and unions aim to enhance accessibility. Mandated National Employment Councils (NECs) facilitate collective bargaining, with 45 NECs currently established. Adherence to constitutional principles, particularly against discrimination, ensures inclusivity and equity in labor laws. Challenges persist, with ongoing issues highlighted by the Direct Contact Mission (DCM) in 2022, prompting government efforts to align with International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions and address reported concerns, including arrests and unresolved compensation. Efforts to enhance understanding of the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act (MOPA) through workshops aim to minimize conflicts, yet continued engagement and monitoring are deemed necessary.

8.9.1 Direct tourism as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate.

Despite lacking sufficient data, the contribution of the accommodation and food services sectors to GDP increased from 1.4% in 2021 to an estimated 1.7% in 2023, falling short of the 10% target by 2030 outlined in the National Tourism Policy. Despite its modest GDP contribution, the sector showed robust growth rates of 23.7% and 12.1% in 2021 and 2022 respectively, with expectations of continued growth at 6.9% in 2024. This growth was evidenced by improved bed occupancy rates and increased customer counts at restaurants. Government interventions, including those under NDS1, have spurred interest from international tourists and enhanced accessibility to Zimbabwe.

8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.

The implementation of NFIS II in Zimbabwe has led to significant improvements in financial access. There are now approximately 6 commercial bank branches and 5 automated teller machines per 100,000 adults, as reported by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Regulatory Returns (2023). This demonstrates NFIS II's role in enhancing the capacity of domestic institutions to provide financial services to the population. Additionally, efforts by the Central Bank to promote a cash-lite policy are evident in the increase of Point of Sale Machines (POS) per 100,000 adults from about 1,670 in 2022 to 1,675 in 2023. Further, in terms of accessibility, 22% of adults in Zimbabwe are able to access financial institutions in less than 30 minutes (FinScope, 2022). This implies that financial institutions remain less accessible especially amongst the rural populace whereby only 5% can reach Bank/ATM/POS in less than 30 minutes.

8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

The rise in adults holding bank or mobile money accounts from 69% in 2014 to 83% in 2022 underscores the success of Central Bank initiatives in bolstering financial access. Concurrently, FinScope Consumer Survey (2022) data reveals a significant uptick in banked adults in Zimbabwe, surging from 2.08 million (30% of the population) in 2011 to 3.27 million (46% of the population) in 2022. This surge signifies an expanding banking sphere and has contributed to elevating financial inclusion from 77% in 2014 to 88% in 2022. Such trends reflect the efficacy of efforts aimed at integrating more individuals into the formal financial sector, ultimately benefiting the economy and promoting broader access to essential banking services for Zimbabwean adults.

8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements.

Zimbabwe received a total of US\$549.8 million during the period January – September 2023 compared to US\$638.3 million over the same period in 2022, as development assistance. The resources were channelled to support different developmental programmes and projects in the various sectors of the economy which will enable the country to integrate into the global economy and therefore benefit from trade opportunities. The development partners' support is projected at US\$638 million for the year 2024 according to the 2024 National Budget Statement.

8.b.1 Existence of a developed operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy.

Several national strategies are currently being implemented in the country to enhance youth employment and empowerment, including the National Skills for Employment Strategy (2021-2025) and the National Youth Economic Empowerment Strategy (2021-2026).

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 29: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 8

Programme/Project	Description
Fiscal and Monetary Policy Measures	Implementation of policy instruments for stability, fiscal, and monetary measures, aimed at insulating real growth from cyclical patterns and attracting investment.
Vision 2030 Initiatives	Investing in infrastructure development (roads, energy, telecommunications) to improve connectivity and attract investments.
Power Generation Projects	Projects aimed at improving power supply including Hwange Expansion, Deka Upgradation, and Batoka Hydro Power Project.
Road Rehabilitation Programmes	Expanding road rehabilitation efforts under Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme 2 (ERRP) targeting urban and rural roads.
National Financial Inclusion Strategy II (2022-2026)	Coordinated actions to achieve financial inclusion objectives, targeting various demographics including women, youth, and MSMEs.
Debt Restructuring	Structured debt and arrears clearance platform to address the country's debt problems.
MSMEs, Women and Youth Empowerment Programmes	Interventions including technical support, empowerment loans, and training programmes for youth, women, and MSMEs.
Tourism Recovery and Growth	Implementation of the National Tourism Recovery and Growth Strategy, hosting major events, and private sector investments in the tourism industry.
Labour Programmes	Initiatives such as the Zimbabwe National Productivity Board, Migrant Labour Policy, SI 162/2023 (Compensation for loss of pre-2009 value of pensions), Labour Management Information System, and skill anticipation programmes.

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 9 aims to boost inclusive and sustainable industrialization, emphasizing increasing manufacturing's GDP share and employment, fostering innovation, and enhancing infrastructure. Despite progress, challenges hinder implementation. Recent years saw investment in road construction, technology access, and industrial activities, but inadequate infrastructure, limited tech access, and global commodity price fluctuations pose obstacles. Zimbabwe's TSP (2018-2020) and NDS1 (2021-2025) prioritize infrastructure, technology transfer, and skills anticipation and training to unlock industrial potential and drive inclusive economic growth. Focus is on developing quality, resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human wellbeing, ensuring equitable access for all.

Status

9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

The government initiated the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme (ERRP) to tackle road infrastructure challenges, aligning with NDS 1 and Vision 2030. Road construction and maintenance adhere to Southern African Transport and Communication Commission (SATCC) standards for regional harmony and safety. By December 2022, over 24,700 km of roads were rehabilitated, with an additional 11,355 km planned for January to June 2023, totalling over 36,000 km. However, adverse weather conditions have posed ongoing vulnerability to infrastructure.

9.1.2 Passenger volumes, by mode of transport

Government is committed to enhancing transportation infrastructure, focusing on modernizing aviation, rail, and road networks.

Aviation: significant upgrades have been made to Robert Gabriel Mugabe (RGM) International Airport, allowing it to accommodate up to 6 million passengers annually. Data from December 2022 reveals substantial international and domestic passenger traffic, with 1,303,929 international passengers and 256,241 domestic passengers, along with 7,846 tonnes of import cargo and 7,141 tonnes of export cargo. In the first half of 2023, the airport served 694,863 international passengers, 125,105 domestic passengers, and handled 5,906 tonnes of import cargo and 4,069 tonnes of export cargo.

Rail: sector improvements were sought through strategic partnerships, with the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) responsible for maintaining rail networks, signaling, and rolling stock. By December 2022, urban passenger traffic via rail had reached 1,347,435. However, city-to-city rail services proved to be unsustainable.

Under **roads**, assessing passenger movement was complicated due to lack of data, necessitated by the increased involvement of the informal sector.

9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita

The manufacturing sector contributes 10.8% to GDP in the 2024 National Budget, with a modest growth forecast of 2.2% in 2023 and a decline to 1.6% in 2024 due to anticipated challenges in agricultural output as a result of the El-Nino induced drought and depressed global prices. Capacity utilization has improved despite the sector's declining contribution to GDP, as indicated by the graph.

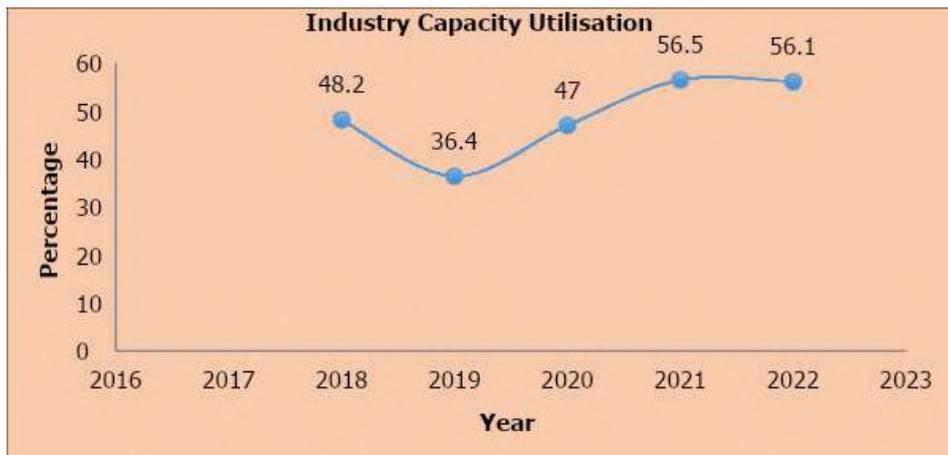


Figure 34: Industry Capacity Utilisation

Improvement in capacity utilization is credited to government support measures and industry revitalization efforts. This led to a 22% increase in the export of value-added products, from US\$366.5 million in 2022 to US\$448.7 million in 2023. The processed foods sub-sector saw significant growth, reaching US\$106 million in 2023 from US\$74 million in 2022, marking a 43% increase. With ongoing export promotion initiatives, further growth in manufactured exports is anticipated. Additionally, the implementation of the Local Content Strategy boosted the shelf-space occupancy of locally manufactured goods in retail outlets from 55% in 2021 to 80% in 2023.

9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment.

The Zimstat Labour Force 3rd Quarter Survey Report showed that the manufacturing sector employed 9.7% of the total workforce, equivalent to 302,738 people out of 3,121,007. In 2023, employment in the sector increased by 21% compared to the 2022 Fourth Quarter figure of 249,778 people, which represented 8% of total employment. This growth was driven by the establishment and upgrading of manufacturing plants nationwide.

9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit.

The 2023 national budget prioritised gender mainstreaming and SME empowerment, and proposed significant support for empowerment initiatives, allocating funds as follows: Women Development Fund (ZWL\$370 million), Community Development Fund (ZWL\$330 million), Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank (ZWL\$3 billion), Empower Bank (ZWL\$3 billion), SMEDCO (ZWL\$3 billion), and National Venture Capital Fund (ZWL\$4 billion). These initiatives aimed to foster equal opportunities regardless of gender, disability or youth, aligning with the NDS1 thrust of inclusivity. Additionally, the introduction of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Facility in June 2021 aimed at supporting MSMEs' capital and working capital needs, with ZW\$5.2 billion drawn by December 2022. Operationalizing the Collateral Registry was expected to enhance finance accessibility for MSMEs and individuals securing credit with movable property.

Table 30: Financial Inclusion Indicators, RBZ Microfinance Quarterly Industry Report June and September, 2023

Indicator	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23
Number of Loans to MSMEs	37590	13461	24987	25162	93070	94670
Nominal Value of Loans to MSMEs (ZW\$ Billion)	34.02	39.91	49.71	74.6	433.85	387.13
Inflation-adjusted - Value of loans to MSMEs (ZW\$ Billion)	11.67	10.49	14.46	26.64	246.79	326.97
Average loans to MSMEs as % of total bank loans	5.54	4.33	4.15	3.87	4.58	3.87
Number of loans to Women	189861	188815	177671	165459	206886	200894
Nominal Value of Loans to Women (ZW\$ Billion)	42.97	43.86	49.85	84.04	345.07	448.39
Inflation-adjusted -Value of loans to Women (ZW\$ Billion)	14.74	11.53	14.5	30.12	196.29	378.71
Average loans to Women as % of total bank loans	7	4.76	4.16	4.36	3.64	4.48
Number of loans to Youth	85562	66432	65098	71429	54309	65587
Nominal Value of Loans to Youth (ZW\$ Billion)	12.72	18.63	37.63	55.62	257.6	329.73
Inflation-adjusted -Value of loans to Youth (ZW\$ Billion)	4.36	4.9	10.95	19.86	146.53	278.49
Average loans to Youth as % of total bank loans	2.07	2.02	3.14	2.88	2.72	3.29
Total Number of Active Bank Accounts (Million)	6.95	8.31	7.36	7.23	7.33	8.02
Number of Low Cost Bank Accounts (Million)	4.22	3.69	4.35	2.34	2.35	3.5

The support provided to MSMEs, women, and youth in the form of loans saw a significant surge from ZW\$ 26.64 billion, ZW\$ 30.12 billion, and ZW\$ 19.86 billion as of 31 March 2023, to ZW\$ 326.97 billion, ZW\$ 378.71 billion, and ZW\$ 278.49 billion by September 2023, respectively. This substantial increase was predominantly facilitated by USD lending from both banking and microfinance institutions. However, despite this surge, the proportion of microfinance loans allocated to these marginalized segments remains disproportionately low. This is evident in the fact that as of September 30, 2023, loans to MSMEs, women, and youth accounted for only 3.87%, 4.48%, and 3.29% respectively, of the total banking sector loans, (RBZ Microfinance Quarterly Industry Report June and September, 2023)

Additionally, to enhance SMEs' access to foreign currency, a separate SMEs auction was established within the auction system. The distribution of foreign currency allotments between the Main Auction and the SME Auction in 2022 is shown in the Figure below.

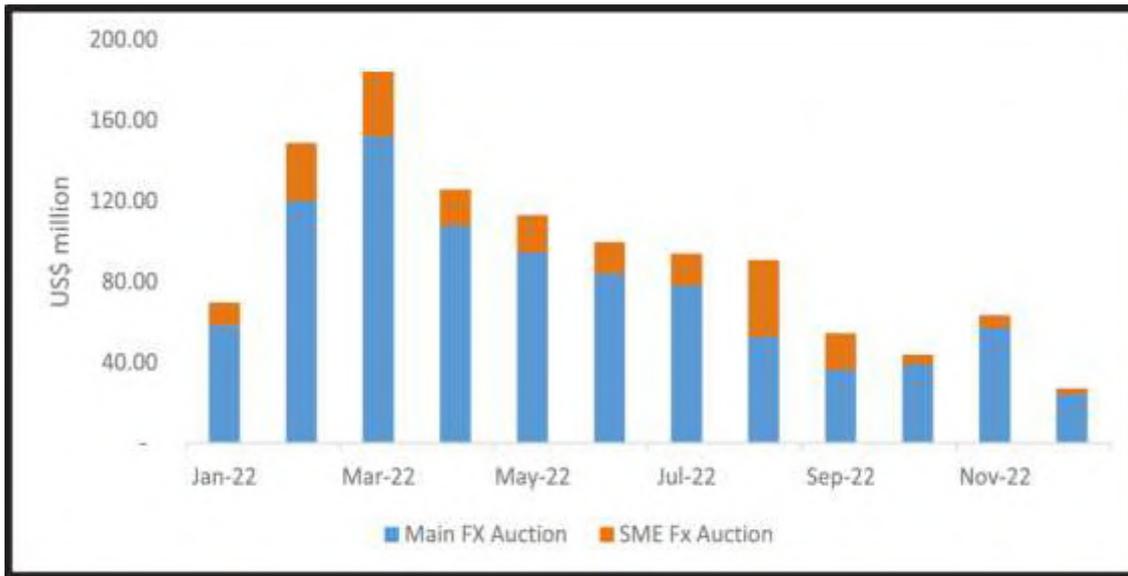


Figure 35: Distribution of foreign currency allotments between the Main Auction and the SME Auction in 2022

In 2022, a total of US\$904.8 million was allotted under the Main Auction, while US\$209.4 million went towards the SME Auction.

9.4.1 Carbon Dioxide (CO²) emission per unit of value added

Emissions stemming from the combustion and oxidation of fossil fuels and cement production pose significant environmental concerns. Notably, emissions from fuels utilized in international aviation and maritime transport are excluded from this indicator. In the 2023 Sustainable Development Report, the nation showcased progress in managing CO² emissions, achieving a value of 0.71 in 2021, aligning with the long-term objective of reaching 0 to signify a substantial reduction in carbon emissions. Over the years, emissions have exhibited fluctuations: dropping from 1.17 in 2000 to 0.78 in 2004, reaching a historic low of 0.62 in 2008, and gradually rising to 0.88 in 2015. In 2021, emissions measured 0.71 tCO²/capita, reflecting a slight increase from the 0.68 tCO²/capita recorded in 2020. The following figure illustrates the trend in CO² emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production.

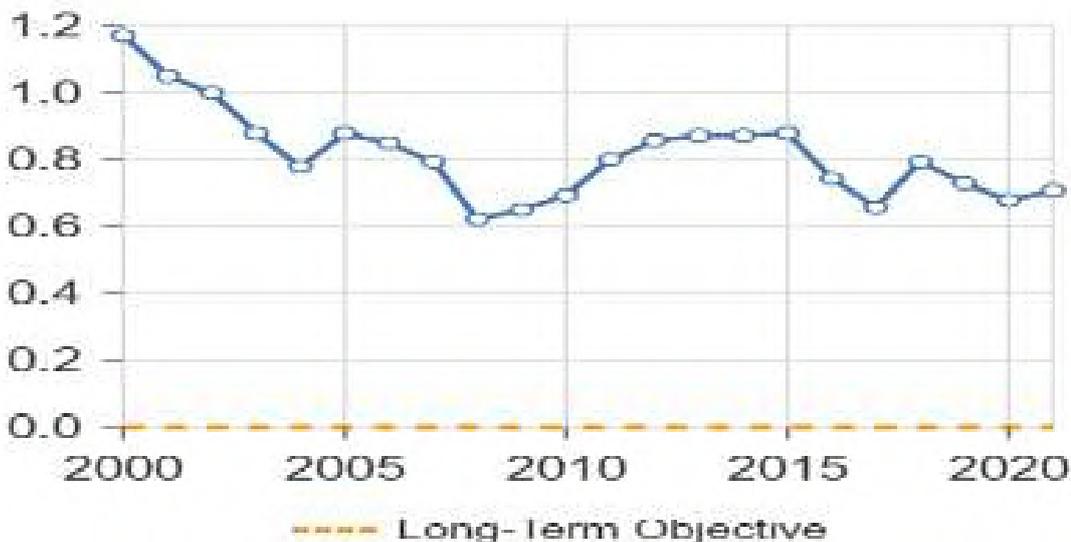


Figure 36: CO² emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production

9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

The implementation of Education 5.0 in 2020, along with the establishment of innovation hubs at higher education institutions, have catalysed a profound shift towards research and development aimed at fostering business growth and addressing societal needs. This transformative endeavour is underscored by the allocation of ZW\$ 80 million from the 2023 national budget to innovation hubs across all universities, signalling a concerted effort to promote research and development. Furthermore, in a strategic move towards economic diversification and value addition, the Government initiated the National Venture Capital Company of Zimbabwe (NVCCZ) in 2020, which, by 2023, had amassed a capital of ZWL\$1 billion. This fund serves to alleviate capital constraints for start-ups, fostering economic opportunities and employment, particularly for youth, persons with disabilities, and women, while also nurturing entrepreneurship and innovation within the MSME sector.

9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure

Official development assistance varied from one sector to another between 2022 and 2023 as indicated in the graph below.

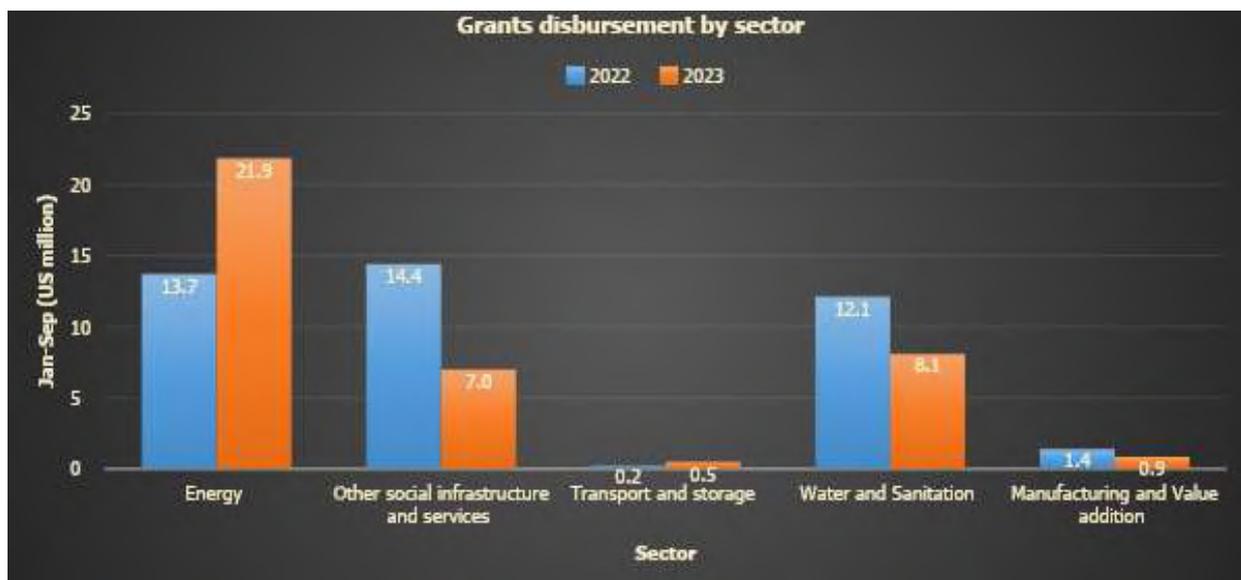


Figure 37: Grants disbursements by sector between 2022 and 2023

9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology within 500m.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the majority of households, totalling 3,335,093 or 87.9%, possessed cellular telephones. In comparison, ownership of radio sets stood at 1,380,643 households, accounting for 36.2%, and ownership of television sets was reported in 1,243,910 households, representing 32.6% of the total surveyed.

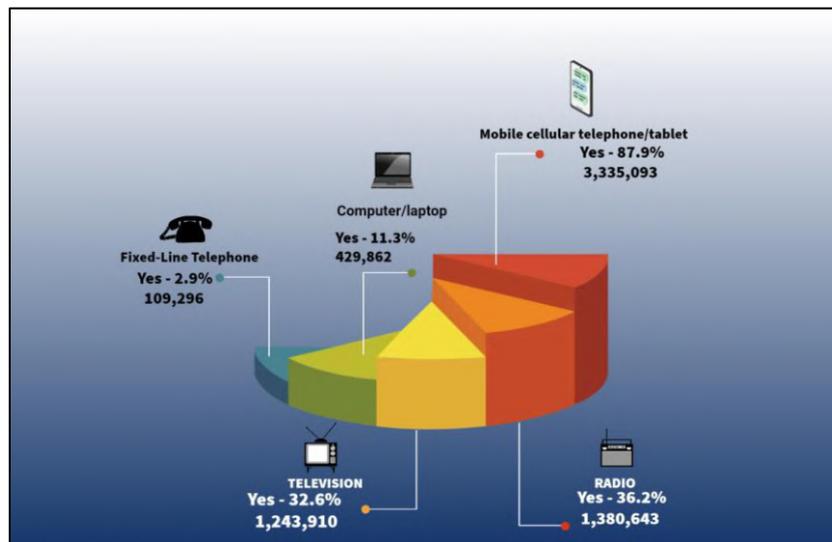


Figure 38: Access to means of communication

The ownership of mobile cellular devices was widespread across both rural and urban areas. In urban areas, 1,206,536 households, equivalent to 95.3%, owned mobile cellular devices. Similarly, in rural areas, 2,128,536 households, making up 83.4% of the total, possessed same means of communication.

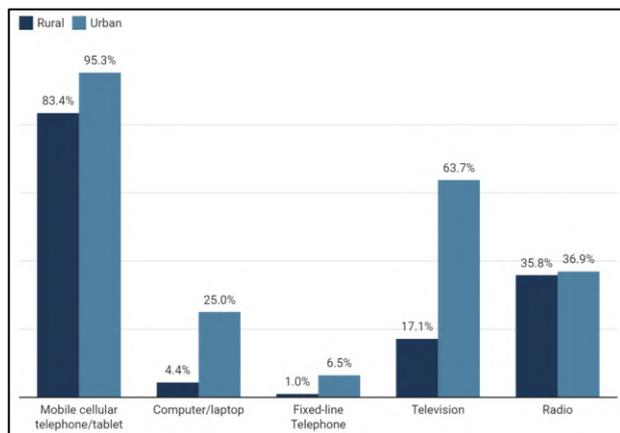


Figure 39: Rural and Urban distribution of means of communication

Proportion of rural population who live within a 70 km radius of broadcasting transmission equipment (localised indicator)

Television coverage

Television coverage in Zimbabwe is primarily premised on Terrestrial coverage (Digital Terrestrial Television - DTT) which currently stands at 38%. However, there is 100% coverage through Direct To Home (DTH / Satellite) which acts as a stop-gap measure whilst more terrestrial infrastructure is being installed. This demonstrates the good performance of the various projects the Ministry implemented for the improvement of television coverage, which includes the Zimbabwe Digitalization Programme and the licensing of private free-to-air television stations.

There is no progress on DTT owing to budgetary constraints to finalize the Zimbabwe Digitalization Programme. Zimbabwe Digitalization Programme seeks to provide digital television access to unserved or underserved areas to achieve 100 percent digital national television coverage. Zimbabwe failed to meet the obligatory International Telecommunications Union (ITU) deadline of June 17, 2015, for migration from analogue to digital broadcasting. To date, 18 transmitter sites out of the envisaged 48 transmitter sites are fully digitalized. Digitalisation is of the essence as it is more people-centred in that it connects formerly marginal communities through access to information, and promotes pluralism and diverse media players.

Radio coverage

Radio coverage has shown steady growth over the past five years, increasing from 65% in 2019 to 74% in 2023, driven by the establishment of transmitters for community, campus, and local commercial radio stations. Despite the increasing coverage, radio technology usage remains at 36.2% of the population, as highlighted by the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Efforts to enhance community radio stations aim to empower geographic communities by broadcasting locally relevant content often overlooked by mainstream media. All 14 licensed community radio stations remain operational, serving as platforms for community-driven development and rural engagement, supported by partners such as Transmedia, Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe, UNESCO, ZACRAS and National Association of Community Broadcasters. Additionally, 7 campus radio stations were operational by August 2023, out of the 9 licensed in 2020, further contributing to local development and participation in the national agenda, aligning with the ethos of devolution.

Opportunities

- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), expanding access to new markets through governmental engagement and re-engagement efforts, and increased funding for industrial development. Additionally, the development of regional and global value chains, coupled with fiscal incentives and support for industrial growth, further enhance the nation's prospects.
- The country's demographic youth dividend offers immense potential for accelerating industrial growth and development, with initiatives focused on enhancing youth participation in economic activities such as financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and skills development.
- Zimbabwe boasts of abundant natural resources, providing a solid foundation for industrial, innovation, and infrastructure development.
- Efforts in industries mapping and research aim to gain insights into various sectors, facilitating the formulation of effective trade and investment plans and informed decision-making processes. This approach ensures that industries align with international frameworks and standards.
- Proactive measures are underway to ensure fair treatment and recognition of migrant workers' skills, knowledge, and competencies, thereby safeguarding their employment opportunities within the region. Additionally, strategies for skills anticipation and alignment, supported by a robust Labor Market Information System (LMIS) and a National Qualification Framework, foster regional and global alignment for sustainable economic growth and development.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

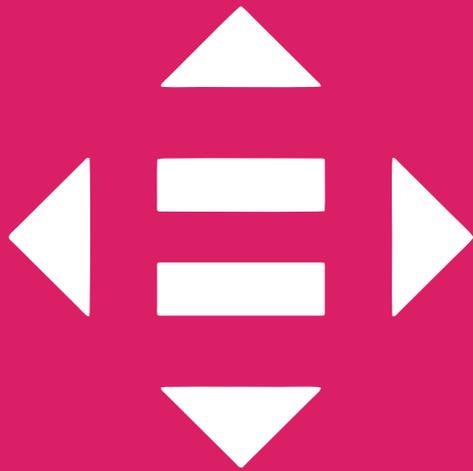
Table 31: Programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 9

Programme/Project	Description
Roads	The Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme focuses on rehabilitating roads in urban and rural areas as well as trade facilitation and tourism routes with a total of over 36,000km by mid-2023.
Border Post Infrastructure	Upgrading and modernizing border posts to facilitate the movement of goods and people.
Rail	The NRZ Recapitalisation Programme aims to increase rail transportation capacity.
Aviation	Modernizing international and domestic airports to increase traffic and transportation.
Manufacturing Value Addition	Implementing industrialization programmes and policies to enhance manufacturing sector access to resources.

Rural Industrialization Strategy	Establishing production plants across rural areas to promote economic transformation in line with the Rural Development 8.0.
Import Substitution Strategy	Encouraging domestic production through import substitution initiatives.
Promotion of Linkages with MSMEs	Facilitating partnerships between large corporates and MSMEs to boost rural industrialization.
Fiscal Incentives for Manufacturers	Providing tax incentives and rebates to manufacturers in various industries.
Ease of Doing Business and Investment Climate	Operationalizing One Stop Investment Services Centres (OSISC) and providing VAT deferment for industrial equipment.
Capacitation of Industrial Development Corporation	Capacitating the IDCZ with funds for retooling and value chain development.
Competition Policy Implementation	Enforcing competition policies to ensure fair market practices.
Expansion of Technology and Information Access	Deploying backbone infrastructure, broadband base stations, and laying fiber optic infrastructure.
Zimbabwe Digital Migration Programme	Transitioning from analogue to digital broadcasting for enhanced television and radio access.
Licensing of Digital Free to Air Television Stations	Issuing licenses for digital free-to-air television stations to broaden access.
Operationalisation of Local Radio Stations	Licensing and operationalizing local commercial, community, and campus radio stations.

10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Introduction

Zimbabwe has been taking significant steps to reduce inequalities within its population by promoting social, economic, and political inclusion regardless of age, gender, race or religion. A significant number of constitutional amendments and policy reviews were made to enable service delivery and inclusion thereby reducing inequalities in the country.

Status

10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population.

Despite lacking sufficient data, the 2022 Population and Housing Census Report indicated a 0.7 household expenditure growth rate for the entire population (a proxy for this indicator).

10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

A total of 25.9% of men and 25.2% of women felt discriminated against or harassed within the last 12 months (MICS, 2019). Discrimination or harassment was classified on the basis of ethnic or immigration origin, gender, age, religion or belief, disability, marital status, political affiliation, born out of wedlock, among other reasons. More information is presented in figure below:

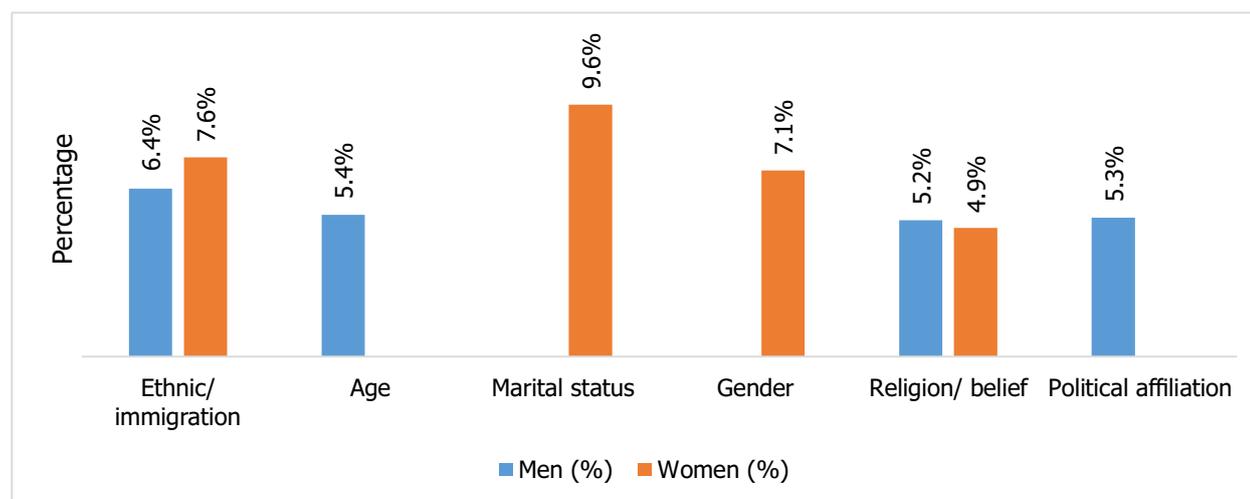


Figure 40: Summary of discrimination or harassment rate from MICS 2019 survey

10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy to Gini coefficient

Zimbabwe Economic Outlook developed by the African Development Bank estimated that the Gini coefficient for Zimbabwe was 0.503 in 2023 representing a big income gap and severe inequality amongst the population.

10.6.1 Zimbabwe's voting rights in international organisations.

Zimbabwe currently enjoys voting rights in international organisations.

10.7.2: Has Zimbabwe implemented well-managed migration policies?

Zimbabwe has a National Migration Policy which was launched in 2023 to address issues of migration governance, labour migration, diaspora cooperation and integration, border governance, internal migration,

migration and trade, migration and health, migration and persons with disability, among others. A National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons (2023 - 2028) has also been developed and launched in April 2023, boosting the collaborative efforts to

10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin. counter human trafficking and also measure progress of the collective efforts to combat the scourge.

Table 32: Refugees in Zimbabwe by country of origin Goal 10

Country of Origin	Bulawayo (AMD1)	Harare (AMD1)	Manicaland	Mashonaland East	Mashonaland West	Sud-Kivu	Grand Total	Total	Total %
Angola			7				7		0.04%
Botswana			1				1		0.01%
Burundi		75	870				945		5.57%
Cameroon			12				12		0.07%
Central Africa Republic			4				4		0.02%
Congo Republic		11	9				20		0.12%
Cote d'Ivoire		3	37				40		0.24%
Democratic Republic of Congo	8	540	12,206		1	5	12,760		75.23%
Eritrea		3	8				11		0.06%
Ethiopia		46	56				102		0.60%
Ghana			1				1		0.01%
Kenya			2				2		0.01%
Lebanon		1					1		0.01%

Manicaland province has the greatest number of refugees, 16,001 with most of them accommodated at the Tongogara refugee camp/ settlement (15,890). Harare is ranked the second highest having 938 refugees, followed by Bulawayo with 10 refugees.

10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows).

During the first nine months of 2022, the country received official development assistance amounting to US\$638.3 million, of which US\$402 million was from bilateral partners and US\$236.3 million from multilateral partners. The support was channelled towards funding programmes and projects in various sectors of the economy which include health, agriculture, education, humanitarian and governance sectors. Total foreign currency receipts increased to US\$11.6 billion in 2022 from US\$9.9 billion in 2021, against total foreign payments processed through banks of US\$8,6 billion in 2022 (Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, National Budget Statement, 2023).

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 33: Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Programme	Key achievements
Engagement and Re engagement	Zimbabwe's engagement and re-engagement mission is running under the mantra "friend to all and enemy to none" advancing bilateral and multilateral relations by promoting investment and trade. Several memoranda of understanding, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements were signed to facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment.

Women, Persons With Disabilities and Youth Quota in Parliament and Councils	Zimbabwe made constitutional amendments to increase the number of youth and women in decision-making processes. Ten (10) seats have been reserved for youth in parliament effective August 2023, and 10% of young women have been included within the 60 seats for women. Local authority seats also reserve 30% for women and two seats out of 20 for Persons with Disabilities, chosen through an electoral college and junior parliament and council programmes. The Department of Disability Affairs was introduced in 2018, and the National Disability policy was adopted in June 2021. The Disability bill is currently at the stage of parliamentary processes, including public consultations.
Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda	Zimbabwe's administrative structures at provincial, metropolitan and local authority levels are being used to give impetus to people centred development at community level in pursuit of the devolution agenda. Revenue disbursements in 2023 which amounted to ZWL\$140,7 billion was directly transferred to provincial councils and local authorities. The national constitution provides for a minimum of at least 5% resource allocation through devolution to facilitate localised development. There are other indirect transfers to provinces that have not been disaggregated.
Wealth Tax Initiative	The Government of Zimbabwe is implementing wealth tax by levying a 1% tax on properties that have a value of more than US\$250,000 annually as a means to address inequalities starting January 2024.

11

SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Introduction

The Government of Zimbabwe has identified housing delivery as a national priority and is promoting the use of new housing delivery technologies using locally available materials to clear the housing backlog, especially in urban areas. Efforts are being made to strengthen capacities for urban development planning, improve public transportation, and enhance waste management to contribute to achieving Goal 11. The government is also scaling up support towards institutional accommodation, housing loan schemes, and other infrastructure services such as water, sewer, and roads to reduce the number of people living in informal and/or dysfunctional settlements. Zimbabwe is prone to various natural and human-induced disasters, and these occurrences have contributed to non-functional settlements in rural and urban areas.

Status

11.1.1 The proportion of urban population living in informal settlements and inadequate housing

According to the 2022 Census, only a small proportion of dwelling units in Zimbabwe were shacks, mobile homes, or unclassified, while the majority were modern or traditional. However, the percentage of inadequate housing has increased from 0.33% in 2014 to 1.1% in 2022 due to poverty levels, climate-related shocks, and macro-economic challenges. Despite an increase in housing units through financial institutions, the volatile property market remains out of reach for many, driving the trend of informal settlements in urban areas.

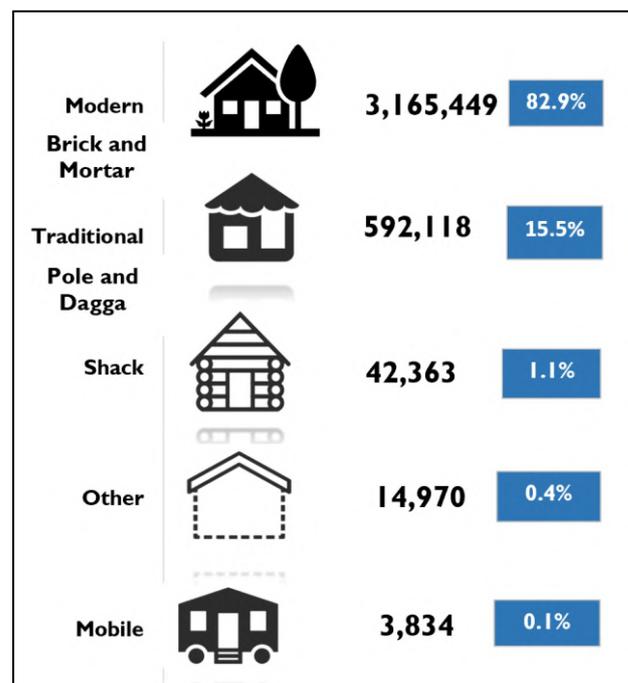


Figure 41: Type of dwelling unit

Type of Dwelling Unit

The 2022 Population and Housing census further indicated that the dominant tenure status observed across Zimbabwe was 'Owner'. A total of 2,235,182 households, constituting 58.5% of the total, owned the dwelling units they occupied on the census night. This was followed by 'Lodger' status, with a total of 734,585 households, constituting 19.2% of the total. Other tenure statuses namely; Tied Accommodation, Relational, Tenant and Other, accounted for proportions less than 10% each.

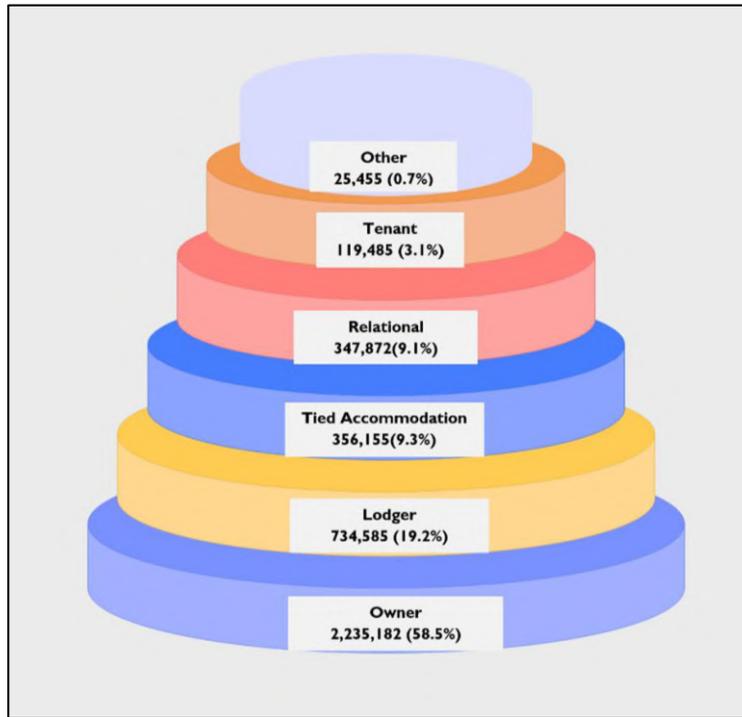


Figure 42: Household Tenure Status

The 2022 Population and Housing census further indicated that the dominant tenure status observed across Zimbabwe was 'Owner'. A total of 2,235,182 households, constituting 58.5% of the total, owned the dwelling units they occupied on the census night. This was followed by 'Lodger' status, with a total of 734,585 households, constituting 19.2% of the total. Other tenure statuses namely; Tied Accommodation, Relational, Tenant and Other, accounted for proportions less than 10% each.

In rural areas owner occupied tenure status had the highest proportion while, lodgers had the highest proportion in urban areas. In rural areas, owner occupied was 76.8% of the households, while in urban areas, it was 32.8%. On the other hand, lodger occupied was 42.7% in urban areas and 2.6% in rural areas.

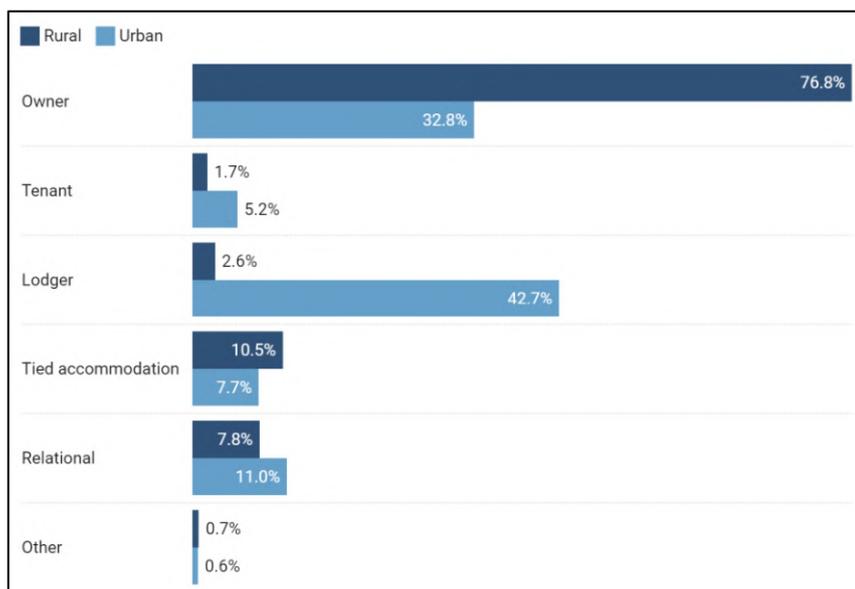


Figure 43: Tenure Status by Rural/Urban Areas

Tenure Status by Rural/Urban Areas

Both rural and urban areas were characterised by the modern type of dwelling unit. In urban areas, 96.3% of the dwelling units were modern while in rural areas, the proportion was 72.6%. Due to continued rural to urban migration and the pressure on resources in the city, most people in Zimbabwe are now re-investing in rural areas resulting in modernification of houses. The other factor is also attributable to international remittances/ diaspora schemes e.g. Plumtree area in Matebeleland South Province.

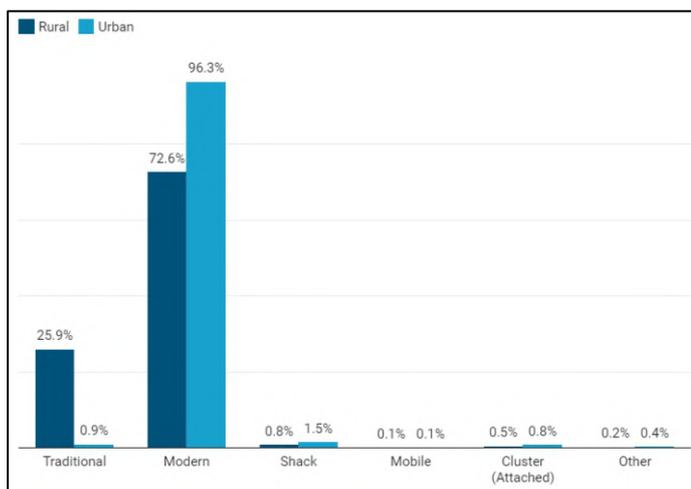


Figure 44: Type of Dwelling Unit by Rural/Urban areas

11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

The 2023 Global SDGs report used the level of Satisfaction with public transport % as a proxy for this

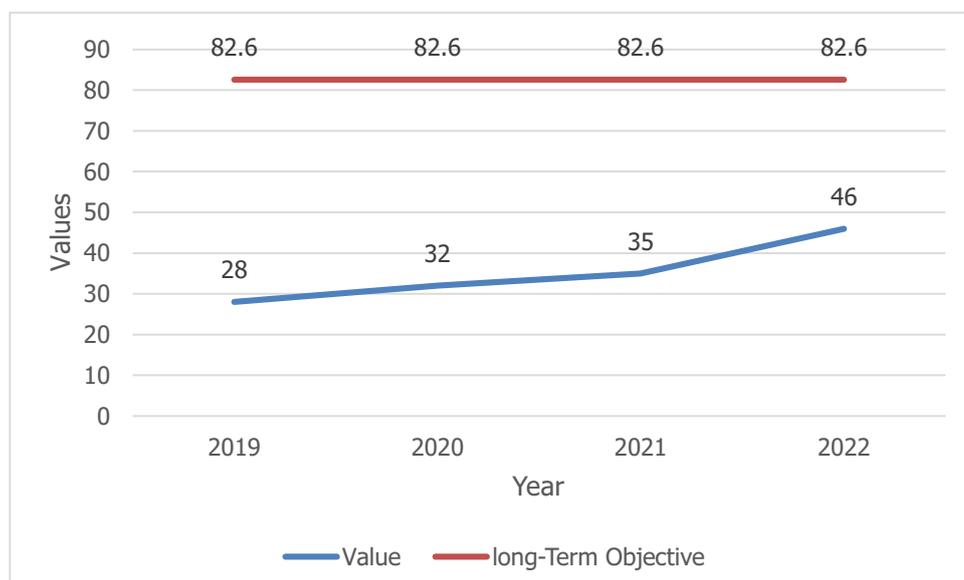


Figure 45: Access to public transport 2019-2022

The access to public transport gradually improved from 28% in 2019 to 46% in 2022.

11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

National Development Strategy 1 has an indicator to track the land allocated/ reserved for densification (Ha). In 2022, 63.8 Hectares of land were set aside for densification and in 2023, 800 hectares are targeted to be reserved. Densification through the use of high-rise buildings is set to save on space by increasing the number of people accommodated on a small space. This is meant to address land challenges surmounting from population growth.

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship).

The Government of Zimbabwe aimed to develop four heritage sites and centres by 2023. Progress has been made on the Museum of African Liberation in Harare, with the architectural designs approved and site preparations underway. The acquisition of special grass for thatching the beehive structures at the Old Bulawayo Monument is in progress. A preliminary survey has been conducted for establishing a community archive in Chipinge, with archives acquired and oral interviews conducted. The project is planned for completion in the third quarter.

11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated by cities.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, households in Zimbabwe mainly use burning and formal waste disposal methods, constituting 63.6% of waste disposal practices. Burning was the most common method used by one-third of households, while 30.2% of households used formal methods like collection by local authorities. About 26.4% used informal methods such as informal service providers, burying/dumping, while 10% used other disposal methods not classified elsewhere.

		Rural	Urban
Recycling		5,729 0.2%	703 0.1%
Other waste disposal		16,165 0.6%	4,344 0.3%
Compositing		338,026 13.2%	18,355 1.5%
Informal waste disposal		751,323 29.4%	255,695 20.2%
Formal waste disposal		344,691 13.5%	870,671 63.8%
Burn		1,096,923 43.0%	179,109 14.2%

Figure 46: Distribution of Households by Solid Waste Disposal Methods and Rural/Urban areas

While in urban areas, solid waste was mainly disposed through formal waste means, in rural areas, it was mainly disposed through burning. In urban areas, 870,671 households, accounting for 63.8 %of the total disposed their solid waste through formal means, while in rural areas, 1,096,923 households; constituting 43 %of the total disposed their solid waste through burning.

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Over the past few years, Zimbabwe has been impacted by severe disasters such as flooding, epidemics, and environmental degradation due to global shifts in climate change. The fragile ecosystem in the country lacks resilience and becomes heavily impacted by human or natural events. Hazard events have become more frequent, deadly, destructive, and expensive to manage, contributing to the internal displacement of persons who often find themselves in vulnerable situations. The most common fragile ecosystems in Zimbabwe include wetlands, floodplains, stream banks, mountain slopes, and semiarid areas. For further detail, please refer to indicator 1.5.1 and 1.5.2

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 34: Initiatives

Initiative	Progress
Inter-Ministerial Committee	Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to come up with realistic and time-framed strategies to deal with dysfunctional and irregular settlements.
Housing Construction	Government is constructing flats in Marondera, Mutoko, Harare, and Gweru, and houses in Binga, Mutawatawa, and Lupane districts. Since 2021, 172,932 houses targeting low-income earners have been constructed across the country through public-private partnerships
Smart City Concept	The Smart City concept is targeting Melfort, Chirundu, and Figtree. The conceptual framework for Melfort has already been produced.
Regularisation and Upgrading of Informal Settlements	Regularisation and upgrading of informal settlements are underway to improve quality of life through the provision of requisite on-site and off-site services and tenure. The regularisation exercise targeted 6 settlements in 2022 and is proving to be very costly, prompting the Government to prioritize finalization of the preparatory works of the settlements in 2023 notably Gimboki (Mutare), Cowdray Park (Bulawayo), Hatcliffe Extension (Harare), Southlea Park (Harare), Lupane and Caledonia (Mashonaland East). The
Urban Renewal Initiatives	Government is implementing Urban Renewal Initiatives in selected cities in Zimbabwe. The report samples Zvishavane Town Council as an example.

Zvishavane Town Council- Mandava Urban Renewal

The programmes is being implemented in terms of blocks constructed and the number of beneficiaries were: Block 1, Females (17) Males (8) and Block 2, Females (19) Males (10). Provided statistics highlight that women are the majority beneficiaries of the newly constructed garden flats. The picture below indicates the situation before and after the intervention.



Figure 47: Urban renewal projects

Table 35: Major programmes/ projects and interventions- Goal 11

Topic	Action/ Progress
Urban Transport Systems Support	Adding 90 buses to existing fleet for ZUPCO to lighten the transport burden for commuting public and facilitate increased mobility for economic productivity
Formation of Commuter Omnibus Association	Allowing privately-owned kombis to operate under accredited associations and follow strict guidelines which guide the liberalisation of the urban mass public transport system
PPPs in refuse collection	Involving private players in solid waste management to reduce amount of recyclable material dumped into landfills to nurture new attitude towards waste responsibility and support disadvantaged sectors of society
Solid Waste Management Standards	Development of service delivery standards including solid waste management as a basis of measurement of performances of local authorities and for performance awards to improve service delivery in solid waste management
	Resuscitating night door-to-door refuse collection in Central Business Districts to increase operational efficiencies and ensure cleanliness of Cities Introduction of National Clean-up Campaigns to ensure sustainable environment management and waste disposal systems Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan seeking to reduce the amount of waste disposal and putting in place legislation to regulate the use of thin plastics as a measure to promote environmental sustainability to improve waste management and environmental sustainability
Operations in Central Business Districts	Disbursing funds to EMA to buy refuse collection trucks, crafting SI to enable EMA to subcontract private players and assist in providing service to residents to improve solid waste management in Central Business Districts
Geopomona Partnership	Partnership between Council and Geoginix involved in long-term and sustainable environmental solutions through innovative technology focused on waste-to-energy plants Ensure effective dumpsite management and end pollution at Pomona Dumpsite
Development of National Monuments	Development of Chibondo National Monument in Mt Darwin, Mashonaland Central; development of Mt Darwin District heroes' acre; development of Kamungoma National Monument interpretive centre to reserve national heritage and raise awareness on the benefits of heritage preservation
Disaster Management Plans	Stipulating proactive and reactive measures to address disasters and emergencies, conducting awareness campaigns on prevailing risks targeting at risk communities, producing information, communication and education materials in local languages to communities at risk, entering into agreements with neighbouring countries for management of transboundary disaster risks, collaborating with Meteorological Services and other relevant organizations Address disasters and emergencies and mitigate associated risks and damages
Awareness Campaigns	Conducting awareness campaigns on the benefits of preservation of heritage and increasing community policing initiatives Raise awareness on importance of preserving monuments and improve community policing initiatives

12

**SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION
AND
PRODUCTION**



ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Introduction

Zimbabwe's commitment to SDG 12, Vision 2030, and Africa Agenda 2063 underscores the importance of sustainable consumption and production for current and future generations' livelihoods. Sustainable consumption and production strategies promote resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, green economy access, and decent job creation, pivotal for sustainable development. The goal emphasizes on eco-friendly practices across the entire value chain, including production processes and transportation, is crucial for resource efficiency and biodiversity conservation. Efforts to halve global food waste by 2030, particularly by addressing post-harvest losses through safe storage solutions, can significantly benefit smallholder farmers and improve community nutrition. Coordinated national-level solutions enhance regional, continental, and global cooperation, facilitating the transition to a low-carbon economy and advancing sustainable development goals worldwide.

Status

12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

Zimbabwe has established a range of legal and policy frameworks to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, encompassing various statutes and regulations. These include provisions outlined in Section 73 of the Constitution, the ZERA Act (2011), the Renewable Energy Policy (2019), the Bio-Fuels Policy (2019), and the Environmental Management Act (Chapter 20:27). Section 73 of the Constitution guarantees the right to a healthy environment, emphasizing pollution prevention, conservation promotion, and ecologically sustainable resource use. These comprehensive frameworks underscore Zimbabwe's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals and safeguarding environmental well-being.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is achieved through undertaking environmental impact assessment of projects that have potential to disturb the environment i.e. dam construction; mining ventures; housing development projects; environmental audits; penalties to environmental polluters and producing regular reports on the status of the environment.

Legislative Documents reviewed in 2023

Table 36: Legislative Documents reviewed in 2023

Legislative documents reviewed	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)	Comment
Legislative documents reviewed	5	5	Legislative documents strengthen the Environmental and Natural Resource management interventions

Penalties Imposed on Environmental Polluters

Table 37: Penalties Imposed on Environmental Polluters

Type of penalties	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)	Comment
Tickets	2 000	3 086	Performance was above target, due to intensified enforcement of Natural Resource Management
Dockets	150	186	Performance was above target, due to intensified enforcement of Natural Resource Management

Zimbabwe's mining sector, spanning from artisanal to large-scale operations, significantly boosts the economy but requires sustainable ecosystem management. Rehabilitation efforts on mined areas exceeded targets, with 5,501 hectares restored in 2021 and 6,029 in 2022, attributed to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) compliance and joint law enforcement initiatives, (NDS 1 Mid-Term Review, 2023). Community involvement led to the formation of local Friends of the Environment (FOTE) groups, aiding in compliance matters. A national mapping initiative for natural background radiation, covering 29% of the country, is underway, slated for completion by 2025, marking progress towards environmental stewardship in mining practices.

12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.

Zimbabwe is a signatory to several international multilateral environmental agreements concerning hazardous waste and chemicals, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013), the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985/1987), and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001). COP-5 of the Minamata Convention, held in Geneva, saw the achievement of a high national reporting rate of 95% on convention obligations, alongside approval of a USD 8.4 million budget for 2024-2025, and the initiation of guidance development to address mercury trade. Discussions at COP emphasized the linkages between the Minamata Convention and global frameworks like the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, underscoring the importance of coordinated efforts. Additionally, UNEP supports waste management and pollution control initiatives in Zimbabwe, including recycling promotion and capacity-building for solid and hazardous waste management by local authorities.

12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.

The production of high-value products from plastic waste increased from 1,200 metric tons (Mt) in 2020 to 4,561 Mt and 5,000 Mt in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Furthermore, the recycling of steel constitutes a substantial portion of the country's current annual steel output of 0.48 Mt. Although secondary steel is predominantly produced through recycling, the introduction of primary steel production is anticipated in 2024 with the establishment of the Dinson Iron and Steel Company (DISCO) in Manhize.

12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports.

Organisations practising Sustainability Reporting

Only 36% of the organizations involved in the sensitization and scoping exercise were actively practicing sustainability reporting, while 44% were not engaged in such practices. A small fraction, 4%, had no definitive plan for implementing sustainability reporting, whereas 12% were in the planning stages of initiating sustainability reporting within their organizations.

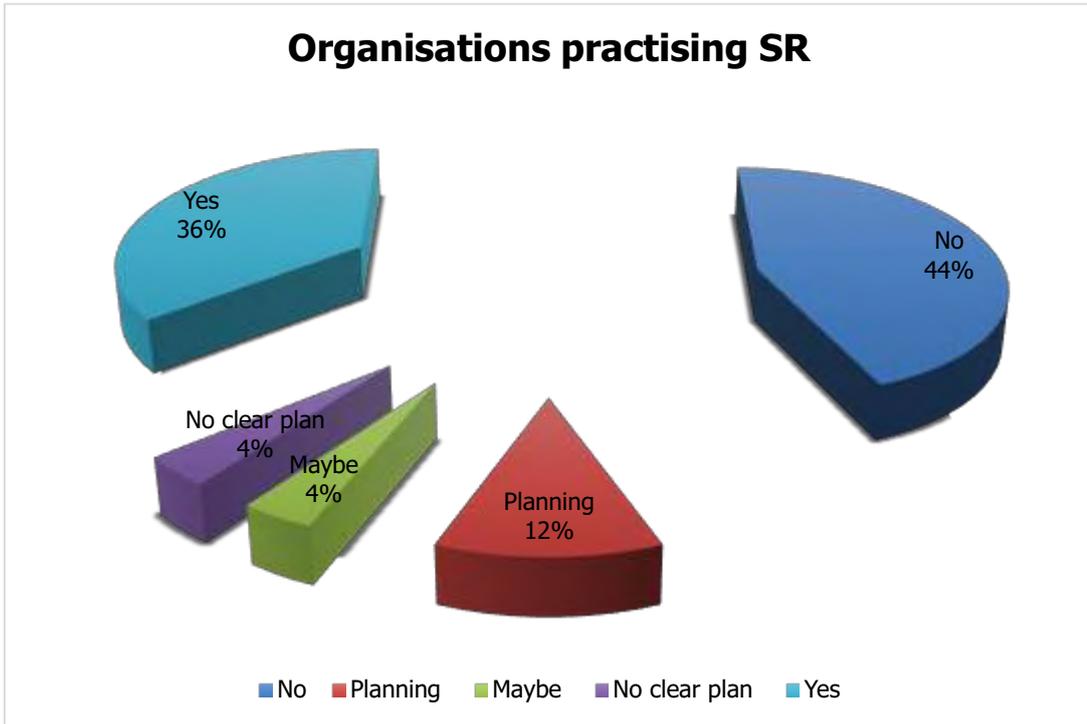


Figure 48: Organisations practising sustainability reporting

Reporting Status on SR

Majority of organizations involved in the training had not reported on their sustainability performance, accounting for 56%. Among the 44% that were reporting, 28% were actively publishing their sustainability reports, as indicated in the figure below.

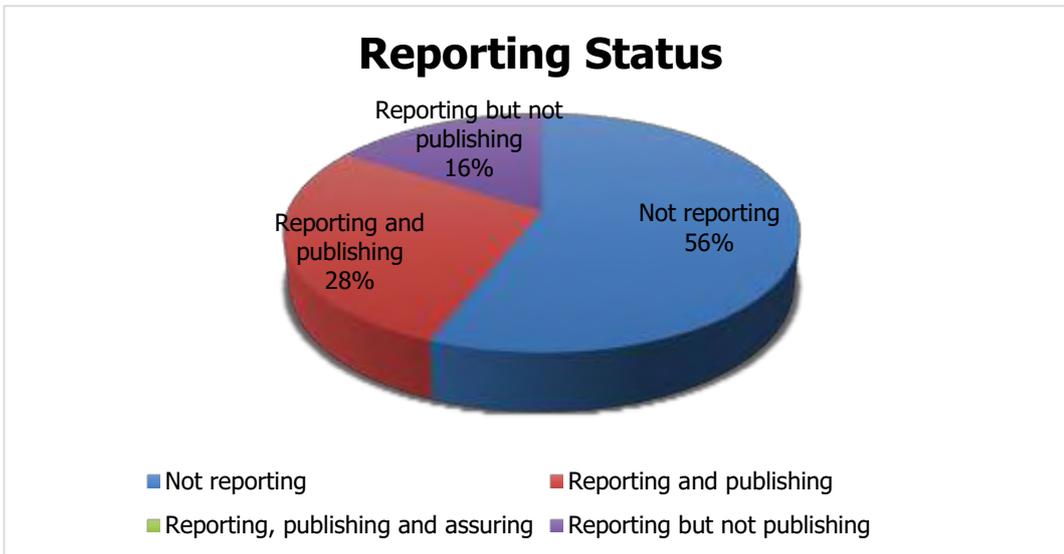


Figure 49: Organisation's reporting status

12.7.1 Has Zimbabwe implemented sustainable public procurement policies and action plans.

Zimbabwe has instituted sustainable public procurement policies and action plans under the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22:23), aiming for transparent, fair, honest, cost-effective, and competitive procurement and disposal processes. Moreover, the country has decentralized procurement management units across all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

The Climate Change Policy for Zimbabwe underscores the importance of integrating global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, including climate change education, into national education policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment. Specific initiatives include the incorporation of global citizenship themes into the National Education Policy Framework, the inclusion of climate change topics in the Citizenship and Civic Education curricula, and the integration of sustainability and climate change themes into subjects like Geography, Biology, and Mathematics. Teacher training institutions provide both pre-service and in-service educators with resources and strategies to incorporate these themes into teaching practices. Student assessment in citizenship education and environmental science includes components that evaluate students' understanding of global issues, sustainability concepts, and climate change impacts. The country also established the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development Institute (ESCD) as a focal research unit. These efforts reflect a commitment to fostering a culture of sustainability and global citizenship within Zimbabwe's education system.

12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

Zimbabwe has implemented a comprehensive set of sustainable tourism strategies, policies, and action plans to foster responsible tourism practices and ensure the long-term viability of its tourism sector. These include the formulation of a National Tourism Policy that emphasizes the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, community engagement, and equitable distribution of economic benefits. Additionally, tourism master plans have been devised at both national and regional levels to guide development efforts, focusing on infrastructure investment, conservation, and community involvement. Community-based tourism initiatives, managed in collaboration with local stakeholders, aim to empower communities and diversify tourism offerings. The management of protected areas by the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority includes measures to minimize conflicts between humans and wildlife and enhance environmental education. Additionally, the country has developed monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of tourism activities and ensure compliance with sustainability criteria. Efforts have been made to integrate intangible cultural heritage into basic education through the development of teacher training tools, including lesson plans and guides. Additionally, a methodological framework has been created to facilitate the integration of intangible cultural heritage into basic education, emphasizing the connection between indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable development in local communities. These initiatives aim to enhance cultural understanding and promote the preservation of cultural heritage while fostering sustainable development practices at the grassroots level.

Zimbabwe's commitment to sustainable tourism development is evident through various initiatives, but ongoing efforts are required to strengthen policy implementation, enhance stakeholder collaboration, and address emerging sustainability challenges. Regular reviews and updates of strategies are crucial to adapt to changing circumstances. Sustainable practices in tourism not only reduce environmental impact and operating costs but also support the local economy, enhance guest experiences, and combat climate change in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Examples of sustainable initiatives include the use of solar power, water-recycling systems, zero plastic bottle policies, waste separation, procurement of local produce and eco-friendly amenities. These efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and demonstrate Zimbabwe's commitment to environmental conservation, community empowerment, and cultural preservation within the tourism industry. The promotion of green technology further underscores Zimbabwe's commitment to sustainable tourism practices.

Opportunities

- **Alternative Energy Sources:** With the availability of alternative energy sources, there is a chance to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and transition towards renewable energy, fostering environmental

sustainability.

- **Recyclable Products:** The rising demand for recyclable products presents an opportunity for businesses to innovate and cater to eco-conscious consumers, contributing to both environmental conservation and economic growth.
- **Community-Based Tourism:** Leveraging existing Community Based Tourism sites offers a chance to promote local empowerment, cultural preservation, and economic development through sustainable tourism practices, benefiting both communities and visitors alike.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 38: Major programmes/ projects and interventions- Goal 12

Programme	Description
National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan	Aims to address waste management challenges through comprehensive strategies including policy development, capacity building, public awareness campaigns, and infrastructure development for waste collection and recycling.
Renewable Energy for Rural Electrification	Promotes adoption of renewable energy technologies like solar and hydroelectric power for clean and sustainable energy access in rural communities. Involves installation of solar panels, mini-grids, micro-hydro systems, training programmes, and community engagement activities.
Conservation Agriculture Promotion Programme	Promotes conservation agriculture among smallholder farmers to enhance productivity, soil health, and climate change resilience. Involves training in sustainable farming techniques, access to inputs and extension services.
E-Waste Management and Recycling Initiative	Focuses on proper e-waste management and recycling to minimize environmental pollution and health risks. Includes awareness campaigns, establishment of collection centers, and partnerships with recycling companies for safe dismantling and recycling.
Sustainable Tourism Development Programme	Promotes sustainable tourism practices to minimize negative impacts while maximizing economic benefits. Involves destination planning, community-based initiatives, eco-certification schemes, and capacity-building efforts.
Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in basic education	The project is aimed at building institutional capacities in basic education for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through curriculum integration and development of educational tools.

13

CLIMATE ACTION



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Introduction

The impacts of climate change and variability are becoming more evident with increased incidences of droughts, cyclones, floods, hail-storms and heat waves. Zimbabwe considers improving on adaptive capacity, increasing climate knowledge and reducing over-reliance on climate sensitive sectors as key to reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change. The impacts of climate change pose serious risks to the main economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry and water resources. Thus Zimbabwe, set itself an ambitious target to green economy by 2030 and mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience into its policy frameworks.

Status

The Government in partnership with development partners and other stakeholders is implementing various projects and programmes that contribute to successful implementation of the SDGs.

13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 populations.

In the reporting period Zimbabwe is experiencing an El Nino however, it is important to report impact of Cyclone Dineo and Idai, see 1.5.1 for more information.

13.1.2 Has Zimbabwe adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Refer to indicator 1.5.3. for more information.

13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Refer to indicator 1.5.4. for more information.

13.2.1 Has Zimbabwe communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases its ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

Zimbabwe has reached a crucial milestone with the successful formulation of a National Adaptation Plan, aimed at enhancing climate change readiness and facilitating investment projects in adaptation. The plan integrates climate adaptation into policies, programmes, and development strategies across various sectors. Multiple government bodies are being equipped to integrate climate change into budgeting and planning processes. Additionally, Zimbabwe has outlined its Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) and Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), committing to a 40% per capita greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2030. Measures include renewable energy development, afforestation, and sustainable forestry management. The country has also communicated its 4th National Communication and First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC, securing resources for future reports.

13.2.2. Policies or plans specific to climate change in place

Zimbabwe has established various policies and strategies to address climate change, include: Constitution of Zimbabwe and National Development Strategy 1, National Climate Policy, National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Adaptation Plan, National Climate Change Learning Strategy, Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS), Revised Nationally Determined Contribution, Gender Action Plan on Climate Change, and Carbon Credit Trading Framework and SI 150 of 2023.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe grants environmental rights to every individual. The country's economic blueprint, NDS 1, incorporates climate change across its thematic areas, with a dedicated pillar on Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience, and Natural Resources Management. Additional strategies include strengthening early warning systems and disaster risk management, promoting climate-smart systems and technology transfer, enhancing capacity building and awareness, and fostering low emissions development pathways. Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy, adopted in 2017, guides climate change management, enhancing national adaptation capacity, scaling up mitigation actions, and ensuring compliance with global mechanisms.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) aims to reduce vulnerability, enhance adaptive capacity, and foster resilience by integrating climate change into development planning. It prioritizes 38 adaptation actions across seven sectors, estimating a financial requirement of USD 10.3 billion by 2030. The Government formulated the Carbon Credit Trading Framework and Statutory Instrument 150 of 2023 to regulate carbon credit trading, ensuring equitable benefits for communities involved in carbon trading projects.

13.2.3 Financial resources mobilized from international climate finance mechanisms for national climate programming

Zimbabwe has accessed financial resources from international financing mechanism towards Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, and Climate Change Education totalling US \$45,303,282.00 and £12 million.

13.3.1 Has Zimbabwe integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

Zimbabwe integrates climate change across primary, secondary, and tertiary education. Primary schools teach environmental awareness through activities like tree planting and recycling. Secondary education explores scientific, social, and economic aspects of climate change. Tertiary institutions offer specialized courses like MSc in Climate Change and Sustainable Development (Bindura University of Education, Lupane State University), MSc in Climate Change and Variability (Midlands State University), MSc in Climate Change and Food Systems (University of Zimbabwe), and Executive Certificate on Climate Change Mitigation Technology (Harare Institute of Technology).

13.3.2 Has Zimbabwe communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions.

Zimbabwe prioritizes capacity-building for climate action through communication with UNFCCC. Reports detail emissions, risks, and adaptation efforts, underscoring commitment to transparency. Recognizing the need for strong institutional support, Zimbabwe focuses on coordination and policy development. A Climate Change Management Bill is in progress to integrate climate considerations into planning. The National Climate Change Learning Strategy emphasizes systemic capacity-building. Through training and knowledge-sharing, Zimbabwe fosters expertise and innovation to address climate challenges and drive sustainable development.

13.3.2.a Number of subjects integrating climate change into primary and secondary education.

Zimbabwe has successfully integrated climate change into both primary and secondary education. In primary schools, subjects like science and Family Religion and Moral Education (FAREME) now cover topics such as climate patterns and sustainable practices, fostering understanding among young learners. At the secondary level, subjects like science, geography, agriculture, and economics include dedicated modules on climate change, enabling students to delve into its causes, impacts, and mitigation strategies. Extracurricular activities and clubs further reinforce environmental stewardship and climate action. By embedding climate change education from primary to secondary levels, Zimbabwe is shaping environmentally conscious citizens

equipped to address climate challenges, laying a foundation for a sustainable future.

13.3.2.b Proportion of tertiary institutions with climate change and disaster management courses and sub-courses.

Zimbabwe has significantly integrated climate change and disaster management courses into tertiary education, with around 80% of institutions offering dedicated programmes. These courses cover scientific, social, economic, and policy aspects, aiming to equip students with critical skills for addressing climate challenges. Topics include climate science, risk assessment, mitigation, and adaptation strategies. Interdisciplinary approaches ensure students gain holistic understanding, fostering resilience and sustainability.

13.3.2.c Proportion of plans and projects with a component of climate change education and awareness.

Zimbabwe has prioritized integrating climate change education and awareness into its plans and projects, aiming to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and empower communities to take action. This includes incorporating climate components into national development strategies like NDS 1, emphasizing capacity building and awareness-raising initiatives. Infrastructure, conservation, and community programmes also integrate climate education, ensuring a resilient approach to development. Moreover, Zimbabwe is enhancing public access to climate information by including it in Community Information Centres (CICs) nationwide. These centres serve as vital hubs for disseminating climate knowledge through various mediums, ensuring widespread accessibility and empowering communities to respond effectively to climate challenges.

Innovative approaches and practices adopted

Zimbabwe has demonstrated commendable innovation in its approaches and practices for implementing Goal 13 on climate action. The country has embraced various innovative strategies to address climate change and accelerate progress towards a sustainable and resilient future such as renewable energy expansion, climate-smart agriculture, climate-resilient infrastructure, climate information services, circular economy initiatives and climate entrepreneurship and innovation hubs.

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 39: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 13

Project Title	Location	Value	Objectives
Building Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Agricultural Livelihoods in Southern Zimbabwe, (2020-2026)	Save, Runde and Mzingwane catchments (139 wards in 15 districts)	USD 27.7 million	To strengthen resilience of agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable communities, particularly women, in southern Zimbabwe, in the face of increasing climate risks and impacts
Integrated Climate Risk Management for Food Security and Livelihoods in Zimbabwe focusing on Masvingo and Rushinga districts (2021-2024)	Masvingo and Rushinga Districts	USD 10 million	To strengthen the capacity and systems to support national and community level adaptation actions and management of climate risk based on climate forecast and information. To increase the adaptive capacity of food insecure households through community-based asset creation and risk transfer. To enhance the investment capacity of smallholder farmers to sustain climate resilient development gains.

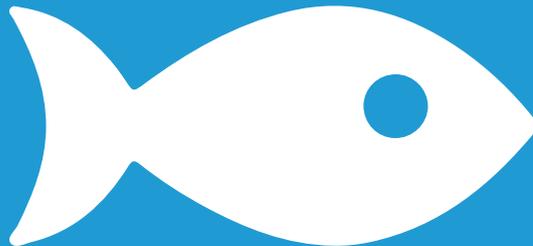
Building Capacity to Advance National Adaptation Planning in Zimbabwe (2019-2023)	National	USD 3 million	To reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience; To facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities in particular development planning processes and strategies within all relevant sectors and at different levels as appropriate.
Institutional Strengthening Project for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Zimbabwe (2018-2023)	Nationwide	USD 975,282.00	To reduce and eventually eliminate the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and some Greenhouses Gases (GHGs) such as Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
1st Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1)/ 2nd Biennial Transparency Report & Fifth National Communication (NC4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Project	National	USD 1,233,000.00	To develop the 5th National Communication 1st Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and 2nd Biennial Transparency Report (BTR 2), compliance documents to the UNFCCC. The document reports on the
Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) (2022-2024)	National	USD 1.2 million	To strengthen the capacity of institutions in Zimbabwe to conform to the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention to Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- **Other programmes include:**

- Parliamentarians for Climate Finance -US\$250,000
- AY4SF - Adolescents and Youth for a Sustainable Future: strengthening climate change adaptation and community resilience through green jobs in Zimbabwe- USD 25,000,000
- Climate Change Adaptation Programme in Zimbabwe US\$ 10,000,000
- The Limpopo Basin Adaptation Initiative: a community-centred approach to enhancing climate resilience at a basin scale- USD 13,995,000
- Nature-based Solutions for Agro-pastoral Resilience (NbS-ARC), partnership with UNDP, Green Jobs Assessment Model Development, Green Resilient Recovery (GRR) Project, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) and National Ozone Unit (NOU) Programmes.

14

LIFE BELOW
WATER



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Efforts are underway to localize targets and indicators for Goal 14, emphasizing comprehensive water resource management. The interconnectedness of SDG dimensions necessitates a multi-stakeholder approach, especially regarding water resources' impact on marine life. Water resources are vital for the economy, particularly in fisheries and tourism, contributing to poverty reduction, job creation, and improved health, benefiting vulnerable groups. Zimbabwe adopts a holistic approach involving all sectors to achieve environmental protection and climate resilience through sustainable resource management. This strategy supports sustainable tourism and environmental development, aligning with vision 2030.

Status

14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

Before industrialization, sea water had a pH of 8.2, which has now decreased to 8.1 due to land-based activities contributing to its acidification. Industries discharging acidic effluent are a significant factor, and monitoring and controlling their discharge can maintain sea pH sustainably. The Nation monitors ambient water pH to ensure it remains within acceptable limits, with averages in Zimbabwe showing slightly alkaline conditions in 2022 and 2024, albeit slightly above optimal ranges for freshwater organisms. These conditions affect aquatic life, promoting algae growth, reducing light penetration, and causing oxygen depletion. Some algae and aquatic plants, however, thrive in slightly alkaline pH levels.

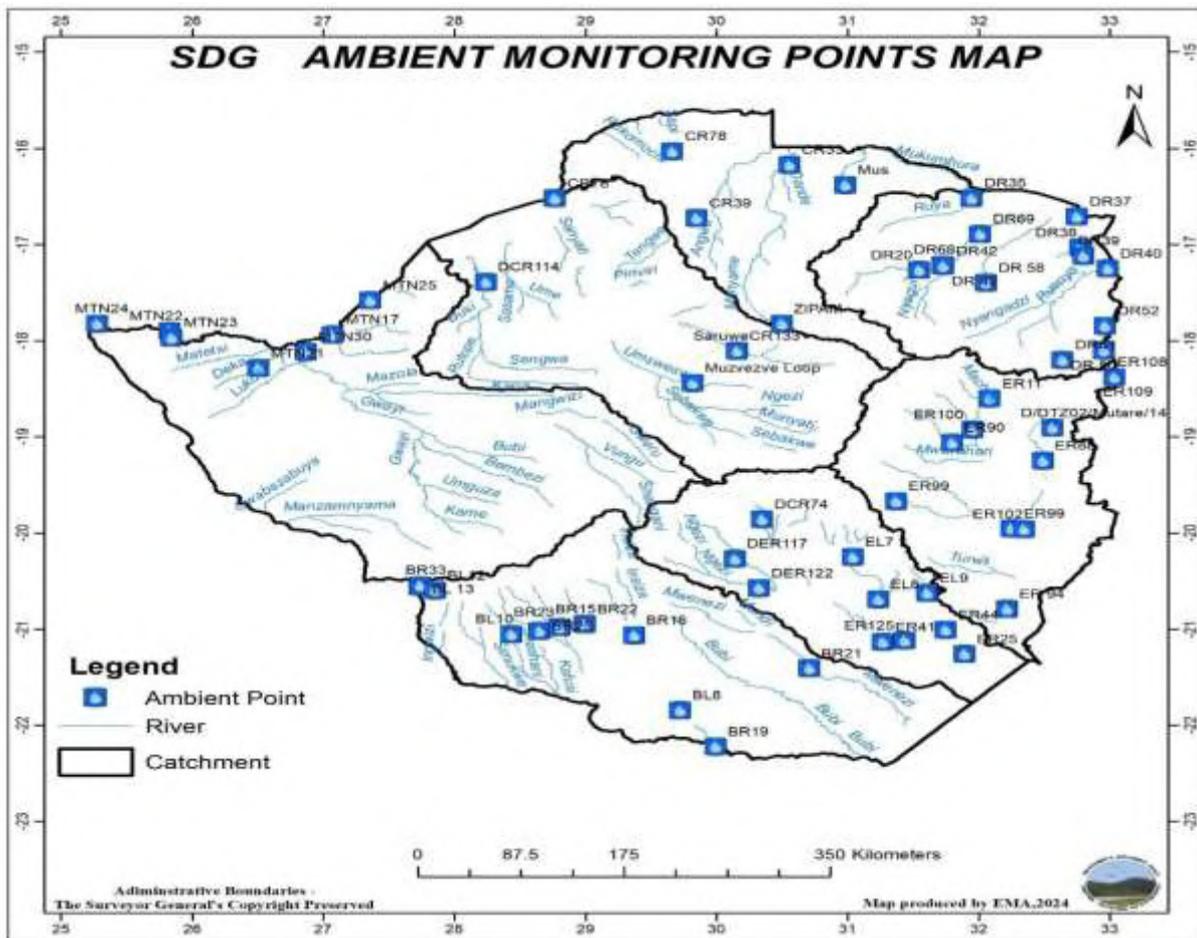


Figure 50: Map showing Ambient Water Quality monitoring

14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Zimbabwe has ratified numerous international conventions to protect its environment and biodiversity, including the UN/ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CITES, Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste, Convention on Biological Diversity, Minamata Convention on Mercury, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Montreal Protocol for Ozone Protection. The country has designated Ramsar sites, such as Mana Pools, for special protection and management, with legal frameworks like communities for conservation efforts. CITES regulations are implemented through the Parks and Wildlife Act, with designated authorities monitoring species populations and enforcing trade regulations to prevent illegal activity. Zimbabwe enforces Basel Convention laws for hazardous waste management, designating a national focal point and building waste management infrastructure. A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan guides biodiversity conservation efforts, including protected areas management and ex-situ conservation. Capacity-building initiatives aid in implementing conventions effectively, with collaboration among countries and international organizations for addressing environmental challenges.

14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries (Tier II)

In 2022, the Government implemented initiatives to promote equitable access and utilization of natural resources. This included the establishment of constitutions for 8 Sub-Area Fishers Associations and 2 District Fishers Associations, aimed at supporting small-scale fishers in Lake Kariba and the Zambezi River. Additionally, training programmes on the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management are being provided to small-scale fishers, while efforts are underway to develop a Fisheries Management Plan and Integrated Land Management Plans for the Zambezi Valley, alongside the establishment of 6 Community Wildlife Conservancies with notarial deeds.

ajor programmes/ projects and interventions

Table 40: Major programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 14

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Planet Gold Project	Its targeting reduction in anthropogenic releases of Mercury from the Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASGM) sector under GEF 8
Water quality monitoring	The project had monitored 7 dams against a target of 5 (140% achievement), Dams monitored include Tugwi Mukosi, Lake Manyame, Lake Mutirikwi, Mazowe Dam, Euriika Dam (Guruve), Causeway Dam Mount Darwin, Kariba Dam
UNEP Special Grants Project	Develop National Chemicals Policy USD238,000.00
Aquatic Ecology or Aquatic Scientific Services Unit	The government is conducting research on key aquatic and ecological parameters in water bodies in protected areas. Specific example is the Lake Kariba Fisheries Research Unit whose mandate is to monitor and carry out research on the Lake Kariba landscape
Zimbabwe Institute of Wildlife Conservation	Trains internal staff and outsiders in Wildlife and related support disciplines from certificate to Degree Level, in collaboration with the National University of Science and Technology (NUST)
Zimbabwe collaborating with Zambia	Zimbabwe collaborates with Zambia on Lake Kariba and Zambezi River through the Zambezi River Authority and other associated bilateral collaboration platforms
SADC Trans frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Programme	Participation in the SADC (TFCA) Programme under the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999), Convention on Shared Water Courses, Bi-National and Joint Commission Partnerships and Collaboration, Zimbabwe-South Africa, Zimbabwe-Botswana, Zimbabwe-Mozambique, Zimbabwe Namibia, Zimbabwe-Angola etc.
Authority's Conservation Education and Awareness Campaigns	Capacity building involving training in fisheries and fish farming are areas the Authority invests in as part of the collaborative approach to sustainable conservation drive with emphasis on benefit sharing

15 LIFE ON LAND



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Introduction

In Zimbabwe, SDG 15 is crucial amid environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, and climate change, threatening diverse landscapes and biodiversity, including iconic sites like Hwange National Park. Biodiversity loss impacts food security and community livelihoods. Collaborative efforts between government, private sector, NGOs, and communities prioritize strategies balancing economic development with environmental sustainability, aiming to achieve SDG 15 goals. Emphasizing sustainable land use and conservation, Zimbabwe contributes to global conservation efforts, ensuring the well-being of its citizens and preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

Status

15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

In 2021, the World Bank estimated the forest area to be 45% of the total land area. The NDS 1 mid-term review indicates that 58,320 hectares of forest area under rural district councils' jurisdiction was protected in 2021.

Table 41: Trends in forest cover as a proportion of the total land area.

Indicator	Percent								
	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Forest area as a proportion of land area	47.48	46.38	45.69	45.57	45.45	45.33	45.21	45.09	45

15.1.1 The proportion of total terrestrial area classified as protected

According to the Global Forest Survey (GFS) 2020, 28% of the total land area is covered by protected areas. The Zimbabwe National Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) further breaks down the protected areas into three as follows: National parks, wildlife estates and gazetted forests comprise 14.9% of Zimbabwe's protected area network, conservancies 1.9% and CAMPFIRE areas 11.2%.

15.1.b Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

In total, the first two years of NDS 1 saw 996,721 hectares of wetlands protected, benefitting from the collaboration of Government and active stakeholder participation. According to 2023 NDS1 Mid-term review report, NDS 1 sensitisation of the National Wetland Policy across provinces and districts underpinned increased support of community livelihood projects for wetland management, with the hectarage of wetlands under protection in 2021 rising to 743,866 hectares. Further progress was made during 2022, with an additional 252,855 hectares of wetlands also coming under protection.

15.2.1 Forest area net change rate

The net change in forest area (loss and gain) describes the sum of all changes in forest area over a specific period of time (including reductions due to deforestation and disasters, and increases due to afforestation and expansion of forests during the period). During the first half of NDS 1, a total of 17.4 million trees and 19.7 million trees were planted in 2021 and 2022, respectively, notwithstanding COVID-19 induced lockdowns. Disbursement of resources under the Afforestation Fund facilitated tree planting initiatives.

Table 42: GEF 6 tree seedling production and tree planting achievement

Year	Hurungwe		Mbire		Muzarabani		Totals	
	Trees Planted	Area (ha)						
2020-21	91,818	41.18	16,715	23.03	153,191	83.61	261,724	147.82
2021-22	46,485	49.4	995	4.06	61,795	53.36	109,275	106.81
2022-23	262,826	502.55	10,91	14.34	57,062	41.25	330,798	558.14
Totals	454,713	667.39	44,211	63.48	393,048	325.8	892,019	1,056.67

15.2.2 Above ground biomass stock in forest

According to the current 2020 Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report (2017-2020), the above ground biomass stock for naturally regenerated forest stand at 34.13m³/ha representing a decline from 37.76m³/ha from the previous report (1990-2016). For the forest plantations, an average growing stock of 96 m³/ha was used while the other wooded land, it is estimated at 12.26 m³/ha used, based on Global forest survey data collected in 2017 (35 clusters).

15.2.3 Proportion of forest areas located within legally established protected areas

The proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas is estimated at 2.3%. However, there are plans to gazette Tugwi-Mukosi, Osborne Dam and Gwayi -Shangani hence the Protected Area network is set to increase once this is finalised. There is no recent loss of area under the Protected Area network. The area which falls under other effective area based conservation measures (OECMs) is also being determined and will add to the total area of forests under protection.

15.2.4 Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan

Currently the proportion of forest under long term forest management plans is estimated at 0.8% of the total land area covering mostly gazetted forests. However, Simuchembu forest which is 17,479 ha in Gokwe North District, Midlands Province was placed under active management. Engagement processes are also under way where Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) submission to the local authorities of Nkayi and Hwange have already been made.

15.2.5 Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme

Currently, no verified forest management certification scheme is in place. However, efforts are underway to have a Forest Stewardship Council International Standard for local conditions in Zimbabwe through Soil Association Certification. Under this agreement, Interim National Standards are going to be developed. The Zimbabwe Interim National Standard, once developed, will form the basis for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management certification in the country.

15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

To date a total of 6,473ha have been rehabilitated under the two programmes. The NDS1Mid-Term Review reports that the positive performance of landscape rehabilitation especially in mine area was mainly as a result of compliance with the environmental impact assessment (EIA) statutes.

15.5.1 Red List Index

According to the 2023 Global SDGs report, the red list index has remained stagnant at 0.79 since 2014. The index had maintained a 0.8 score from 2000 until 2013. The graph below shows the performance of this indicator over the years.

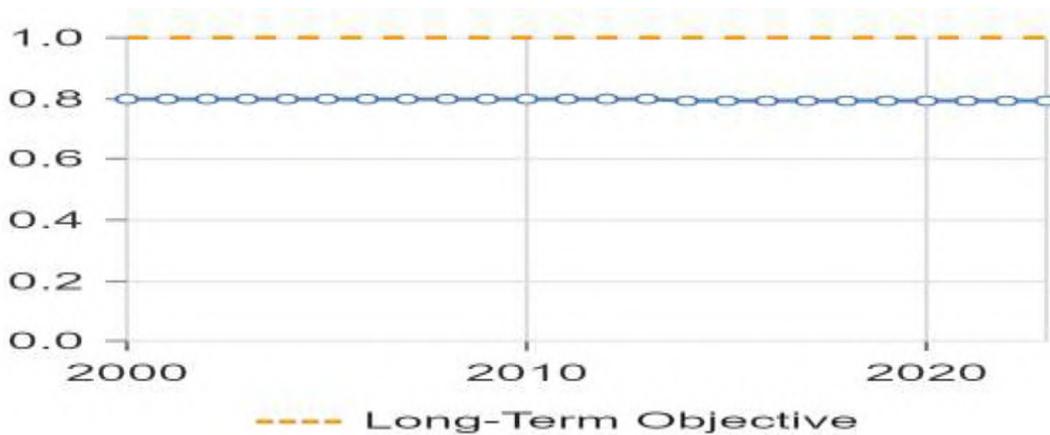


Figure 51: Red list index

15.6.1 Has Zimbabwe adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits?

Zimbabwe has adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits through:

1. Devolution Policy: Fair resource distribution.
2. Carbon Trading: Monetizing emissions reduction.
3. Legal Framework: Ensuring transparency.
4. Forestry Policy: Sustainable forest management.
5. Benefit Sharing Strategy: Equitable resource utilization.
6. CAMPFIRE: Indigenous community empowerment.

15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

During the first half of NDS 1, the elephant population grew to 83,831. Parks and Wildlife authority reports that Elephant population grew by 0.6% while Rhino population grew by 0.1%. This is attributable to enhanced law enforcement and collaborations with key stakeholder interventions. These two species are the major targeted animals for poaching, hence an increase in their population may be used as a proxy that implicitly imply reduced poaching and illicit trafficking.

15.8.1 Has Zimbabwe adopted relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species

The specific legislation that addresses invasive species include provisions related to prevention, control, and management strategies. The EMA Act Chapter 20:27 is responsible for regulating and control the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. In addition to the EMA Act, The Forest Act and the Parks and Wildlife Act Chapter 20:14 also have provisions for the control and management of alien invasive species.

15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

The AICHI Biodiversity Targets were replaced by the Global Biodiversity Framework (2021-2030), however data to report on progress is still outstanding.

15.a.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

The table below provides a clear overview of the allocated funds for various environmental and tourism-related initiatives from different funding sources

Table 43: ODA and Public Expenditure on conservation and sustainable biodiversity

Funding Source	Amount	Allocation Purpose
2023 National Budget	ZWL\$14.2 billion	Development and implementation of environmental and tourism policies and programmes
Development Partner Support for Forestry (January-September 2022)	USD 0.3 million	Forestry development
Development Partner Support for Tourism (January-September 2022)	USD 2.4 million	Tourism development
GEF6	USD 12 million	Conservation support, with USD 2 million allocated for sustainable forest management
GEF7	USD 223,823.70	Forestry-related initiatives
Climate Adaptation Water and Energy Programme (CAWEP)	USD 14 million	Projects in Chipinge, Binga, Insiza, and Chivi Districts

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

Government in collaboration with partners is implementing the following programmes:

- GEF 6, Zambezi Biodiversity project
- GEF 7 Sustainable Forestry management and The Hwange-Kazuma Wildlife
- Tree planting, Enrichment planting, Woodland management and Assisted natural regeneration of our forest areas.
- Gazetting of Wetlands, protecting the same and wetland Catchment rehabilitation.
- Forest Conservation, Fire management programmes, including awareness raising and training.
- The Climate Adaptation Water and Energy programme (CAWEP) for Chipinge, Binga, Insiza and Chivi Districts
- Seedball broadcasting launched in Masvingo last year
- Integrating forestry with fisheries, horticulture and beekeeping projects
- Promoting wood saving stoves
- Seedling production
- Agroforestry
- Water catchment area protection

16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Introduction

Zimbabwe's focus on service and justice delivery, along with social cohesion, drives implementation of NDS 1. The goal is to foster social contract promoting inclusivity, accountability, and human rights. Good governance and inclusive policies underpin these efforts, empowering citizens to hold authorities accountable and demand quality services. The 2013 Constitution emphasizes national unity, equitable development, and community involvement in planning and execution. This commitment to rights and freedoms shapes Zimbabwe's path toward sustainable development.

Status

16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100 000 populations by sex.

Zimbabwe is accelerating its efforts on reducing all forms of violence and related deaths. As at the end of 2023 murder cases slightly reduced from 1,086 in 2022 to 1,085. However, reporting of other forms of violence (physical, psychological and sexual) have increased from 121,064 in 2022 to 129,052 cases in 2023 which can be due to the awareness campaigns being done in schools to educate and encourage children to report all cases of abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking and other cases. Significant progress in reducing human trafficking by 83% (13 cases) in 2023 from 78 cases of trafficking in 2022. In 2023 the cases of sexual violence reduced by about 47% from 1,522 to 809 (ZRP Statistics Division).

16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-14 years who experienced physical punishment and or psychological aggression by caregivers in the last month

Results from MICS 2019, indicated that 64.1% experienced physical punishment and or psychological aggression by caregivers in the last month, comprising of 65.1% males and 63.1% females. Disaggregation by urban and rural constituted 68.2% and 62.6%, respectively (see below).

Table 44: Summary of disciplining methods among children 1-14 years

	Percentage of Children age 1-14 who experienced:					Number of children age 1-14
	Only non-violent discipline	Psychological aggression	Physical punishment		Any violent discipline method	
			any	severe		
Total	21.8	54.6	40.8	6.0	64.1	17,287
Sex						
Male	21.8	55.5	41.8	6.5	65.1	8,708
Female	21.7	53.7	39.7	5.6	63.1	8,579
Area						
Urban	21.1	56.8	50.3	6.4	68.2	4,852
Rural	22.0	53.8	37.3	5.9	62.6	12,635
Province						
Bulawayo	20.3	56.8	47.1	3.6	69.3	755
Manicaland	21.0	54.2	37.3	4.4	63.0	2,692
Mashonaland Central	21.7	52.0	39.7	10.9	60.7	1,631
Mashonaland East	22.9	50.6	40.1	6.7	61.5	1,748
Mashonaland West	22.5	58.5	38.7	5.2	66.8	2,221
Matebeleland North	28.6	40.9	26.4	5.6	47.8	1,025
Matebeleland South	24.0	47.3	33.9	5.8	56.8	1,033

16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark.

According to MICS 2019, more men felt safe walking alone around the area they live after dark than women. Of the population sampled, 82.8% males and 47.9% females, felt safe.

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms

Of adolescent girls and women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence, 37.7% sought help to stop violence, 27% never sought help, but told someone and 35.2% never sought help and never told anyone, (MICS, 2019). Results from MICS (2019) show that 28% who experienced sexual and physical violence reported to police in 2019 compared to 20.8% Zimbabwe Demographic Health Surveys in 2015.

Table 45: Summary of adolescent girls and women who experience sexual violence who sought help

Source	Type of violence experienced			Total
	Physical only	Sexual only	Physical and sexual	
Own family	50.7	59.1	51.2	51.4
Husband's/ Partner's family	44.9	18.9	43.1	42.8
Current/ former husband/ partner	1.7	2.6	2.1	1.9
Current/ former boyfriend	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Friend	8.2	19.4	11.9	9.8
Neighbour	7.6	6.3	6.9	7.3
Religious leader	6.1	4.8	9.1	6.8
Doctor/medical personal	2.7	13.6	6.0	4.2
Police	24.2	28.1	37.6	28.0
Lawyer	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Social service organisation	2.0	8.5	6.0	3.4
Other	6.9	2.6	2.7	5.5
Number of women who have ever experienced sexual violence	1,094	98	432	1,624

Note: Women can report more than once source from which they sought help

16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

The proportion in Zimbabwe is 1 of every 4 prisoners is unsentenced. The total prisoners' population is 22,539 with the number of unsentenced adding up to 5,195 (4,928 males and 267 females) (Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services, 2024).

16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

Zimbabwe experience challenges with illicit financial flows, emanating from externalisation of funds and parallel markets. Estimating the exact amount lost is challenging but staggering from 2000 to 2020, Zimbabwe lost over US\$32 billion, Economic Governance Watch, (2022). A Brookings Institute policy brief notes that from 1,980 to 2018, illicit financial flows accounted for 13.9% of Zimbabwe's total trade.

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

A total of 264 corruption cases were referred for prosecution by Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) to National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), indicating their commitment to combat corruption. Anti-corruption blitz at Centre for Legal Education uncovered corrupt activities, leading to the arrest of officials and lawyers. ZACC and Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) launched a campaign against civil servant rebate abuse. NPA made sustainable progress against crime and corruption through cooperation. Two new ZACC provincial offices were established, and 1,111 integrity pledges were signed by public officials with 150 institutions establishing Integrity Committees.

16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

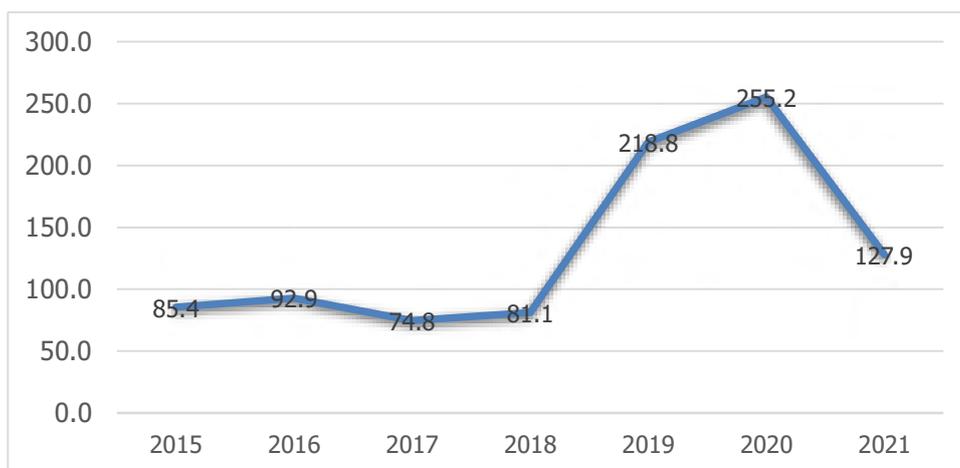


Figure 52: Primary Government expenditures as a proportion of original budget

The interplay of macroeconomic instability and disruptions in global supply chains created a volatile environment in the Zimbabwean economy, causing primary government expenditures to surpass the original budget. In 2020, these expenditures surged to 255.2%, reflecting the economic challenges. However, with the implementation of NDS1 aimed at fostering economic growth and controlling inflation, there was a significant reduction to 127.9%, indicating efforts to stabilize the economy.

16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services (NEW INDICATOR ADDED IN 2021)

According to the National Development Strategy Mid-term Review Zimbabwe has made significant progress in service delivery. Citizen satisfaction is being tracked through online surveys. Actual performance for 2021 reflected a satisfactory level of 48%. Further gains were witnessed during the year 2022, with the citizen satisfaction index registering 68.5%, a positive variance of 13.47%, against the target of 55% (NDS 1 Mid-term report).

16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

Zimbabwe system has ensured that there is representations in national and local institutions as can be seen through its key result area on 'Effective representation of the people' such as the women's quota, disability quota and the Zebra system¹⁰. The total percentage of representation by women in the 9th parliament inched slightly downwards to 34% from 35% in the 8th parliament. Of note, in the 9th parliament is the fact that there is equal representation of persons with disabilities in the senate chamber (one male and one female).

16.7.2: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

There is data gap for this specific indicator. Efforts are being made to collect this information.

16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.

The 2022 Population and Housing Census indicated that 78.6% of the population had registered births, while 20.5 % of the births were not registered and 0.9 % with an unknown registration status.

16.10.2 Has Zimbabwe adopted and implemented constitutional, statutory and or policy guarantee for public access to information

Zimbabwe passed the Freedom of Information Act (2020) and the Zimbabwe Media Commission Act (2021), aiming to boost public access to information and regulate the media sector. The government has approved the licensing of free-to-air 6 television stations, 10 national radio stations, 9 campus radio stations, and 14 community radio stations in 2020 to promote media diversity and extend coverage to remote areas, enhancing citizen participation in national discourse and access to information.

16.a.1 Does Zimbabwe has independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Zimbabwe established the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission in line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013 which speaks to its functions and follows the Paris principles. Section 243(1) speaks to its functions which among others includes: -

- Promote awareness of and respect for human rights and freedoms at all levels of society;
- Promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights and freedoms;
- Monitor, assess and ensure observance of human rights and freedoms;
- Receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints as it considers appropriate etc.

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

The information for this indicator is similar to information on Section 10.3.1. A total of 25.9% of men and 25.2% of women felt discriminated against or harassed within the last 12 months (MICS, 2019). Discrimination or harassment was classified on the basis of ethnic or immigration origin, gender, age, religion or belief, disability, marital status, political affiliation, born out of wedlock, among other reasons. More information is presented in figure 53

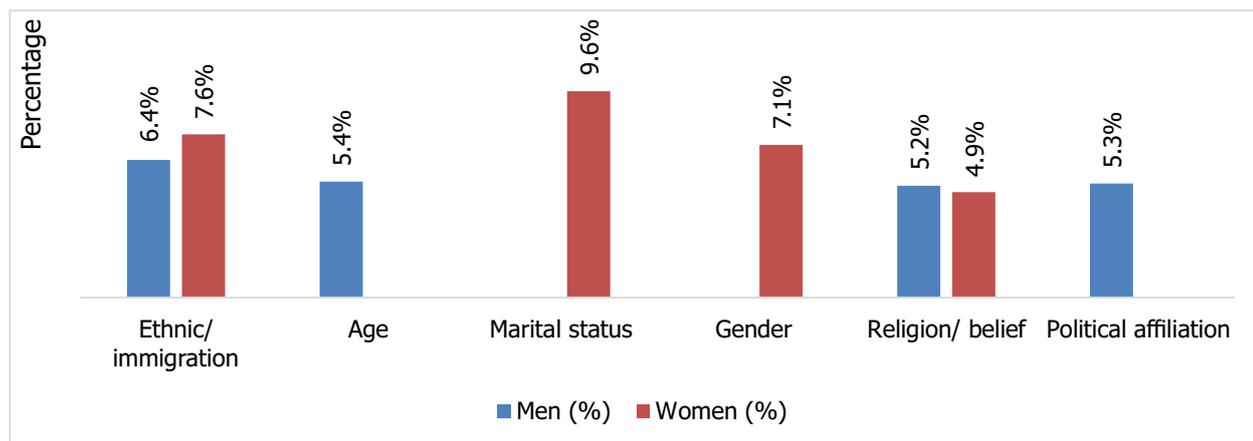


Figure 53: Summary of discrimination or harassment rate from MICS 2019 survey

Major programmes/ projects and interventions

The Government of Zimbabwe is ensuring the upholding of human rights for the achievement of SDG 16 through alignment of laws to the Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013. A summary of programmes implemented is presented in table below:

Table 46: National Mobile Registration Exercise

Programme Implemented	Baseline Value and Year 2019	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2023 Actual	Sources of Data
National Mobile Registration Exercise	704,622	1,993,007	986,500	720,205	Monthly Reports

Table 47: Programmes/ projects and interventions - Goal 16

Programme	Description
Open Correctional Facilities for both males and females.	Establishment two Open Correctional facilities The object and purpose of establishing these facilities is to allow inmates who are not a danger to society and vulnerable groups to be allowed to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society in an environment that is not a closed system
Another Chance	Is a strategy which aims to seek reunion and forgiveness from the aggrieved victims before an inmate is released back into the society he offended. An inmate is allowed to meet their victims to ask for forgiveness before release. The program is broadcasted on national television and radio twice a month for the whole year.
Parole System and community rehabilitation centres.	To allows prisoners to serve part of their sentence of imprisonment in the community. The Country is operationalizing the system
Active Notification for Community Births and Deaths	Community engagement to promote notification of community births and deaths

17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Zimbabwe is dedicated to SDG 17 through global partnerships involving government, communities, developmental partners, private sector, civil society, volunteers and other stakeholders. The whole of society approach adopted by the government of Zimbabwe is an attempt to foster inclusive partnerships and promote an all stakeholder approach to development. This approach aims to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and promote technology transfer for sustainable development. Volunteerism is vital for community mobilization and crisis support. The country seeks to foster partnerships for accelerated progress in achieving SDGs.

Status

17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source

Government revenue as a share of GDP rose steadily from 14.2% in 2019 to 17.8% in 2023, temporarily dipping to 15.3% in 2021 due to COVID-19. Domestic taxes primarily funded the budget, aided by revenue-enhancing measures and eased COVID-19 restrictions. VAT was temporarily reduced to 14.5% in 2020 for COVID-19 relief but reinstated to 15% in 2023. Tax incentives for Real Estate Investment Trusts were introduced.

17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes.

According to Government Finance Statistics, 95.1 % of the domestic budget was funded by domestic taxes in 2022. The cumulative revenue collections for the period January to September 2023 amounted to Z\$11.4 trillion, comprising of tax revenue of Z\$11.2 trillion which is 97.5 % of total revenue.

17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South- South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget.

There has been an increase in FDI with USD886 million being channelled to the economy, mainly for budget financing and infrastructure development. Programmes and interventions in support of this include the Structured Debt Dialogue Platform and Development Partner programmes. The challenge however, is that some Development Partner channel support through Civil Society Organisations as opposed to Government systems and this dilutes coherence of development initiatives and complicates compilation of FDI support. Sanctions have also resulted in poor country perception and therefore, lower levels of FDI. Proposed areas for acceleration include continued international re-engagement efforts; strengthening of partnerships with Development Partners; continuous lobbying and re-engagement have been prioritised to ensure that ODA increases; strengthening of Public-Private-Partnerships; and coordination of development assistance.

17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

The 2023 Mid-term Monetary Policy Statement indicated that as at 30 June 2023, total international remittances through official channels amounted to US\$1.433 billion an increase of 4 % from US\$1.371 billion during the same period in 2022. Of the total amount, diaspora remittances amounted to US\$919 million, a 15% increase from US\$ 797 million received during the same period in the year 2022.

17.4.1 Consolidated Public Sector Debt as a percentage of GDP

Public debt as a percentage of GDP increased to 101.3% in 2022 from 48.7% in 2019 due to debt transfer to the central government. Efforts are underway to clear arrears and resolve debt, including a multi-stakeholder platform. Challenges remain in transparency, accountability, and a weak domestic debt market. High-level debt dialogues aim to attract investment from international institutions. Proposed areas for improvement include public enterprise reforms, financial inclusion, domestic capital market development, and external balance strengthening.

17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries.

Zimbabwe established Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) as a one stop investment centre to promote and facilitate Domestic and Foreign Investment.

17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

The total number of active internet and data subscriptions increased by 0.1% to 9,920,847 in the first quarter of 2023 from 9,914,950 in the fourth quarter of 2022. The internet penetration rate declined by 0.1% from 65.3% to 65.4% during the same reported period (Abridged Postal and Telecommunication Sector Performance Report, 2023).

17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Results from 2022 Population and Housing Census show that 34.2% of households have access to internet, approximately translating to 5.5 million individuals using the internet.

17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries (New Indicator added in 2021)

In 2022 US\$524 million was made available through the UN support and its Partners.

17.11.1 Zimbabwe's share of global exports

Table 48: Zimbabwe's share of global exports

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
US\$ Billion	4.721	6.23	7.02	7.6
Global share (%)	0.021	0.023	0.023	-

Source: ZimTrade (2024), World Trade Organisation- UNCTAD (2023)

Since 2020, Zimbabwe's total exports have shown a consistent upward trend, increasing from \$4.721 billion to \$7.6 billion in 2023. This growth has contributed to a 0.002% expansion in the country's global export share, driven by key sectors including tobacco, iron and steel, salt, sulphur, stone and cement, ores and slag, gems and precious metals, and horticulture.

17.14.1 Does Zimbabwe have mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

The Government has Vision 2030, NDS 1, Programme Based Budgeting, Whole of Government Performance Management System (WOGMAS), Executive Electronic Dashboard (EED), Whole of Government and Whole of Society Approach. Policy reviews are conducted quarterly, biannually and annually. For example, Fiscal Policy Reviews, Monetary Policy Reviews, NDS1 Reviews, Sustainable Development Goals Reviews.

17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation.

There is a greater extent of use of results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation. For example, the ZUNSDCF (2022-2026), the European Union's Multi Annual Indicative Programme (2021-2027) are aligned to NDS 1.

17.16.1 Does Zimbabwe report progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

In alignment with the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the Government periodically undertakes reviews to assess the performance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs Quarterly Reviews, Voluntary National Reviews, Voluntary Local Reviews, Agenda 2063 periodic reports, Monitoring of Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation, etc.) of partnerships.

17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

About 63.2% of prioritised SDG indicators can be monitored, leaving a 36.8% gap, based on data from the 2022 Population and Housing Census & Quarterly Labour Force Survey. Overall, 58.6% of all 17 goals have data, with a 41.4% gap. Zimbabwe can report on 62.8% of social goals, 54% of economic goals, but only 25% of environmental goals. For peace and security (SDG 16), only 39% of indicators can be reported on.

17.18.2 Does Zimbabwe have a national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Zimbabwe has the Census and Statistics Act, [Chapter 10:29 of 2007] with amendments developed in alignment to the United Nations fundamental principles of official statistics as well as the African Charter on Statistics.

17.18.3 Does Zimbabwe have a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding.

The National Strategy for Development of Statistics III (NSDS III: 2021-2025) aims to boost data flow in Zimbabwe's statistical system, aligning with NDS1, Agenda 2030, and Agenda 2063. It tackles data gaps by fostering collaboration and monitoring of development plans. The government, with support from partners, is enhancing migration data collection to inform policymaking and address Zimbabwe's migration trends.

17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration.

The latest Population and Housing Censuses (PHC) was conducted in 2022 having previously undertaken the last one in 2012. The proportion of registered births was 78.6% while 20.5% of the births were not registered and 0.9% with an unknown registration status. Census further reflected that the proportion of population with registered births was 89.4% for urban areas and 71.8% for rural areas. A total of 121,070 deaths were reported, of which 64.7% (78,384) were registered. Of the total deaths that were reported 56.8% (47,819) and 82.8% (30,565) were registered in rural and urban areas, respectively.

Major Programmes/Projects and interventions

Table 49: Programmes/ projects and interventions Goal 17

Programme/ Initiative Area	Description
Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)	Collaboration between government and private sector in energy, infrastructure, transportation, water, sanitation, and telecommunications sectors for development projects.
International Development Cooperation	Partnerships with international organizations, donor countries, and development agencies to access resources and expertise for various development projects in education, healthcare, agriculture, construction, aviation, digital technology, and environmental conservation.
Image Building	A number of high political level engagements have been held such as the Structured Dialogue on Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution.
Climate Change and Environmental Initiatives	Collaborative efforts with international and local organizations to promote renewable energy, climate resilience in agriculture and water management, and environmental conservation.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing	Programmes to enhance skills and capabilities of government officials, civil society, and stakeholders through knowledge exchange, technical expertise, and institutional strengthening.
Financial Inclusion and Microfinance	Initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and small business in rural areas through access to financial services, training, and resources, often in partnership with financial institutions and NGOs.
Data and Monitoring Systems	Strengthening data collection, statistical capacity, and monitoring frameworks for tracking progress on SDGs through partnerships with international organizations and research institutions.
National Volunteering Programme	Implementation of legal and policy instruments, such as the National Volunteer Strategy 2021-2025 and National Youth Policy, to standardize and promote volunteerism's role in SDGs achievement.

HIGH LEVEL EMERGING ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This section delves into the contemporary landscape of pressing concerns across all the SDGs, highlighting the imminent challenges facing industries and societies and offering strategic recommendations. From the complexities of climate change and technological advancements to socio-economic disparities and geopolitical tensions, the section below encapsulates a broad spectrum of issues. Through meticulous analysis and expert insights, it aims to inform stakeholders and policymakers about crucial areas necessitating attention and action for sustainable progress and development.

Emerging Issues

The country is faced with a number of emerging issues, arising from shifts in technology, social norms, environmental conditions, or geopolitical dynamics and affecting the attainment of Sustainable Development

Goals.

Drug and Substance Abuse: Despite efforts to address drug and substance abuse through multi-sectoral initiatives and the implementation of the Zimbabwe National Drug Master Plan, the problem persists. This issue not only threatens the social fabric and youth demographic dividend, but also impacts economic productivity through increased work-related accidents and health implications.

New Pests and Diseases in Agriculture: Agricultural productivity is threatened by pests like Fall armyworm. Government interventions such as pesticide distribution and tick-grease provision have shown some success, but challenges remain in controlling pests and diseases, especially with changing climatic conditions.

Climate Change: Zimbabwe's vulnerability to climate-induced shocks like droughts, floods, and heatwaves affects agriculture and water resources, leading to food insecurity. Climate change exacerbates existing challenges and contributes to conflicts over resources, including water bodies drying up and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Health Epidemics: Cholera outbreaks, though previously under control, have resurged, affecting some provinces. The convergence of climate change, poor waste disposal, and informal settlements exacerbates the spread of diseases. Additionally, antimicrobial resistance, fuelled by improper use of medical drugs and environmental contamination, poses a growing threat to public health.

Artisanal Mining and Environmental Degradation: The surge in artisanal mining activities driven by economic factors poses significant environmental challenges such as erosion, woodland degradation, and encroachment into wildlife protected areas. Balancing economic gains with environmental conservation is essential for sustainable development.

Technology and Conservation: Technological advancements offer opportunities for conservation efforts but also raise ethical and traditional knowledge concerns. Finding a balance between leveraging on technology for conservation and respecting indigenous ecological wisdom is crucial for effective biodiversity conservation.

Urban Sprawl: Rapid urbanization and land use changes contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation, resulting in increased infrastructure demands and impacting biodiversity.

Global Supply Chain disruptions: Geopolitical tensions and trade conflicts have strained supply chain resilience, disrupting established sourcing networks and trade routes.

Technological advancements, including automation and digitalization, have introduced both opportunities and challenges, requiring the economy to adapt their operational models and invest in innovative solutions. This calls for the country to rethink their supply chain strategies, prioritizing resilience, flexibility, and sustainability to mitigate future disruptions and ensure operational continuity in an increasingly volatile global landscape.

Non-traditional and big data sources has becoming increasingly important for providing insights into complex phenomena. However, the quality, reliability, and privacy concerns of such data pose challenges in interpreting and incorporating it into decision-making processes. This also, confirms the need to strengthen the country's data infrastructure as we shift towards people-centred and data-driven decision-making.

High level challenges and Recommendations

The challenges facing Zimbabwe are complex and multifaceted, spanning agriculture, healthcare, education, gender equality, infrastructure, energy, economy, disaster management, and environmental sustainability. Addressing these issues requires coordinated efforts, adequate resources, and innovative solutions to promote inclusive development and resilience. Strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing legal frameworks, mobilising resources, and fostering partnerships with stakeholders are essential steps toward achieving sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

Table 50: High level Challenges and Recommendations

Issue	Challenge	Recommendation
Climate Change Impact on Agriculture and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change-induced disasters pose a significant threat to agriculture in Zimbabwe, exacerbating food insecurity and leaving many households vulnerable to hunger. With erratic weather patterns becoming more frequent, crop and livestock production faces increasing challenges, leading to reduced yields and income losses for farmers. This, in turn, contributes to the escalation of food insecurity, as many households struggle to access an adequate and nutritious diet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upscale and strengthen climate-smart agriculture techniques such as drought-resistant crop varieties, sustainable irrigation methods, and agroforestry practices to build resilience against climate change impacts and enhance food security for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.
Climate change impact on SDGs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change significantly affects progress towards SDGs such as education, food systems, health, environment, infrastructure, economic growth, and poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into SDG planning and implementation processes across all sectors, prioritizing resilience-building measures in education, food systems, health, environment, infrastructure, economic growth, and poverty alleviation initiatives. Investing in enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on development goals.

Social Protection and Geopolitical Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The limited availability of resources poses a major obstacle to financing social protection programmes in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, geopolitical conflicts disrupt supply chains, causing food prices to soar and leaving vulnerable populations at greater risk of hunger and malnutrition. These challenges highlight the urgent need for robust social safety nets and diplomatic efforts to mitigate the impact of conflicts on food security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance allocation and timely disbursement of funds, accompanied by support from social partners for social protection programmes to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of social safety nets. Additionally, engage in diplomatic efforts to promote peace and stability in the region, mitigating the impact of geopolitical conflicts on food security and livelihoods.
Barriers to Progress for Persons with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe face a myriad of socio-economic, political and attitudinal barriers that impede their access to education, employment, and essential services. Without adequate support systems in place, many individuals with disabilities struggle to fully participate in society and build resilience against the challenges they encounter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact and enforce comprehensive legislation that guarantees the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, including education, employment, and public services. Develop and implement targeted programmes to provide accessible infrastructure, vocational training, and support services tailored to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities.
Impact of Sanctions on Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The imposition of sanctions has inflicted significant economic harm on Zimbabwe, resulting in the loss of billions of dollars in potential development funds. This setback has reversed progress in crucial sectors such as infrastructure, health, education, and social services, exacerbating poverty and hindering the country's ability to achieve sustainable development goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen domestic industries and diversify the economy through targeted investment in sectors less affected by sanctions, such as agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. Continuously engage in diplomatic dialogue with relevant stakeholders to negotiate for the lifting or easing of sanctions, while simultaneously implementing transparent governance and anti-corruption measures to restore confidence in Zimbabwe's economy and attract foreign investment.
Healthcare Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zimbabwe's healthcare system continues to face numerous challenges, including shortages of essential medicines and equipment, as well as high staff attrition rates due to inadequate funding and poor working conditions. These deficiencies undermine the delivery of healthcare services and contribute to the persistence of health disparities across the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase budgetary allocations and disbursements to the healthcare sector towards meeting the 15% Abuja Declaration, and prioritize the procurement of essential medicines, medical equipment, and infrastructure upgrades to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services nationwide. Implement retention strategies for healthcare professionals, including improved working conditions, competitive salaries, and career development opportunities, to address staff shortages and enhance the overall resilience of Zimbabwe's healthcare system.
Education Sector challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate resources and infrastructure maintenance hinder educational progress in Zimbabwe, exacerbating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in upgrading and maintaining educational infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to reduce travel distances

	<p>disparities in educational opportunities. Travelling long distances, teacher shortages and challenges in integrating technology further compound these issues, limiting access to quality education for many children and perpetuating cycles of inequality.</p>	<p>and improve access to quality education for all children in Zimbabwe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, implement comprehensive teacher training programmes that incorporate the integration of technology into teaching methodologies, ensuring educators are equipped with the skills necessary to enhance learning outcomes in the digital age.
Gender Inequality and Weak Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak implementation of gender equality policies and aging infrastructure marginalize women in Zimbabwe, limiting their access to economic opportunities and essential services. Insufficient investment in WASH infrastructure further exacerbates gender disparities, perpetuating inequalities in access to clean water and sanitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upscale funding towards rehabilitation and expansion of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, prioritizing areas with high gender disparities in access to clean water and sanitation facilities. • Implement gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote women's economic empowerment, including access to finance, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support services, to address gender inequalities and enhance women's participation in Zimbabwe's economy.
Energy Sector Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe faces significant challenges in its energy sector, including an energy deficit and underutilization of renewable resources. Obsolete infrastructure, vandalism and illegal connections further compound these issues, hindering economic growth and exacerbating energy shortages across the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolster the National Energy Strategy through prioritising investment in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to diversify Zimbabwe's energy mix and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. • Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and penalties to deter vandalism and illegal connections, while simultaneously investing in infrastructure upgrades and maintenance to improve energy efficiency and reliability.
Economic and Social Strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomic shocks, corruption, and low productivity hinder progress toward sustainable development in Zimbabwe. The growth of the informal economy diverts funds from infrastructure development and perpetuates poverty, exacerbating social inequalities and impeding overall economic growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures to combat corruption and improve productivity across all sectors of the economy, including strengthening anti-corruption legislation, enhancing transparency in government procurement processes, and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. • Intensify efforts to formalize the informal economy, incentivizing registration and participation of informal businesses to bolster infrastructure development and foster economic growth in Zimbabwe.
Disaster Preparedness and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate resources and capacity hinder Zimbabwe's ability to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters. Data gaps and lack of IT equipment further impede disaster management efforts, leaving communities vulnerable to the devastating impacts of natural disasters and climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in disaster preparedness and management, including the reinforcing early warning systems, capacity building for emergency response teams, and infrastructure upgrades to enhance resilience against natural disasters and climate change impacts.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen data collection and IT systems for disaster management to improve decision-making and coordination during emergencies, ensuring timely and effective response efforts.
Environmental Sustainability Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zimbabwe faces numerous environmental sustainability challenges, including deforestation, land degradation, and pollution. Inadequate enforcement of environmental laws, misalignment of laws and slow grant disbursement exacerbate these issues, threatening ecosystems and human health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce existing environmental laws and regulations rigorously, implementing penalties for offenders and investing in awareness campaigns to promote environmental conservation and sustainable land management practices. Streamline grant disbursement processes and improve coordination among relevant government agencies to expedite funding for environmental projects and initiatives aimed at addressing deforestation, land degradation, and pollution.
Limited availability of timely and disaggregated data:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate data collection, disaggregation and monitoring systems pose a significant challenge to implementing SDGs effectively. This hinders evidence-based decision-making and the tracking of progress towards SDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in modernizing data collection systems and technology infrastructure to improve data disaggregation and monitoring capabilities, enabling more accurate tracking of progress towards SDGs and facilitating evidence-based decision-making.
Inadequate institutional coordination:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective coordination of the whole of government and whole of society approaches impact negatively on the progress towards delivery of SDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish at all levels of government dedicated inter-agency task force or committee responsible for coordinating SDG implementation efforts across government departments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, ensuring alignment of strategies and resources towards common goals. Build capacity at all levels of government to enhance SDGs coordination.
Institutional and Legal Framework:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak enforcement mechanisms and gaps in legislative alignment hamper progress towards achievement of SDGs for example, good governance, gender equality, women's rights, environmental sustainability. Challenges include slow judicial processes, inadequate capacity, and non-deterrent penalties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and streamline legislative processes to address gaps in legal alignment and enhance capacity for implementing SDG-related policies, particularly in areas such as good governance, environmental sustainability, gender equality, PWDs, children's and women's rights. Expedite judicial processes and the establishment of deterrent penalties for non-compliance.
Policy inconsistencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy inconsistencies across Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to various factors such as competing priorities, limited resources, and challenges in coordination and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive national SDG roadmap that prioritizes key areas of focus and establishes clear guidelines for policy coherence and coordination across different sectors and levels of government, addressing competing

	implementation, achievement of SDGs.	derail	priorities and resource constraints to ensure consistent progress towards achieving the SDGs.
ICT, innovation, and digitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The challenge of ICT, innovation, and digitalization in Zimbabwe lies in bridging the digital divide, enhancing infrastructure, fostering innovation ecosystems, and promoting digital literacy to fully leverage the potential of technology for economic growth and development. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in expanding access to affordable and reliable internet connectivity, particularly in rural and underserved areas, while also providing training and support programmes to enhance digital literacy and foster innovation ecosystems. Develop policies and incentives to encourage private sector investment in ICT infrastructure and innovation initiatives to drive economic growth and development.
Rural Development and Export-Oriented Industrialization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited industrial development in rural areas and exportation of raw materials 		Develop industries in rural areas by leveraging natural resources in line with Devolution and Decentralization Policy and implement the AfCFTA strategy, review national trade and export policies to encourage formalization and penetration into regional markets.

ANNEXURE: VNR Provincial Consultation Findings

Table 51: Provincial inputs

Province	Inputs
Matabeleland South	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging production of traditional and small grains through Presidential Input Scheme • Opening of bank accounts to enhance financial inclusion, creation of virtual depots introduction of e-registration for employment, decentralized structures • Increased gold/mineral production resulting increased employment/jobs • Need to promote water harvesting techniques and use of renewable energy • Construction of irrigation schemes • Carrying out of awareness campaigns to reduce crime and family week conducted by ZPCS where the inmates and the family interact to foster reintegration <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited job opportunities, Poor road infrastructure, climate change, limited access to markets and • donor dependence limiting the attainment of SDGs • Limited availability of data especially on mining activities • Lack of high-end mining infrastructure • Under-utilization of water infrastructure • Increased artisanal mining activities • Drug and substance abuse increasing • Overcrowding prisons is straining resources. (Prison infrastructure designs) • Severe heat conditions especially during the summer resulting in boreholes drying up affecting water supply • Lack of acceptance of ex-convicts back into the community • High unemployment and poverty
Matabeleland North	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills development for the youth • Training and empowerment of persons with disabilities • Conducting fitness and wellness programmes • Civil servants housing schemes being undertaken • Involvement of traditional leaders in the registration of new births. • Commissioned 2 irrigation schemes, nutrition gardens, • training of communities on financial literacy • Introduction of new breeds to improve genetic pool of small stock and livestock • Renovations and construction of new power stations at Hwange resulted in employment promotion • Uptake of digital technologies for extension services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decentralization of services (employment, public service placements, pensions etc) ● Industrialization for small holder farmers to enhance value addition drive ● Community engagement on wildlife conservation ● Training of locals on conservation farming ● Use of indigenous early warning systems ● Carbon credits opportunity to enable environmental conservation ● Wetlands and forestry conservation programmes <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor schools and road infrastructure. Satellite schools struggle to meet MoPSE’s minimum registration standards ● Granting of bail to perpetrators of GBV resulting in fear of reporting cases. ● Mental health and drug and substance abuse issues not adequately addressed in the province ● Lack of one stop centers and safer shelter. ● Reluctance by guardians to register previously unregistered children. ● Lack of translation of key policies to local languages ● Lack of coordination between implementing organizations and the government ● Lack of adequate capacity in terms of monitoring and evaluation of programmes ● Poor road infrastructure ● Brain drain, ● Vandalism and theft of public infrastructure ● Climate change ● Lack of documentation of indigenous knowledge systems ● Human Wildlife conflicts ● Poaching
<p>Mashonaland East</p>	<p>Achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of a female hostel at Kushinga-Phikelela Technical College. ● Administration centre at Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt). ● Multiple classroom blocks and science laboratories. ● Electrification of schools like Marowe Primary and Chipfunde Secondary ● Development of approximately 3,975 km of road infrastructure, including major highways such as Harare-Beitbridge and Harare-Mutare stretches. ● Construction of 311 bridges and culverts, enhancing connectivity. ● Construction and commissioning of dams (Muchekeeranwa, Marovanyati, and Chivhu). ● Drilling of 112 boreholes. ● Implementation of piped water schemes and sewer reticulation projects ● Establishment of new clinics and health centres. ● Renovations of existing hospitals.

- Projects such as mothers' waiting shelters, isolation centres, and specialized nursing schools
- Distribution of 98,269 chicks under presidential schemes.
- Support for 377 households through the Presidential Small Holder Silage Input Scheme
- Establishment of a 20MW solar power plant.
- Creation of Community Information Centres, ICT labs in schools, and improvements in internet connectivity
- Resuscitation of the Hunyani/Nampac Egg Tray Making Plant.
- Expansion of Beta Bricks Pvt Ltd, increasing manufacturing capacity and employment.
- Implementation of biogas installations, wetland rehabilitation, and gully reclamation projects.
- Development of new lodges and leisure centres

Challenges

- Access to health services is limited
- Education assistance (BEAM) not being paid on time
- Drug and substance abuse
- Increased cases of sexual and gender based violence
- Most of government institutions are not user friendly in terms of accessibility
- Lack of inclusivity in terms of communication
- Decentralisation of services e.g. access to documents
- Low adoption of CSA, disease outbreaks, labour constraints in farms, input supply delays
- Absence of data
- Pricing modalism imparting local tourism
- Poor road networks
- Limited safe working space
- Limited law enforcement and regulation to protect MSMEs
- Limited research and development
- Climate change affecting workspaces and raw materials
- Energy outages
- Barriers to accessing markets (difficult to registration of markets)
- Limited monitoring due to unavailability of resources
- Inadequate funding for sewer rehabilitation (already indicated in the report).
- Sprouting of informal settlements.
- Deforestation
- Veld fires
- Stream bank cultivation

Mashonaland West

Achievements

- Construction of the new Parliament building
- Constructed 25 classroom blocks in Zvimba District using Devolution Funds, addressing educational infrastructure gaps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completion of classroom blocks at Haydock Primary School, Mvou, Maringowe, Ndare, and Oxford Primary Schools. ● Constructed new clinics such as Vhuti Clinic in Hurungwe, reducing travel distances for healthcare access. ● Makonde district commissioned state-of-the-art clinics like Mpata and Gandawasvika, improving healthcare services. ● Chegutu Rural District Council prioritized road construction and rehabilitation, and purchased yellow machinery for these projects. ● Norton Town Council used Devolution Funds to purchase equipment and construct classroom blocks. ● Investments in water and sewer reticulation projects were made in urban areas like Karoi, Chegutu, Chinhoyi, and Kadoma, enhancing water supply and sanitation. ● Rehabilitation of dip tanks in Zvimba District to combat livestock diseases, supporting the growth of the livestock sector. ● Multiple projects completed across districts like Hurungwe, Makonde, and Chegutu, bringing improved facilities and services to rural communities. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor road networks ● Late debasement of programme based budgets ● Inadequate infrastructure ● Vandalism ● Inadequate funds ● Limited participation of youth, women and PWDs in decision making ● Corruption rampant ● Land degradation (competition between forests & farming activities) ● Environmental fines/ penalties not stiffer ● Inflation and exchange rates issues affecting household incomes
Manicaland	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manicaland is in value addition and beneficiation such as processing of baobab fruit to baobab juice, fruit canning and timber processing however there need to expand the business of value addition ● District Master Plans by all Local Authorities, MDAs, Development Partners. ● Dam Master Plans ● Dam construction in Marovanyati and Osborn Dams ● 1536 housing units completed. ● Serviced stands, plus incomplete housing units 17985 ● The human settlement policy is now being implemented ● 4.8 million seedling production, Woodland management, Agroforestry Regulation, catchment protection, awareness campaigns and rural afforestation ● Community Engagement with Chikukwa communities. ● Exchange programmes between Zimbabwe and Mozambique ● Funding availed from French Development Agent

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chimanimani Trans-frontier Conservation Initiative and Integrated Management Plan- Frontline community engagement and two consultative meeting done ● Cycad and Warburgia Salutaris propagation and nursery- 15 communities trained and Propagation by local communities of Honde Valley ● 1629 Environmental awareness programmes reaching out to 100 000 people ● Restoration of 440 ha of mined out area ● Reduced fire by 40% ● Growth of recycling initiative by more than 20% <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delay in releasing of devolution funds ● Inadequate resources ● Trivialisation of environmental offences ● Vandalism of planted trees by humans. ● Lack of Coordination among stakeholders ● Red tape in acquiring land for housing development ● Low success rate for example death of seedlings due to moisture stress ● Limited Funding ● Transport logistics to the targeted communities
Bulawayo	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of new housing projects to address the accommodation needs of residents ● Introduction of measures to enhance waste management, such as the National Clean-Up Programme, which involves local authorities, businesses, and residents. Notable achievements include multiple clean-up campaigns and the installation of waste sorting cages. ● Upgrading and renovation of health facilities to improve service delivery. This includes the establishment of new clinics and upgrading existing hospitals to provide better healthcare services. ● Construction and renovation of educational facilities to improve learning environments and increase access to education for students across the province. ● Various environmental protection programs, including campaigns on solid waste management, land degradation, and water pollution. Projects such as wetland restoration and fire management have been implemented to protect and preserve the environment. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The closure of most industries left most residents without a stable source of income. ● The current education system is not as inclusive as purported, especially with regards to persons with disability ● Existing public infrastructure is not as inclusive as it is supposed to be, in line with the leaving no one behind principle ● Policy inclusivity especially with regards to youth engagement in policy

<p>Masvingo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenges in accessing societally “discriminated” products and services <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seedlings production ● Agroforestry ● Apiculture ● Catchment area protection ● awareness campaigns on SDGs ● Existence of a Lithium mine (Bikita minerals) in Bikita. Two plants were established in 2023 increasing the production of lithium hence increasing employment ● Establishment of the Zhong Xing mine: employment rate has increased in the mining sector: now at 5000 across the province. ● Small scale miners have been registered. A total of 653 registered in 2023 against an annual target of 650. ● 5 mineral processing plants were commissioned in Bikita, Ngundu and Masvingo districts respectively ● 610kgs of gold have been produced in 2023. ● Lithium _ lithelite 195 561tonnes – the new plans established increased the production of lithelite overall increasing employment rate in mines, spodumene 78 588tonnes first production achieved in 2023, pollucite – 2736 tonnes in 2023. ● A total of 649 tonnes of chrome were produced in 2023 contributing towards the provincial GDP. ● Existence of Tugwi Mukosi dam which feeds schemes in Triangle and Mwenezi. ● Rehabilitation of Masvingo - Harare Road ● Introduction of the cadastra system <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor forest regeneration because of climate change – major tree planting activities now being done during the rainy season and use of dry resistant species ● Increase in firewood vending and charcoal production – continuous engagement with traditional leaders. Partnering with urban and rural councils, EMA, parks and ZRP during regulation exercises. ● Mobility and poor funding of forest activities – collaboration with other stakeholders which are into environmental protection ● Climate Change hindering extensive forest rehabilitation, regeneration and reforestation ● Power cuts causing over reliance on forests for energy ● Illegal miners ● Boggers employment agencies ● Lack of resources/ tools of trade ● Poor infrastructure (roads, network coverage) ● Outdated employment policies: need to be reviewed
<p>Harare</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Borehole drilling in urban areas. ● Geo-Pomona waste management project. ● Road rehabilitation ● Expansion of the Robert Mugabe International Airport ● Construction of Mbudzi interchange ● Construction of the African Liberation Museum. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid waste management needs overhauling ● WASH infrastructure needs rehabilitation. ● Traffic management needs improvement ● Exchange rate instability ● The need to work on the country image and improved development projects management which impacts positively on the economy
<p>Mashonaland Central</p>	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening up of new factories in line with the Rural Development 8.0 agenda. ● Construction of new roads and bridges to improve connectivity within the province. ● Development of new housing projects and renovations to existing structures. ● Establishment of new clinics and health centres. ● Upgrading existing health facilities to improve service delivery. ● Building and renovating schools, enhancing educational infrastructure. ● Electrification of schools to facilitate better learning environments. ● Implementation of various agricultural schemes to support local farmers and improve food security. ● Drilling of boreholes and development of water supply projects to ensure clean water access. ● Support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through training and funding programs. ● Initiatives to promote local industries and increase employment opportunities. ● Implementation of environmental protection programs including reforestation and anti-poaching initiatives. ● Agricultural production <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late disbursement of funds for social protection programmes such as Assisted Medical Treatment Orders (AMTO) and Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) ● The use of old machines in youth empowerment projects negatively affecting their competitiveness. A call was made to utilise training centres to train in new technology and machinery. ● Training centres also needed to upgrade their training equipment as students on attachment are finding it difficult to cope with new technological models in industries.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in illegal mining activities • Slow pace in industrialisation resulting in abundantly obtained raw materials being beneficiated in other provinces thereby exporting job creation opportunities. • Increased stock theft cases
Midlands	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zvishavane Town Council- Mandava Urban Renewal • The Karo platinum group metals (PGM) project, scheduled to begin ore processing in 2024, marks a notable development in the province's mining sector. • Expansion in ferrochrome production. • Renovation and expansion of health facilities, such as the Wanezi Rural Health Centre in Mberengwa District, improving access to healthcare services for local communities. • Continuous efforts to enhance educational infrastructure and resources, contributing to improved educational outcomes across the province. • Development of essential infrastructure, including road networks and water supply systems, aimed at boosting the overall quality of life and supporting economic activities within the province. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal mining activities • Some of the public infrastructure exclude persons with disabilities. • Late disbursement of devolution funds by treasury, stalling progress in devolution projects.



United Nations



Sightsavers