



**UNITED
NATIONS
ZIMBABWE**



**COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS - ZIMBABWE
FIRST CONDUCTED IN JUNE 2021
UPDATED IN JULY 2024**

Table of Contents

Table of Figures.....	4
1 Executive Summary	4
2 Introduction	7
2.1 New Generation CCA and its Purpose.....	7
2.2 Methodology	7
3 Progress towards 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Country, including Commitments towards International Norms and Standards	8
3.1 Progress Towards Agenda 2030 For Sustainable Development	8
3.2 Challenges and Opportunities for National 2030 Agenda.....	9
4 Overview of Population Groups (at Risk of Being) Left Behind and Main Drivers of Exclusion	12
4.1 Persons with Disabilities	13
4.2 Women and Children.....	14
4.3 Indigenous Populations	15
4.4 Populations Hardest Hit by Disasters and Climate Shocks.....	15
4.5 Sexual and Gender Minorities and Sex Workers	18
4.6 Refugees and Stateless Persons	18
4.7 Migrants.....	18
4.7.1 Zimbabwe Exemption Permits	19
4.8 Youths (Incl. Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW).....	20
5 Social Development and Exclusion Analysis	21
5.1 Poverty.....	21
5.2 Social Protection	24
5.3 Health.....	25
5.4 Education	28
5.5 Water and Sanitation and Hygiene.....	30
5.6 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	32
5.7 Housing	34
5.8 Social Impact of Covid-19 Impact on People	35
6 Economic Transformation Analysis.....	35
6.1 Gross Domestic Product.....	35
6.2 Inflation and Exchange Rates.....	36

6.3	Key Sectors of the Economy	36
6.4	The Informal Sector	37
6.5	Introduction of a Structured Currency	37
6.6	Employment	38
6.7	Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF)	38
6.8	Financial Inclusion and Fiscal Policy	38
6.9	Recurrent versus Capital Expenditure as a Percentage of GDP	39
7	Environment and Climate Change Analysis and Progress on Global Commitments	40
7.1	Life on Land	42
7.2	Affordable Clean Energy	42
7.3	Integrated Water Resources Management	44
7.4	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SDG 6)	45
7.5	Climate Change and Variability	45
7.6	Finance and Investment	46
8	Governance and Political Analysis	47
8.1	Key Updates Under Policy, Legislative and Governance Structures	47
8.2	Human Rights, Elections, Peace, and Social Cohesion	47
8.3	Regional Context	51
8.4	Rule of Law, Access and Administration of Justice	52
8.5	Public Administration and Devolution	54
8.6	Corruption	55
8.7	Impact of Pandemics and Natural Disasters on Governance and Human Security	56
8.8	Data for Development	56
9	Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis	56
10	Prevention and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Linkages	58
11	National vision and development plan vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda	58
11.1	Financial Landscape Analysis	59
12	Stakeholder/ Partnership Analysis	62
13	Conclusion	63
13.1	Acronyms	64
14	Annexes	66

Table of Figures

Table 1: Emigrants by Country of Residence and Sex.....	19
Table 2 Percentage Contribution of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Industries to GDP (Constant Prices (2019=100).....	37
Table 3: Zimbabwe’s UN Treaty Reporting Status	48
Table 4: Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis	57
Table 5: ECD, Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Completion Rates 2014-2022	70
Table 6: Enrolment in NFE Programmes (Primary and Secondary Education Level) by, Sex and Province, Number and Percentage, in 2022	71

1 Executive Summary

The rationale for updating the Common Country Analysis (CCA) is to understand any changes to the national development context and thereby offer important insights in guiding the ongoing implementation of the Zimbabwe United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (ZUNSDCF) 2022-2026. This CCA update seeks to analyse implications on the attainment of the SDGs in the country given changes in the legal, political, institutional, policy and financial landscape, as well as relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-border dynamics in delivering progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In drafting the CCA update, the human rights-based approach has been used as one of the guiding principles and the evidence has been drawn from published systematic reviews, research and new data. Finally, the CCA update identifies opportunities and entry points for UN to respond effectively to Zimbabwe’s national development priorities and aspirations to accelerate the country’s achievement of SDGs.

The last Common Country Analysis (CCA) for Zimbabwe was published in June 2021. The publication of the CCA coincided with the commencement of the implementation of the 5 Year National Development Strategy (NDS) 1 (2021-2025). The National Development Strategy is the first of two 5-year Medium Term Plans that will guide the Government of Zimbabwe’s Vision 2030 - Towards an Empowered and Prosperous Upper Middle-Income Society. The United Nations Country Team decided to update the CCA after the Harmonised General Elections that took place in August 2023, hence the annual CCA update was not done in 2022.

The update utilises new data or information that has become available to stakeholders, which significantly changes the understanding of the country’s development context and the Cooperation Framework’s Theory of Change. New information on changes in the legal policy and regulatory environment will be considered in the update. The update will consider how SDGs can be achieved, based on the six transitions, which have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. These include; (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The update will also include analysis based on opportunities and constraints in achieving SDG targets with emphasis on gender equality, youth participation, disability inclusion and reaching those furthest behind first. Changes of multidimensional risks, opportunities and/or their interlinkages that a country is predisposed to, will be included in the CCA update. Updated information was received from Results Groups and consolidated by the RCO.

Zimbabwe is a lower middle-income country with an estimated population of 15.2 million in 2021, the majority of whom live in rural areas at 61.4 percent. The Human Development Index (HDI) for Zimbabwe rose from 0.549 in 2021 to 0.550 in 2022 putting Zimbabwe in the Medium Human Development category². Although Zimbabwe increased in HDI value, and was ranked 159 out of 193 countries, its ranking dropped by 13 points between 2021 and 2022, implying that 13 countries (including Angola, Cameroon, Comoros, Kenya, Solomon Islands, and Zambia) outperformed Zimbabwe in improving their levels of human capability in 2023. Zimbabwe is ranked 22nd in Africa, along with Uganda. It is also one of the best 10 countries in Africa on mean years of schooling – and one of the best 15 in the Gender Development Index with a value of 0.936 out of 1.0.⁴



UNV engagement with youth on SDGs in Zimbabwe. Photo Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO

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 which include 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16 and 17. These goals are deemed crucial in addressing Zimbabwe's most pressing development challenges, with the potential to have far-reaching, multiplier effects across various sectors and goals, ultimately contributing to the country's progress towards Vision 2030. However, SDG progress is mixed across

¹ ZimStat 2022 Population and Housing Census

² <https://www.undp.org/zimbabwe/news/hdr-2023-2024-reimagining-cooperation-polarised-world-context-zimbabwe>

³ <https://www.undp.org/zimbabwe/news/hdr-2023-2024-reimagining-cooperation-polarised-world-context-zimbabwe>

⁴ *ibid*

development sectors, with some stagnant and others decelerating. Achievement was registered on SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). Moderate improvement was registered on SDGs 13 (climate action) and gender equality (5). The majority of Zimbabwe's 3rd cycle UPR recommendations relate to SDGs 5 and 16, with a combined total of 63.38% of the total recommendations.⁵

Since the publication of the CCA in June 2021, several developments have taken place in the country with attendant effects on People, Prosperity, Planet and Peace pillars. Some of the highlights since the CCA was published include, the execution of the Zimbabwe Population and Housing census in 2022, which provided data for social and economic indicators. The country, like most other parts of the world, was also affected by geopolitical developments including the Russia/Ukraine direct armed conflict, which started on February 24, 2022, and the Gaza conflict, resulting in perturbations in global grain and energy supply, thereby increasing prices as well as curtailing resources for humanitarian and development support. The Ukraine war happened at a time when Zimbabwe, like most countries, was recovering from the effects of COVID-19. The Ukraine war had social and economic effects on the economy, as evidenced by rising prices of basic food commodities in global supply chains, as both Russia and Ukraine export about a quarter of the world's wheat. The conflict also caused increases in prices of fuel, and fertilisers and overall supply chain disruptions and a general macroeconomic deterioration, which has severely impacted the poor and vulnerable populations. During the 2021/22 season, Zimbabwe experienced reduced agricultural output, notably maize which is a staple crop, due to a poor rainfall season. This was followed by the 2023 El Niño induced dry spells, which affected the onset of the farming season. Subsequently, Zimbabwe declared drought a national disaster with the country seeking US\$2 billion in aid to help millions of people. These events are threatening developmental gains and have negative implications for poverty reduction, addressing inequalities, advancing the realization of the 2030 Agenda and enjoyment of human rights, whilst leaving no one behind. In addition, SADC launched the SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal of at least US\$5.5 billion to support over 61 million people affected by the El Niño induced drought and floods⁶. The Humanitarian Appeal, is aimed at augmenting domestic resources of the affected member states, including efforts for resource mobilisation from national, regional, and international partners in response to the impact of El Niño induced drought and floods⁷.

Zimbabwe experienced its second consecutive year of economic growth in 2022, with a growth rate of 6.5%, following an 8.5% expansion in 2021, as the country continued to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy was initially forecast to slow down from 5.5% growth in 2023 to 3.5% in 2024, driven primarily by the mining and services sectors. However, due to the adverse effects of the El Niño phenomenon and declining global commodity prices, the economic growth projection for 2024 has been further revised downwards to 2%. The doing business environment was affected by exchange rate distortions, which fed into inflation and high cost of borrowing affecting business access to working capital, energy deficits and debt overhang. The country introduced a new currency the Zimbabwe Gold in April 2024 to address macroeconomic imbalances. Zimbabwe hosted the SADC Summit in August 2024 and took over as chair of the regional integration bloc. The summit was

5 See Annex UPR Recommendations by SDGs

⁶ <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-launches-us55-billion-regional-humanitarian-appeal-support-people-affected-el-nino#:~:text=The%20Humanitarian%20Appeal%2C%20which%20was,to%20the%20impact%20of%20El>

⁷ <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-launches-us55-billion-regional-humanitarian-appeal-support-people-affected-el-nino#:~:text=The%20Humanitarian%20Appeal%2C%20which%20was,to%20the%20impact%20of%20El>

part of a larger event that included the 7th SADC Industrialisation Week, which aimed to promote innovation and unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth and development in the SADC region.

The Government of Zimbabwe also heightened its engagement and re-engagement efforts on debt management and clearance with international and regional partners as part of the implementation of NDS1. Pursuant to this, Zimbabwean authorities launched the Arrears Clearance, Debt Relief and Restructuring Strategy (ACDRRS) in April 2022 to address the debt issue and unlock new capital from international financial institutions. Emerging top priorities for the country are based on the 6 transitions which include food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

2 Introduction

2.1 New Generation CCA and its Purpose

The new generation Common Country Analysis (CCA) is the UN's independent and impartial assessment of the country context. It draws on expertise across the UN system and supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing integrated, forward-looking, risk focused and evidence-based analysis and examines the underlying factors affecting lives and livelihoods. The CCA is no longer a one-time report but a continuous process that generates tailored analytical products to inform decision-making by the government, UN, and other stakeholders. It adopts a systems thinking approach, connecting analysis across SDGs, and considers regional and transboundary issues. It is data-driven, building an evidence base from diverse sources, including non-traditional data and emerging technologies, to address gaps in official statistics.

A valuable resource for the entire UN system, the CCA provides updated information which informs senior leadership discussions on emerging issues, early warning, and prevention, and identifies new ideas and overlooked obstacles through an integrated analysis. The CCA challenges assumptions about causal relations across sustainable development dimensions, opening space for innovation, targeted learning, new technologies, and non-traditional partners. It will shift to a digital platform, integrating with UN Info, and provide automated country analytics, data sources, and a repository for sharing data sets. The CCA's digital transformation aims to enhance its impact and accessibility, supporting data-driven decision-making and collaboration across the UN system.

2.2 Methodology

Data for the CCA update was collected from the Results Groups of the four pillars: People, Prosperity, Planet, and Peace. Additionally, updated information was obtained from the Partnerships Group. The Team of Policy Advisors⁸ was responsible for drafting and analyzing the CCA update, which was then reviewed by the RCO team including the Senior Human Rights Advisor and Peace and Development Advisor, the Programme Management Team and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). Consultations on the CCA were also conducted with key stakeholders, namely: Government, through the Joint Steering Committee, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, Civil Society

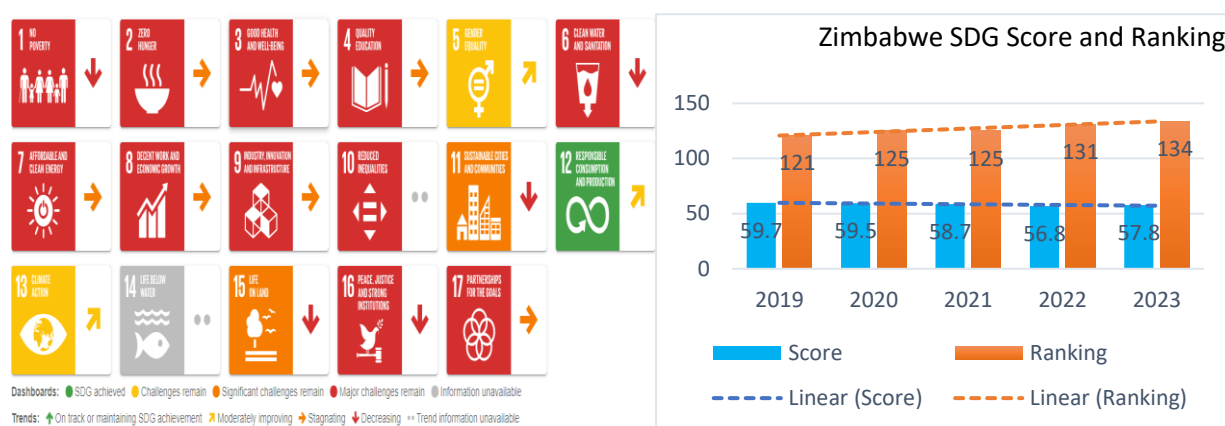
⁸ See Annex for list of Entities on the TPA

Organizations representing various groups, including Women and Youths were consulted through the National Economic Consultative Forum.

3 Progress towards 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Country, including Commitments towards International Norms and Standards

3.1 Progress Towards Agenda 2030 For Sustainable Development

Progress over time and across development sectors is mixed. Achievement was registered on SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). Moderate improvement was registered on SDGs 13, (climate action) and gender equality (5). Sustainable cities and communities (11); and life on land (15), are stagnating. Progress in some SDGs has decreased, and these include zero hunger (2), clean water and sanitation (6), affordable clean energy (7), Decent work and economic growth (8), good health and wellbeing (3), industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), peace, justice and strong institutions (16) and partnerships for the goals (17).⁹



Source: <https://dashboards.sdqindex.org/profiles/zimbabwe>

Figure 1: Zimbabwe SDG Index Score and Ranking

The SDG Index has remained stagnant over the past five years (2019-2023), with Zimbabwe's ranking dropping 13 places from 121 to 134¹⁰. Despite this decline, there have been notable improvements in specific areas, including:

- A 78% reduction in new HIV infections, from 78,000 in 2010 to 17,000 in 2022.
- A 90% survival rate for infants who received two WHO-recommended vaccines.
- Improved financial inclusion with the overall financial exclusion gap for consumers reducing from 23% in 2014 to 12% in 2022¹¹.

⁹ <https://dashboards.sdqindex.org/profiles/zimbabwe>

¹⁰ <https://dashboards.sdqindex.org/profiles/zimbabwe>, accessed on 22/11/2023

¹¹ Zimbabwe National Financial Inclusion Strategy II 2022-2026

- d) Increased mobile broadband subscriptions with internet penetration rate increasing from 61% in 2020 to 73% in 2023.¹²

Additionally, most indicators under Responsible Consumption and Production, as well as Climate Action, show positive trends.

3.2 Challenges and Opportunities for National 2030 Agenda

Climate change in form of the El Nino phenomenon in 2023/2024 is a major challenge affecting progress towards SDGs such as education, health, food systems, environment, infrastructure, economic growth and creating of decent jobs. Zimbabwe needs to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into SDG planning and implementation processes across all sectors of the economy, in addition to prioritizing resilience building strategies in education, food security, health environmental protection, economic growth, decent jobs and poverty alleviation. Climate change is affecting health outcomes in the country through disease outbreaks such as cholera and measles. This is in addition to funding inadequacies, shortage of essential medicines and equipment and high staff attrition due to poor working conditions. The government needs to promote dialogue and collective bargaining on wages and working conditions to ensure decent work, and to address high staff turnover in the sector and to ensure that health budgetary allocations meet the 15% Abuja Declaration statute.

Climate change has also affected access to energy in addition to obsolete equipment, vandalism and underutilization of renewable energy sources. Authorities need to bolster the National Energy Strategy through prioritizing investment in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.



Community asset building in response to climate change and drought in Matobos Rural District. Photo Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO

¹² NDS1 Mid Term Review

Macroeconomic instability, debt overhang, unilateral coercive measures, limited fiscal space and corruption constrain the financing of social protection initiatives in the country. Combined, the above variables affect the overall well-being of the economy, with implications on poverty and other forms of vulnerabilities. The dominance of an informal economy presents both a challenge and opportunity to support sustainable economic growth and creation of decent jobs. Addressing the decent work deficits, including productivity improvements, can help improve wages and incomes for over 3 million workers and households that are dependent on the sector for livelihoods. Effectively addressing the youth employment challenge will have a profound impact on alleviating various dimensions of poverty and social ills, including the growing crisis of drug abuse. The increasing relaxed/expanded rates of unemployment, particularly among young people, are a cause for concern, as many are becoming increasingly discouraged and disengaged from the labor force, with fewer actively seeking employment.

Geopolitical conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza disrupt supply chains, resulting in heightened vulnerability as goods and services become unaffordable, posing risks of hunger and malnutrition. The implementation of social safety nets is key to alleviating food insecurity and improving education and health outcomes. Zimbabwe should continue to engage bilateral and multi lateral creditors in pursuit of debt resolution to unlock financing from IFIs as well as aggressively dealing with corruption. Strategies should be implemented to ensure formalization of the economy.

Environmental sustainability is affected by deforestation, land degradation and pollution and poor wetlands management. Inadequate enforcement of environmental laws threatens the ecosystem and human health. The government needs to enforce existing environmental laws and regulations to protect the environment as well as ensuring that laws fully support environmental protection.



*Working with persons with disability in line with the Secretary General's Disability Inclusion Strategy.
Photo UNESCO/Zimbabwe*

Persons with disabilities are likely to be left behind due to lack of representation, especially at international fora including limited access to education, employment and other essential services. There is a need to enact and enforce an inclusive legislative framework that guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities.

Infrastructure deficiencies and inadequate resources affect educational progress in Zimbabwe which exacerbates disparities in the education opportunities especially for girls, women and youths. The shortage of teachers and long distances travelled to school limit access to education and this perpetuates the poverty and inequality cycle in society. Upgrading of education infrastructure especially in rural areas to reduce distances travelled to the nearest school ensures inclusion.

Weak implementation of gender equality policies and aging infrastructure marginalizes women in the country, which limits their access to economic opportunities and essential services. Insufficient investment in WASH infrastructure worsens gender disparities and inequalities. There is therefore the need to rehabilitate and develop infrastructure to ensure that women are not left behind.

Evidence based decision making and tracking of SDGs is affected by data deficiencies. There is a need to invest in SDG data to enable the tracking of progress towards Vision 2030. The authorities also need to bridge the digital divide so that the rural population is not left behind.

Southern African countries have been affected by the El Nino phenomenon with resultant effects of income loss and food insecurity in most countries. Due to drought conditions affecting WASH outcomes, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi have been simultaneously affected by cholera outbreaks. The three countries have been affected by infrastructure destruction due to floods leading to humanitarian needs like shelter. While Malawi was affected by flooding, Zimbabwe and Zambia are experiencing hydro power deficiencies due to low water levels in the Kariba dam, as the El Nino phenomenon caused drought conditions. The UN indicated that an estimated 60 million people in Southern Africa are food insecure due to El Nino and this includes Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Eswatini, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. Regional leaders through SADC, have appealed for US\$5.5 billion to avert the humanitarian crisis.¹³



Working with young people promoting sexual and reproductive health rights. Photo UNFPA Zimbabwe

4 Overview of Population Groups (at Risk of Being) Left Behind and Main Drivers of Exclusion

Based on the five exclusionary factors, namely discrimination (on the basis of age, gender, disability, migratory status etc), geographical location, socio-economic status, vulnerability to shocks and governance,

¹³ <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-60-million-people-in-southern-africa-food-insecure/7655734.html>

the populations likely to be left furthest behind in the process of development in Zimbabwe include: Indigenous People, Persons with Disabilities, Women and Children, populations hardest hit by disasters and climate shocks, Sexual and Gender Minorities and Sex Workers, Refugees and Stateless persons, Older Persons, Migrants, Youths, including Adolescent Girls, and Young Women (AGYW) as well as Women and Children in specific religious affiliations. ¹⁴

4.1 Persons with Disabilities

The country's disability prevalence stood at 9.2% in 2022¹⁵ and it is higher among females (10%) than males (8%) with females constituting the majority of persons with disabilities in both rural and urban areas, at 2.2 percent and 1.0 percent respectively. Protection of persons with disabilities remains a challenge in law and practice.¹⁶ Persons with disabilities face intersectional stigma and discrimination in communities as well as barriers to accessing information, employment, services in education, health, justice sectors amongst others. Additionally, persons with disabilities are still faced with lack of assistive technologies and devices, inadequate access to education and particularly inclusive education, healthcare, pension schemes and economic empowerment. It is estimated that, about 2% of the social protection budget allocation goes to persons with disabilities thereby inhibiting the capacity of Government to fully implement the national disability policy.¹⁷ Participation of persons with disabilities in key national, regional or international decision-making forums and events is limited, denying them opportunities to voice their concerns. However, at the Human Rights 75 High Level Event in December 2023, the Government pledged to ensure the meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities in key decision-making platforms.¹⁸ Presently, Zimbabwe lacks a common framework with standardised tools and instruments that are reliable and valid to identify, assess and make a determination in respect of eligibility of social assistance programmes. Establishing such a framework would contribute to more equitable resource distribution to support the full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.¹⁹ In 2021, the Government adopted a national disability policy and established Gender and Disability Inclusion Focal Points in all its Government Ministries. The Government is currently in the process of developing a costed action plan to support implementation of the Policy. However, a comprehensive and operational coordination governance mechanism to ensure accountability in the implementation of the National Disability Policy is yet to be put in place.²⁰ Zimbabwe made some strides towards addressing the data gaps in respect of the persons with disabilities by including the Washington group of questions on disability in the 2022 census. However, data on children with disabilities under the age of 5 years was not captured which negatively impacts on planning for this age group within the development agenda of the country. To ensure effective protection in law of persons with disabilities, the process to review legislation

¹⁴ Persons with Disabilities Consultation Report 2024

¹⁵ Population and Housing Census 2020

¹⁶ UNHRC, 2022. Universal Periodic Review; 3rd Cycle, 40th Session, A/HRC/50/9 para 139

¹⁷ Oxford Policy Management, JF KAPNEK Trust-Zimbabwe: 'Study on establishing a common disability assessment and determination framework and social protection referral mechanism for persons with disabilities, and an assessment of disability inclusion in social protection', June 2022

¹⁸ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/Zimbabwe_EN.pdf;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_y70_DU7BNM

¹⁹ Ibid at FN 11

²⁰ United Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Link

https://www.unprpd.org/sites/default/files/library/2023-09/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Zimbabwe.pdf

on persons with disabilities in compliance with the universal periodic review recommendations is currently underway. For detailed information on persons with disabilities, see link.²¹

4.2 Women and Children

Children are the most vulnerable members of society in Zimbabwe and are often left behind in the pursuit of achieving the SDGs. Eight percent of children aged 0-17 years are orphaned and many more live in poverty. Only 71% of school going children in Zimbabwe are attending school, with many more facing significant barriers to accessing school due to poverty, lack of resources, or lack of access to information. Child malnutrition is a significant problem in Zimbabwe, with 23% of children under the age of 5 suffering from stunting due to poor nutrition.²² Under five child mortality is also high in Zimbabwe, with a mortality rate of 39.7 deaths per 1,000 live births²³. Women make up 52% of the population in Zimbabwe, but they still face significant barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Women are more likely to be poor than men. Female-headed households face higher multidimensional deprivation than male-headed households, 19 percent versus 13.3 percent.²⁴ Labour force participation rates are higher for males in all provinces. According to the 2022 Census, 62.5 percent of employed persons were male and 37.5 were female. Gender-based violence is a significant problem in Zimbabwe, with 43% of women aged 15-49 reporting having



Young people championing the fight against gender based violence. Photo UN Women/Zimbabwe

experienced physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives²⁵. According to the 2022 Census 18.9 percent of women aged 20-24, were married or got into union before attaining the age of 18. The proportion was higher, at 27.4 percent in rural areas compared to 10.2 percent in urban areas. Women also face significant barriers to accessing healthcare, with 73% of women reporting that they have difficulty accessing healthcare services due to lack of resources or lack of access to information. Maternal mortality in Zimbabwe is high at 362 per 100,000 live births¹⁶.

²¹ [Summary Report Consultation with OPDs Holiday Inn Harare 11 April 2024](#)

²² ZimVAC 2023

²³ Population and Housing Census 2022

²⁴ Benhura B and Mhariwa F, 2017, [Multidimensional Poverty in Zimbabwe: A Gender Perspective. ZEPARU Working Paper Series](#)

²⁵ MICS, 2019

4.3 Indigenous Populations

Zimbabwe has formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but has not yet recognized the status and the rights of indigenous peoples on its territory and is not a party to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (art. 5). Indigenous populations in Zimbabwe include the Doma people in the north-central region, and the Tshwa (also known as the San) in the western part of the country. In 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted that, while social assistance is provided to minority groups, reports indicated that indigenous communities continue to suffer significant deprivation, are affected by high levels of poverty and a lack of access to social services. The livelihoods of indigenous peoples and the traditional lifestyle of their communities are under threat due to hunting bans and seizures of lands traditionally used by them. There is a lack of comprehensive statistical information on indigenous populations in the country as well as a lack of information on measures taken to preserve indigenous languages that are at risk of extinction and by discriminatory stereotypes that exist of certain indigenous communities²⁶

4.4 Populations Hardest Hit by Disasters and Climate Shocks

Zimbabwe experienced adverse weather conditions, including El Niño, storms, and floods, which exacerbated aridity, and damaged school infrastructure. Poor rainfall led to partial or complete crop failure in most parts of the country – 40 percent poor and 60 per cent written-off. Resultantly, an estimated 6 million people in Zimbabwe are expected to be food insecure during 2024-2025 lean season (January to March). The El Niño induced drought has affected nutrition security situation, reduced food access and diversity, and the overall quality of people's diets²⁷. The El Niño drought is exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, particularly in rural communities who are reliant on rain-fed agriculture.

²⁶ Concluding Observations on the combined fifth to eleventh periodic reports of Zimbabwe, CERD/C/ZWE/CO/5-11 (CERD 2022)

²⁷ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-drought-flash-appeal-may-2024-april-2025-may-2024#:~:text=An%20estimated%20population%20of%206,overall%20quality%20of%20people's%20diets>. Accessed on 10 June 2024



Women fight back to reverse climate change. Photo: WFP/Zimbabwe

Specific groups, including women, children, particularly girls, the elderly and persons with disabilities, are disproportionately affected by these hazards and climate shocks. The deterioration of nutrition status renders children under age 5, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women, more vulnerable, as they depend on higher energy and micro-nutrients intake²⁸. Poor nutritional status and consequent poor immunity of children under age 5 will further increase their vulnerability to infectious diseases, while pregnant and lactating mothers will be at risk of poor maternal and neonatal outcomes. The nutrition response could focus on strengthening prevention and treatment of all forms of malnutrition, directed at a population of 1.4 million.

The drought worsened water shortages in Zimbabwe, exposing 2.6 million people to water insecurity. Before the drought, 35 per cent of rural households were accessing inadequate to water services, while forty-five per cent of rural households were travelling more than half a kilometer to fetch water²⁹. El Nino has significantly increased the risk that even more people will be faced with water insecurity leading to walking longer distances to water sources with higher impact on people with disabilities, girls and women.

The drought has heightened the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse. During drought events, an increased likelihood of child-marriage and exposure to gender-based violence has been recorded. Meanwhile, limited access to water affects menstrual hygiene of girls, linked to reduced self-esteem at school, that has

²⁸ ibid

²⁹ 2023 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Report,

sometimes forced pupils to miss school during their menstrual cycle³⁰. Owing to long distances to water sources the risk of abuse and sexual violence to girls heightens. Similarly, the risk of exposure to domestic violence and intimate partner violence are also expected to increase, due to heightened family tensions caused by poor harvests and income losses. It has been noted that GBV increases in districts with higher levels of food insecurity³¹.

The current El Niño event threatens nearly 1.8 million learners across Zimbabwe's 72 education districts, with the most severe impacts to be felt by more than 1.24 million students, in 30 most drought-affected districts³². Drought events frequently result in higher rates of school-dropout and absenteeism. The El Niño-induced drought may result in increased school dropouts, as families face increasing poverty levels, thus making it difficult to pay school fees. Other



Zimbabwe was hits with wors drought in 40 years. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

factors influencing school attendance rates during economic hardships include child-marriages, teenage pregnancies, child labour, population movement, hunger, drug and substance use, and a general lack of motivation and enthusiasm among students³³. Currently, climate-induced disasters have exposed 1,801,969 children at risk of protection issues due to weakened protective environment system, which risks failing to meet increasing needs, due to the forecast increased caseload.³⁴

³⁰ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-drought-flash-appeal-may-2024-april-2025-may-2024#:~:text=An%20estimated%20population%20of%206,overall%20quality%20of%20people's%20diets>. Accessed on 10 June 2024

³¹ 2023 National Food Security Rural and Urban assessment reports by the (Rural ZimVAC Report 2023) overlaid with data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2019

³² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-drought-flash-appeal-may-2024-april-2025-may-2024#:~:text=An%20estimated%20population%20of%206,overall%20quality%20of%20people's%20diets>. Accessed on 10 June 2024

³³ *ibid*

³⁴ *ibid*

Further climate mobility induced by the El-Nino drought, will likely fuel both regular and irregular migration with possibility of human trafficking³⁵. This highlights the need to strengthen the integration of protection services/activities, especially into the Food Systems to effectively address protection risks while promoting regular pathways for potential migrants.

UNICEF has been tracking school infrastructure damage since 2022 and found that 155 schools have been affected, with 80% of the damage related to roof construction. There is a need to develop wind-resistant and affordable school roof models and strengthen national climate change response strategies, including gender dimensions and women's participation. The country must build resilience to endure the devastating effects of future disasters and shocks.

4.5 Sexual and Gender Minorities and Sex Workers

The legal and social environment in Zimbabwe continues to criminalize and stigmatize sex work, sexual and gender minority populations, making it difficult for them to access healthcare, education, and employment. Sex workers face violence and harassment from police and clients and are unable to access social security and healthcare services due to criminalization. Sexual and gender minority populations face discrimination and stigma, limiting their access to education, employment, and healthcare. There is a lack of laws protecting them from discrimination, and they face challenges in accessing legal services and justice. Zimbabwe has noted all the universal periodic recommendations to it in respect of ensuring the protection of the human rights of sexual and gender minority populations. The government has made some efforts to decriminalize sex work and other sexual and gender issues, but more needs to be done to address the systemic barriers and stigma faced by these communities.

4.6 Refugees and Stateless Persons

As of 31 May 2024 (UNHCR Monthly statistical report, May 2024), Zimbabwe hosts 16,770 biometrically registered refugees and asylum seekers with 15,835 residing in Tongogara Refugee Settlement, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Burundi, and Rwanda. Most refugees reside in the Tongogara refugee camp, with a small number living in urban areas. Zimbabwe has acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, but has entered reservations to several articles, leading to the encampment policy for refugees and asylum seekers. The Zimbabwe Refugee Act of 1983 protects refugees, and the Zimbabwe Refugee Committee conducts refugee status determination. The Act is currently under review, and UNHCR has made submissions on proposed amendments, including lifting all reservations. The government provides protection assistance, including access to health, refugee status determination, and identity documents. However, there is a need for forward-looking policies, inclusive institutions, and legal reforms to deliver better outcomes for refugees, including access to livelihood opportunities, inclusion in national development plans and policies and anti-discrimination laws.

4.7 Migrants

Migrants in Zimbabwe as well as Zimbabwean migrants, including those forcibly displaced, face precarious situations and vulnerabilities at all stages of migration. The country hosts nationals from other countries, including South Africa, Mozambique, and the United Kingdom. In 2023, the government adopted the National Migration Policy and an Action Plan to enhance migration governance and cooperation with other countries in the region. However, undocumented migrants, including minors, are faced with detention, often for prolonged periods of time and in poor living conditions whilst undocumented migrant women and girls face various forms of discrimination, sexual violence as well as harassment by authorities in detention facilities and other locations. Migrant farm workers, on the other hand, also face

³⁵ 2023 National Food Security Rural and Urban assessment reports by the (Rural ZimVAC Report 2023) overlaid with data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2019

obstacles to enjoying economic and social rights.³⁶ Zimbabwe has a history of migration, with most of the citizens migrating to other countries for better economic opportunities.

Table 1: Emigrants by Country of Residence and Sex³⁷

Country of Residence	Male	Female	Total
South Africa	461,293	311,953	773,246
Botswana	28,680	19,248	47,928
Malawi	613	467	1,080
Mozambique	5,911	3,566	9,477
Namibia	3,496	2,164	5,660
Zambia	3,266	1,810	5,076
United Kingdom	10,573	12,593	23,166
United States of America	4,369	4,196	8,565
Canada	1,689	1,731	3,420
China	1,151	916	2,067
Australia	3,225	3,248	6,473
Other African Countries	4,239	1,968	6,207
Other European Countries	4,146	4,608	8,754
Other American Countries	242	203	445
Asian Countries	3,857	3,108	6,965
Other Countries	16	18	34
Not Stated	232	118	350
Total	536,998	371,915	908,913

In 2022, an estimated 908,904 people had emigrated, mostly to South Africa, Botswana, and the United Kingdom. Emigration is motivated by socio-economic challenges, with employment, education, and family being the main reasons. Zimbabwe is also a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking and forced labor. Human traffickers in Zimbabwe exploit victims, including children, in various sectors, including sex trafficking, forced labor in agriculture (tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, forestry, and fishing), mining (gold and diamond), cattle herding and domestic services. Most child labor (71%) occurs in agriculture, with some cases being forced labor. Economic hardship has likely increased child sex trafficking and labor in sectors like agriculture, domestic work, and mining. Internal trafficking

is prevalent but underreported³⁸.

4.7.1 Zimbabwe Exemption Permits

Following a High Court ruling, the South African government was given an instruction to further extend the Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP) by two more years to 2025. This extension comes after the permits of over 178,000 Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa were set to expire on December 31, 2023. The ZEP is a special permit granted to Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa who were previously on the Zimbabwean Special Dispensation Permit (ZSP), which expired in December 2017. The court ruling gave a grace period to allow ZEP holders to enter and exit South Africa, provided they comply with all the entry or exit requirements and will not be arrested, ordered to leave the country, or detained for deportation for any reason related to their permit status. However, since the announcement of the extension in November 2023, anti-migrant sentiments compounded with xenophobic violence, including denial of access to services, has contributed to an increase in forced returns from South Africa with over 4,926 undocumented migrants deported through Beitbridge and Plumtree Border Posts. The influx of returnees will likely put pressure on host communities as demand for social protection services is set to increase, thus fuelling conflict over resources in host communities. Migrants continue to suffer from discrimination and displacement and there is still need to invest in forward looking policies targeting service delivery, integration of refugees and returnees in national systems, better

³⁶Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding Observations on the Combined fifth to eleventh reports of Zimbabwe, CERD/C/ZWE/CO/5-11 (CERD 2022)

³⁷ ZimStat

³⁸ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/zimbabwe/#:~:text=Zimbabwe%20is%20a%20transit%20country,forced%20labor%20and%20sex%20trafficking.>

anti-discrimination laws and legal reforms – including more inclusive institutions—that are most likely to deliver better outcomes for the poorest and most socially excluded populations. Therefore, to reach the furthest behind first, government, the UN system, communities, and stakeholders should commit to prioritising outcomes for these excluded groups and aim to promote strengthened collection of data that goes beyond population averages, to identify who and where they are and what they need.

4.8 Youths (Incl. Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW))

In Zimbabwe, youths are defined as individuals between 15 and 35 years old, making up 72.2% of the population. Young people face various vulnerabilities, including unfair labour practices, migration, unemployment, limited access to healthcare and education, and high rates of HIV, violence, and early marriage and this has been exacerbated by the drought conditions that the country experienced due to El Nino.



Youth at the centre of advocacy to reverse HIV epidemic. Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

The youth lack economic opportunities and experience intersectional discrimination, particularly women and girls with disabilities. To address these issues, efforts are being made to provide education and support, specifically targeting adolescent girls, young women, and marginalized groups including Comprehensive Sexuality Education, reintegration of and retaining girls in school, adolescent and young women community empowerment. Zimbabwe has undertaken to guarantee persons under 18 years of age the right to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services.³⁹

The UN Joint team of UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF supported the Government of Zimbabwe to conduct a national assessment of adolescent pregnancies. The report established that 21% of antenatal care (ANC) bookings from 2019-2022 were among adolescents aged 10-19 years⁴⁰. This indicates that the country is currently faced with a burden of adolescent pregnancies and related negative developments like child marriages. On HIV/AIDS infections; of the estimated 50,957 pregnant women newly testing HIV positive between 2019 and 2022, 0.1% were among adolescents aged 10-14 years, 15% among the 15-19 years and 29% among the 20-24 years. School dropouts and, in some cases,

39 Zimbabwe, Universal Periodic Review A/HRC/50/9 (UPR 2022) at para 140.86

40 <https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-assessment-adolescent-pregnancies-zimbabwe>

even death are devastating consequences, with adolescent girls and young women disproportionately affected. Notably, they account for 25% of maternal mortality cases in Zimbabwe, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to address these critical issues. Related to adolescent pregnancies is constrained access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services for adolescents. The MICS (2019) estimates unmet need for family planning among adolescents at 12.6%.

Many youths are facing exclusion from the labour market and emerging economic opportunities as youth unemployment is significantly higher for youths 15-24 years (38.1%) and 15-34 years (28.7%). About 50% of youths are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). Half of the young women between 15-24 years, are not in school, they are not in work, or in any form of training; the proportion rises to six for youths 15-34 years. The ongoing macroeconomic challenges and market pressures are affecting the economy's capacity to create new and better jobs as growth remains weak and many are excluded from emerging opportunities.

5 Social Development and Exclusion Analysis

Emerging issues under People Pillar include the delivery of basic social services such as education, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as social protection services including protection against all forms of violence.

5.1 Poverty

Twenty-five percent of the population in Zimbabwe is multidimensionally poor while an additional 26.3% is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty⁴¹. Rapid PICES Round 9 data showed that extreme poverty estimates for Zimbabwe declined slightly from 43% in 2021 to 42% in 2022⁴². However, structural transformation is necessary to accelerate poverty reduction and break its dependence on weather patterns. Improving labor productivity through an increase in agricultural productivity, capital deepening, and instituting a robust social protection system are the key structural priorities to reduce poverty and vulnerability⁴³. Due to the inferior labor market outcomes, households with only one female earner are poorer compared to households with one male earner. The difference is explained by single male earners holding more remunerative jobs.

41 UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index (2022)

42 ZimStat Rapid PICES 2022

43 <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f2efc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-zwe.pdf>

The right to sufficient food is guaranteed under the Constitution⁴⁴ however Zimbabwe is among the four highest food insecure countries in the world.⁴⁵ In 2023, food insecurity generally decreased across all the provinces except for Mashonaland Central compared to 2022.⁴⁶ In 2023, there was a marked improvement in the prevalence of households' food consumption and dietary diversity (FCS) with acceptable consumption increasing from 54% in 2020 to 79% in 2023, and a decrease in prevalence of households with borderline consumption from 33% in 2020 to 18% in 2023 and poor from 13% to 3%.⁴⁷

There was also an improvement in dietary diversity compared to 2020. While nationally only 3% of households had poor consumption some domains had elevated prevalence of households with poor consumption with Binga/Lupane recording (22%); Ruwa/Domboshava/Goromonzi (17%); Victoria Falls (13%) and Rutenga/Neshuro/Ngundu (12%). Binga/Lupane also had the lowest proportion of households consuming at least 5 food groups. Child food poverty is defined as children's inability to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in early childhood⁴⁸, resulting in sub-optimal growth and development with life-long negative impacts. In Zimbabwe, 580,000 (25%) children are living in severe food poverty⁴⁹ – consuming severely poor diets that include foods from just two or fewer food groups per day. Children living in severe food poverty miss out on many nutrient-rich foods, while unhealthy foods are becoming



UN ASG on Climate Crisis Reena Ghelani interface with women in safe spaces supported by UN Zimbabwe. Photo Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

entrenched in their diets. Severe child food poverty is caused by three main drivers: poor food environments, poor feeding practices and household income poverty.

44 Section 77(b) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe

45 Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2

46 Zimbabwe Rural Vulnerability Assessment Report, 2023

47 Zimbabwe Urban Vulnerability Assessment, 2023

48 [Child Food Poverty | UNICEF](#)

49 [Zimbabwe 2019 MICS Survey Findings Report | UNICEF Zimbabwe](#)

Zimbabwe's aspiration to reduce the share of the population below the food poverty line to 10% by 2025 may not be achieved due to climate change effects. In urban areas, 1 in every 10 school-age children (5-9 years) are underweight, 15% are overweight or obese and 16% of adolescents (10-19) years are obese.⁵⁰ Generally, there are several compounding factors that drive malnutrition. Poverty, disease, economic hardships, climate change-induced shocks, a failing food system and low agricultural productivity have collectively impeded the availability of and access to adequate supplies of nutritious foods. Increasingly urban food environments are becoming more unhealthy with the increase in availability of high fat, sugar and salt foods and sugar sweetened beverages. Legislation is insufficient and not enforced resulting in a lack of regulation of the food system, with insufficient food labeling and no front-of-pack labeling to inform consumers of what they are eating, 83% of packaged foods available are categorized as ultra-processed and 90% of packaged food products are not compliant with regional Nutrient Profile Models, containing one or more nutrient of concern⁵¹ in excess of recommended ranges. There is also a lack of regulation of advertising of unhealthy foods, school-aged children and adolescents are being targeted with advertisements for unhealthy foods and beverages in and around schools and widely visible. Zimbabwe's food systems are not comprehensive enough to address the triple burden of malnutrition while also addressing climate change. Other factors that drive malnutrition include social, economic, and environmental fragility contributing to high levels of food insecurity that requires intensive engagement to strengthen systems to prevent food poverty and malnutrition in women and children, particularly among pregnant women, in early childhood (0-2 years) and among school going children. More specifically, flooding and drought had severe consequences on food and nutrition security. There is also a strong correlation between food insecurity, households' unexpected loss of income and assets in the past year and violence within the household⁵². This is consistent with global evidence on the links between food insecurity and VAWG: food insecurity was associated with doubled odds of reported Violence Against Women and Girls.⁵³ Food insecurity also impacts on the right to education, health and adequate standard of living.

The need to finance anticipatory action efforts to enhance resilience to climate effects cannot be overstated. Measures to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of climate change and environmental degradation, particularly on food and water security, must be adopted and people affected by natural disasters should be protected⁵⁴. The government has adopted multi-sectoral strategies detailed in the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (2023-2025)⁵⁵, such as the Home-Grown School Feeding Approach to address nutrition security, but more needs to be done to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen food systems in order to ensure food availability, accessibility, and utilization. In 2023, only 19% of all surveyed women between the age of 15-49 years were consuming a minimum dietary diversity within 24 hours before the survey⁵⁶. Stunting prevalence among children less than 5 years appears to have deteriorated 26% (compared to 23% in 2019)⁵⁷. Geographical location is also associated with major disparities in nutritional status. Children in rural areas have higher rates of stunting, wasting and underweight than their urban counterparts. The impact of multiple, overlapping hazards and shocks cannot be overstated.⁵⁸ A staggering 83% of Zimbabwean children are living in food poverty, not receiving a sufficiently diverse diet to ensure their proper growth and development. Seventy-one percent of Zimbabwean children aged 3-4 years are developmentally on-track, leaving almost a third that are not meeting standard developmental milestones, negatively impacting Zimbabwe's human capital development and existing inequalities. In addition, the current policy environment is mainly oriented toward addressing undernutrition, with limited emphasis on the emerging issue of overweight and obesity, which has additional consequences on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and health outcomes. To achieve food security there is need

50 Zimbabwe Rural Vulnerability Assessment Report, 2023

51 Nutrients of concern to limit include energy, total sugar, saturated fat, and sodium.

52 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Report 2023

53 Mixed methods findings from low- and middle income settings, September 2022: <https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article/peerReview?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0000479>

54 Recommendation 139.50, 139.55, 139.57, 139.73, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/50/9

55 Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (2023-2025)

56 Zimbabwe Urban Vulnerability Assessment, 2023

57 MICS 2019

58 ZIMSTAT and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: ZIMSTAT and UNICEF, Table TC.8.1).

to implement programmes that improve agriculture productivity as well as ensuring food availability, accessibility and correct utilisation.

5.2 Social Protection

Social protection coverage remains very low despite high poverty levels in Zimbabwe with only 26%⁵⁹ of vulnerable households receiving some form of support from one or more sources. Support from relatives was the main source (17.7%), followed by Government (9.2%) and UN/NGOs (5.3%)⁶⁰. Government-led social assistance increased from 61% in 2022 to 66% in 2023, indicating increased coverage of support for vulnerable communities. The major forms of support received by households from Government were crop inputs (54.6%) and food (29.2%) while the major forms of support provided by the UN/NGOs were food (9%) and crop inputs (1.6%)⁶¹.



UN and Partners distribute relief and protection to communities affected by natural disaster. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

Women and men, including the youth in the informal sector are excluded from enjoying equal social protection benefits in the form of occupational safety, health care, pension benefits and maternity protection in the case of women.⁶² Zimbabwe's social protection expenditure still falls far short of the expected coverage.⁶³ As a share of the GDP, non-

⁵⁹ ZimLAC

⁶⁰ Zimbabwe Urban ZimVAC Report 2023

⁶¹ Zimbabwe Rural ZimVAC Report 2023

⁶² Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2

⁶³ World Bank. 2016. Zimbabwe Public expenditure review 2016: volume 5: Social protection. GoZ and World Bank. [Online] Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27903/116350-WP-v5-PUBLIC-JUNE21-6am-ZIMPER-Volume-5.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=The%20National%20Social%20Protection%20Strategy,and%20>

contributory social protection budget was 0.8% in 2023, an increase from 0.4 % in 2022 and this is below the income group average of 1.5% of GDP. Even though there are no international binding benchmarks for social protection spending, the current spending is below the recommended minimum social spending levels at the international and regional level for social protection.⁶⁴ The low investment in social protection has implications for poverty reduction, addressing inequalities, realisation of Agenda 2030, and progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly rights to social protection, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

In 2022, the Government accepted Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations to increase investment in social sectors to reduce poverty and inequality.⁶⁵ Government agencies mandated to plan and implement social protection programmes face major challenges in spending the allocated amounts as well as poor targeting. Most current social protection programmes are also biased towards supporting rural populations although some urban populations remain under-served including the poor in households headed by adolescents.

Government funding is negatively impacted by macroeconomic instability conditions in Zimbabwe and limited fiscal space, which have resulted in social and economic vulnerabilities and a mismatch with the increasing social assistance needs. Social protection programmes also suffer high administration costs, duplication and weak recipient data storage system, accountability and transparency on targeting mechanisms and insufficient information on the efficacy of programs owing to lack of harmonized processes and inadequate coordination across implementing agencies, which undermines the efficiency of public spending and potential for social gains.⁶⁶ Institutional capacity gaps also hamper the social protection system, which has endured operational deficits in the wake of fluctuating development partner support. To address these challenges, there is a need for increased investment in social protection, improved targeting and spending, and strengthened institutional capacity to ensure efficient and effective social protection programs that reach vulnerable populations.

5.3 Health

The 2030 Agenda contains several ambitious health-related goals and targets including ending the epidemics of tuberculosis (TB), malaria, HIV and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by 2030. The cost of healthcare continues to increase beyond the means of most citizens, making the SDG target of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030 a distant ambition. There is a shortage of medicines and equipment in public hospitals and maternity clinics. The health sector continues to face high attrition rates as medical personnel are migrating to other countries in search of attractive working conditions. The country only has 3 500 doctors to serve a population of 15 million.⁶⁷ Zimbabwe is now in the top-five skilled workers' visa recipient countries as more than 8,300 medical professionals were granted work visas by the United Kingdom between 2019 and September 2022 rendering the country unable to meet the requirement of 10 000 doctors to cater for its population as recommended by the World Health Organisation⁶⁸. There is need to strengthen the health sector by allocating sufficient budgetary resources to improve conditions and to ensure that people have access to the necessary health care.⁶⁹ The Ministry of Health and Child Care was allocated 10.8% in

64 the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2020) estimates that low- and middle-income countries such as Zimbabwe need to invest 3.3% of GDP in order to provide a universal package of social protection. This covers the following benefits: children, maternity, disability, old age, as well as administrative costs. This benchmark refers to basic social protection measures only and does not represent the full cost of social security coverage.

65 139.79 Continue to consolidate its commendable social programmes in favour of its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); 139.80 Take further steps to improve the level of well-being and social protection of the population (Belarus); 131.35 Continue to develop policies aimed at promoting and protecting human rights and realizing the welfare and development of the population (Syrian Arab Republic); 131.100 Continue consolidating its social programmes and strengthening its successful education policy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); 131.102 Develop an effective national strategy to address poverty, social security and health (Uganda); 93.61. Concentrate more resources for the assurance of economic and social rights and for the implementation of MDGs, in particular in the fields of education, healthcare and social security (Viet Nam);

66 World Bank. 2016. Zimbabwe Public expenditure review 2016: volume 5: Social protection. GoZ and World Bank. [Online] Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27903/116350-WP-v5-PUBLIC-JUNE21-6am-ZIMPER-Volume-5.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=The%20National%20Social%20Protection%20Strategy,and%20alleviate%20poverty%20and%20deprivation.>

67 <https://www.trtafrika.com/insight/zimbabwes-unique-solutions-to-health-sector-brain-drain-13864592>

68 *ibid*

69 Recommendations 139.85, 139.86, 139.88, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/50/9

the 2024 budget a reduction from 11.2% in 2023. This allocation missed the 15% Abuja Declaration Target for health financing at a time when the country's health sector is battling frequent pandemics such as measles and cholera outbreaks as well as brain drain.

Significant progress towards reducing maternal deaths has been made by the country though at 363 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2022, the statistic is below the NDS1 target of 351 deaths per 100 000 live births⁷⁰. The high maternal mortality rate is aggravated by several factors that include: late Ante Natal Care (ANC) bookings, mainly influenced by social cultural factors, shortages of essential equipment in health facilities, staff shortages, poor infrastructure, staff capacity gaps compromising quality of services.



UN responding to disease outbreaks through immunization campaign. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

Non-communicable diseases, especially hypertension, cancer and diabetes, are now leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the country with the prevalence of cancer at 206 per 100 000 people⁷¹. However, it is encouraging to note that the 2024 budget imposed a tax of 0.001 US cents per gramme of sugar contained in beverages, and the revenue generated will be to be used to create a cancer fund. However, other non-communicable diseases which include

⁷⁰ Government of Zimbabwe, National development Strategy 1 (2020-2025). 2020.

⁷¹ Global Cancer Observatory (2021),

chronic kidney disease, stroke, mental illnesses like psychosis and depression, asthma, peptic ulcers, anaemia, among others, should be included under the fund.

The country has made significant progress in reducing new HIV infections, with a 78% reduction between 2010 and 2022, and has met the 95-95-95 fast-track targets overall. However, finding and linking identified populations, such as adolescent girls and young women, to treatment and prevention services remains a priority. The sustainability of the AIDS response remains a concern, as it is predominantly supported through external funding. The country is however on track to achieve the target (90% reduction between 2010 and 2030) of ending AIDS by 2030.

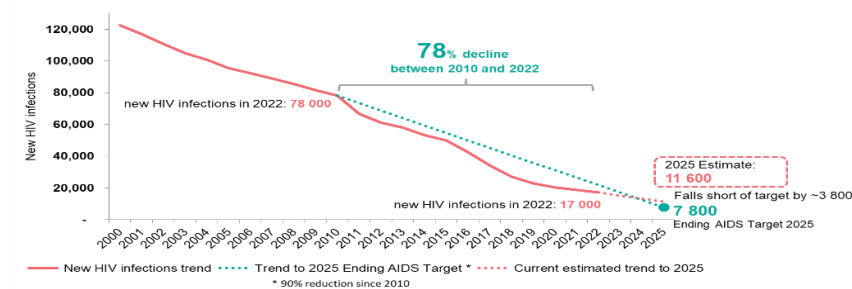


Figure 2: New HIV Infections and Estimated Trends to 2025

Outcomes for good health and wellbeing have been affected by El Niño induced drought with implications on health, increase in diarrheal diseases and elevated risk of malaria in dry areas. The 2015/2016 El Niño experience has shown that drought conditions cause higher risks of disease outbreaks, hunger, heat stress, mental illness, infectious and respiratory illnesses. Pregnant women and girls are considered at high-risk for maternal complications related to drought. Health system challenges, such as poor quality of care, inadequate human resources, lack of essential medicines and supplies at service delivery points contribute to a high maternal mortality risk. More than 2.5 million people (2,531,340), including the elderly, children under age 5, and persons with disabilities are more vulnerable to the increased health risks linked to the impacts of drought.

Mental health care is also a challenge, with a lack of psychiatrists, psychologists, and clinical social workers, including limited funding for medication, human resources, and mental health promotion. Antimicrobial resistance is a looming threat, and the country has also recorded significant occupational incidents and accidents that have caused injuries and fatalities due to limited investments in safety and health, especially in the informal economy.

To address these challenges, there is a need for increased investment in the health sector and strengthening various laws and policies to ensure access to safe and healthy work. Government agreed to continue strengthening its efforts to improve access to health care facilities and medical assistance to address the overall mortality rate.⁷² The country must also prioritize fulfilling the priorities in the Health Workforce Strategy 2023-2030, build a strong healthcare workforce, fulfilling the Human Resources for Health Investment Compact commitments to address the brain drain and ensure access to tools of the trade including essential medicines and equipment. Additionally, there is a need for a multi-sectoral approach to address the social determinants of health, including poverty, education, and economic empowerment.

⁷² UPR 2022 recommendation 139.84

5.4 Education

With a literacy rate of 90%, Zimbabwe has one of the highest literacy rates on the continent⁷³ and has made significance progress in education. On average over the period 2020 to 2023 the country is spending about 13% of its total budget on education, placing it among the top in Africa.⁷⁴ However, the statistic falls below the Incheon Declaration which stipulates an investment of 20% of the total budget and/or an investment of 6% of GDP towards the education sector. Of 13,503,193 persons in Zimbabwe in 2022 aged 4 years and above, 93.8% had attended school at some point, while 5.3 percent had never attended school at all and those with an unknown school attendance status constituted 0.9%⁷⁵. There was a marginal difference in the proportions of males and females who ever attended school with 94.6% and 93.1%, respectively. Females constituted higher proportions of persons who ever attended school with 52.7% in urban areas and 51.2% in rural areas⁷⁶. The main reason for having never attended school was financial constraints, constituting 39.2% for males and 34.3% for females⁷⁷. Other reasons cited were that education was not considered valuable (31.6% for females, and 13.0% for males) and that schools were far away from places of residence (6.4% for males and 4.7% for females) indicating the need for development of education facilities⁷⁸. Seventy-three percent of the sampled households had access to a primary school within a 5km radius.⁷⁹

73 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1321961/adult-literacy-rate-in-africa-by-country/> accessed on 18/01/2024

74 Ibid

75 ZimStat Population and Housing Census 2022

76 Ibid

77 Ibid

78 Ibid

79 The ZimVAC Report, 2023

Persisting challenges in the education sector include limited access to pre-primary education, disparities in completion rates, and limited opportunities for technical and vocational education. To address these challenges, increased investment in education is needed, particularly in rural areas, along with improved access to quality education for all children, including those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, inclusive education policies and practices, promotion of STEM education for girls, and support for non-formal education and lifelong learning



UN Zimbabwe supports national efforts to achieve gender parity in education. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

opportunities especially in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are necessary to ensure equal opportunities for all. Furthermore, development of skills and training programs is crucial to support the transition from school to work, particularly for youth. Addressing these challenges will help to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to the country's development. In 2022, Zimbabwe supported the recommendation from the universal periodic review urging it to take urgent steps to ensure that all children have access to education, including those living in remote areas, and eliminate all root causes of discrimination against girls in the realization of their right to education,⁸⁰. A new TVET policy was adopted in March 2023 and provides an all-encompassing framework to harmonise and standardise the coordination of learning across line ministries so that the education system produces wealth creation and entrepreneurship opportunities. The TVET Policy adopts the Education 5.0 strategy to channel education and training towards research, innovation, and industrialization and covers various elements of skills development, life-long learning and career development. The policy has goals to improve the governance and quality assurance systems of the TVET, transitioning towards digitalization and promoting integration of the needs of the private sector and the rural economy.

80 UPR of Zimbabwe, 3rd Cycle, 40th session, Recommendation 139.99

The adoption of the Heritage-Based Education (2024-2030) Curriculum Framework is expected to transform the education system to produce citizens with relevant skills, applied knowledge, values and dispositions that are key to national development, beginning with the communities they serve. The Primary and Secondary Education system is being designed to mould productive learners who will cherish and practice the Zimbabwean philosophical orientation of Hunhu/Ubuntu. However, teachers are still not adequately equipped with the tools and resources to be able to deliver lessons which are heritage-based and inclusive of the indigenous knowledge from the communities in Zimbabwe. Therefore, the Government of Zimbabwe is making efforts to ensure that a methodological framework on how to integrate intangible cultural heritage, including indigenous knowledge, is implemented within the departments of curriculum development.

5.5 Water and Sanitation and Hygiene

The right to safe, clean, and portable water is enshrined in the Zimbabwean Constitution, and is essential for the realization of other rights such as health, food and adequate nutrition, education, and adequate standard of living. Despite progressive increases in public investment, WASH spending remains below the recommended 7% of the total budget and 0.5% of GDP. Rural areas have seen very low levels of investment, resulting in limited access to basic drinking water services, inadequate infrastructure and inefficient distribution with women and girls bearing the burden of fetching water and caring for sick children and other patients suffering from preventable water and sanitation related ailments. The country's average water coverage is around 65%, with urban areas having better access (80-90%) than rural areas (20-30%). Urban areas face challenges due to rising urbanization and expansion of informal settlements, leading to poor access to WASH and increased risk of diarrheal diseases. The country experienced a cholera outbreak in 2023, which has been worsened by climate change. This highlights the need for improved and climate resilient WASH infrastructure and services. Additionally, WASH in schools and healthcare facilities remain a challenge, with many schools lacking water sources and healthcare facilities requiring improvement. Open defecation remains a key issue, with stark disparities persisting at sub-national levels, disproportionately affecting rural areas.

Sanitation coverage is even lower, with an estimated 30% of the population having access to improved sanitation facilities. Open defecation is prevalent, especially in rural areas where it is 25.6%⁸¹. The government has been investing in water and sanitation projects, including the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, construction of new water treatment plants, introducing climate-proofing of water supply systems, and expansion of urban water supply networks. Government spending on WASH increased from 1.2% in 2016 to 4.8% in 2022 and the same statistic increased from



UN has been facilitating WASH in schools including for nutritional gardens. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

0.1 per cent of GDP in 2023 to 0.3 per cent in 2024. As a share of the total budget, WASH spending in the last five years has averaged 2.13% – which is significantly below the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) commitment of 7% of that total budget channelled to WASH sector. As a share of GDP, WASH spending in the last five years has averaged 0.3%, meaning the country has not been able to meet the Ngor Declaration target of allocating 0.5% of GDP to sanitation and hygiene budget lines,⁸² and below the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD) (2008) proposal— which required Sub-Saharan African countries to allocate 0.9% of GDP to achieve improved WASH outcomes for all. To reduce rural-urban inequalities in access to WASH services, in 2023 the Government allocated a total of ZWL\$ 5.3 billion – an equivalent of 10% of the total WASH spending.

The allocations are geared towards drilling of boreholes in rural communities. This remains below the recommended 0.5% of the GDP. Donor funding has been a crucial component of the water and sanitation sector in Zimbabwe. In 2020, donors provided 35% of the total funding for water and sanitation projects. Donor funding has been on a decline

⁸¹ Zimbabwe Population and Housing Census Report, 2022

⁸² The State of WASH financing in Eastern and Southern Africa: Zimbabwe Country Level Assessment, September 2019

since then. Funding constraints have resulted in continued significant challenges in providing reliable and sustainable access to clean water and sanitation services.

In the 2023 budget, a total of ZWL\$ 195.5 billion has been allocated to the intergovernmental fiscal allocations to Local Authorities and Provisional Councils, which will also be channelled towards water and sewer projects at community level. The priorities for these funds remain at the discretion of the Local Authorities and Provisional Councils. The increasing prioritisation of Rural WASH is a critical step in addressing the urban – rural inequity that prevail in budget allocation and service delivery. However, there remains stark urban-rural disparities in WASH, with rural communities having limited access to basic drinking water services⁸³. The low spending of WASH infrastructure and services under the human rights framework as noted in the General Comment on the right to water and sanitation,⁸⁴ amounts to violations of the obligation to fulfil the right to water as it results in the non-enjoyment of the right to water by individuals and groups, particularly the vulnerable and/or marginalized. With low allocations, the actual expenditures deviate from the planned expenditures. The low execution rates affect service delivery and access to safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water and sanitation services especially for the marginalised and vulnerable groups. It also affects attainment of SDG 6 and rights to water and sanitation. During its review under the universal periodic review, the Government supported the recommendation to Increase efforts to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

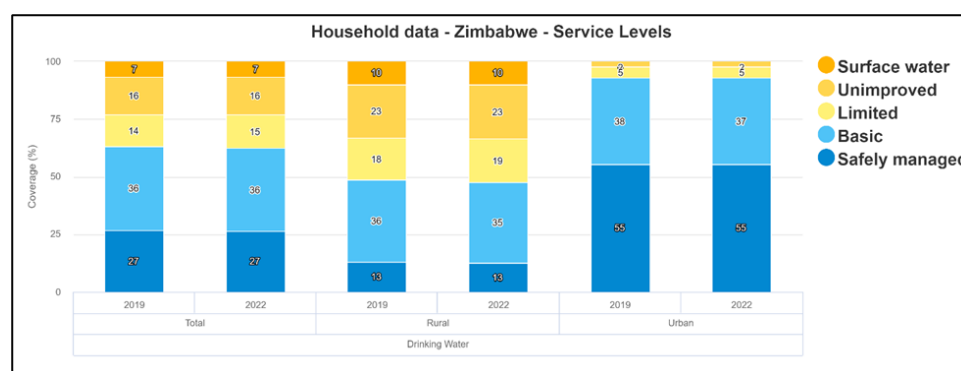


Figure 3: Drinking water service levels between 2019 and 2022.

5.6 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

The Government of Zimbabwe recognizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment under the Constitution and for achieving Vision 2030, it recognizes gender equality as a fundamental human right and an integral part of sustainable economic growth and social development and is thus committed to removing all forms of gender inequalities. To this end GoZ is coordinating efforts to combat Gender-Based Violence, including the High-Level Political Compact on ending Gender-Based Violence and Harmful practices signed by the president of Zimbabwe. The GoZ is also in the process of revamping the country's gender machinery and updating the National Gender Policy. Despite these efforts supported by development partners and other stakeholders, Zimbabwe still faces hurdles in respect of equal opportunities, impacting income distribution, political participation, power relations, and access to economic resources.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a significant concern in Zimbabwe with GBV prevalence well above the global and regional averages. A substantial number of women experience physical and sexual violence, approximately 39.4% of

83 The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). 2023. Available at: <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/>.

84 The General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water (Arts. 11 and 12 of the Covenant) Adopted at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 20 January 2003.

women have been subjected to physical violence, and an estimated 11.6% have faced sexual violence. An estimated 44% of women over 15 years of age in Zimbabwe have experienced sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner, compared to the global average of 27% and regional average of 33%. Prevalence of violence against children (VAC) is also high, and above the estimates of several countries in SSA: with 32.5% of females ages 18-24 years ever experiencing it before the age of 18. Other forms of GBV include child marriage, with 33.7% of women marrying before age 18, and 5.4% before age 15. Over 90% of women experience sexual harassment at work. Trends are driven by social and cultural norms that enable violence and limit help-seeking by survivors and challenges with the GBV prevention and response systems which include the poor delivery of justice.⁸⁵ The Government needs to step up efforts to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes, adopt gender legislation that punishes violence against all women as well as intersectional discrimination against women,⁸⁶ and remove any gender based discriminatory provisions on marriage and property rights.⁸⁷



Government, UN and Partners campaign to end violence against women and girls. Photo: UN Women/Zimbabwe

Women's participation in politics remains low, and they are underrepresented in government and in key decision-making positions. Despite the implementation of affirmative action policies, in 2023, representation of women in local government was 42% (30% constitutional quota and 12% directly elected), female representation in Parliament was 43.7% in the upper house and 31.4% in the lower house. Strengthening policy measures, increasing campaign funding, and addressing institutional barriers, and patriarchal norms which privilege male over female leadership are essential for progress. Linking normative frameworks like CEDAW and SDG 5 to development efforts and investing in gender

85 Zimbabwe Gender Based Violence Assessment 2024 World Bank

86 Recommendation 139.6, 139.33, 139.35, 140.51, 140.57, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council, Fiftieth session, A/HRC/50/9.

87 Recommendation 139.31, 139.108 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council Fiftieth Session A/HRC/50/9

statistics and national gender machinery are crucial. Prioritizing SDG 5 is vital for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Zimbabwe has adopted domestic legislation on UNSCR 1325 and launched a National Action Plan to promote women's role in peace and security.

Women are less likely to be employed in wage work and more likely to earn less than men. The labor force participation rate (LFPR) for males is 53 percent compared to 34 percent for females and men outnumber women in most sectors. According to the 2019 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey (LFCLS), in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector, males account for 58 percent of the sector, while females make up 42 percent. Only 22 percent of working women are employed in wage or salaried positions, compared to 41 percent for men. Waged women employees earn on average about two-thirds of their male counterparts. Women's agricultural productivity is lower than that of men. Fewer women earn their livelihoods in the agriculture sector, (66% compared to 57%) and their productivity is lower⁸⁸. Economic empowerment strategies and financial inclusion initiatives have been implemented, but more needs to be done to address gender discrimination and ensure women's full participation in economic and social life. Adequate financing of gender priorities, including national gender machinery, is critical for lasting results. (see Annex for detailed analysis).

Child marriages are persistent in Zimbabwe with profound and well-documented socioeconomic consequences. According to the 2019 MICS, 34% of women ages 20-24 were married/in a union before age 18, and 5% were married before age 15. Women in rural areas were twice as likely to marry before the age of 18. Moreover, one in five adolescent girls in ages 15-19 years were either married or in a union with a partner 10 or more years older. Women ages 20-49 years with pre-primary or no education were 13 times more likely to be married by age 18 than those with higher education. Moreover, compared to those in wealthier household, women in poor households were almost four times more likely to get married by age 18. Marrying early increases the likelihood of early and frequent pregnancies, elevates the risk of GBV, and heightens the likelihood of school dropout.

In August 2023, the Government of Zimbabwe gazetted an amendment to the Labour Act (Chapter 28:01) -Labour Amendment No. 11 that revises provisions in the Act that promote substantive equality between women and men in the world of work. The Labour Amendment No. 11 amends Section 5 of the Act by repealing section 2a and substitutes it with a new provision that provides for equal remuneration for work which is of equal value: 'Every Employers shall pay equal remuneration to male and female employees for work to which equal value is attributed without discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender'. The same amendment also provides for the definition of Gender-Based Violence and Violence and harassment in line with ILO C190 and R206 on ending violence and harassment in the world of work. These provisions are expected to ensure the effective realization of equality of opportunity and treatment between women and men; and the prevention of discrimination-based violence and harassment in the world of work.

5.7 Housing

The 2022 Population and Housing Census made a distinction between private and collective/institutional households. The latter included persons who were staying in hotels, hostels, camps, hospitals and prisons. The total population of Zimbabwe was 15,178,957 consisting of 15,115,479 in private households and 63,478 in transit and collective/institutional households. In private household dwellings, 39.4% were headed by females and a larger proportion (60.6%) of households was headed by males. 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. This was followed by 'Lodger' status, with a total of 734,585 households, constituting 19.2% of the total. In rural areas, owner occupied tenure status had the highest proportion while, lodgers had the highest proportion in urban areas. In

88 International Labour Organization. "ILO modelled estimates database" ILOSTAT. Data from January 2021

rural areas, owner occupied was 76.8 percent of the 75 households, while in urban areas, it was 32.8%. On the other hand, lodgers occupied was 42.7% in urban areas and 2.6% in rural areas. Reports have brought out concerns that Zimbabwean workers employed in foreign companies operating in the country, in particular some Chinese-owned companies, experience a range of violations that manifest racially discriminatory attitudes, including physical abuse and being provided substandard and inferior housing and meals compared with those provided to their foreign coworkers.⁸⁹

5.8 Social Impact of Covid-19 Impact on People

Apart from loss of lives, COVID-19 elevated vulnerabilities and presented risks for the short, medium and long-term. The pandemic disrupted livelihood and economic activities in the rural and informal economies. The pandemic narrowed economic opportunities and reduced incomes by affecting the capacity of poor households to cope with health and education needs. Covid-19 worsened the growing inequalities in education as most children were not able to engage in online or distance learning and the worst affected were those in rural areas where only one quarter of children engaged in distance learning⁹⁰. Closure of schools during lockdown took away the protective sanctuary for children offered by schools, leaving them exposed to long term effects of sexual exploitation and abuse, drug use and increased child marriages⁹¹. Access to medication to chronic patients suffering from HIV/AIDS or Tuberculosis was undermined during Covid-19⁹² with potential effects of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in addition to disruption to continuity of essential health services especially during the early days. The impact has been more severe on urban households whose incomes have been significantly affected due to closure of their workspaces.

6 Economic Transformation Analysis

6.1 Gross Domestic Product

Economic performance in Zimbabwe is affected by structural deficiencies, unilateral coercive measures, climatic shocks and persistent drought among others.

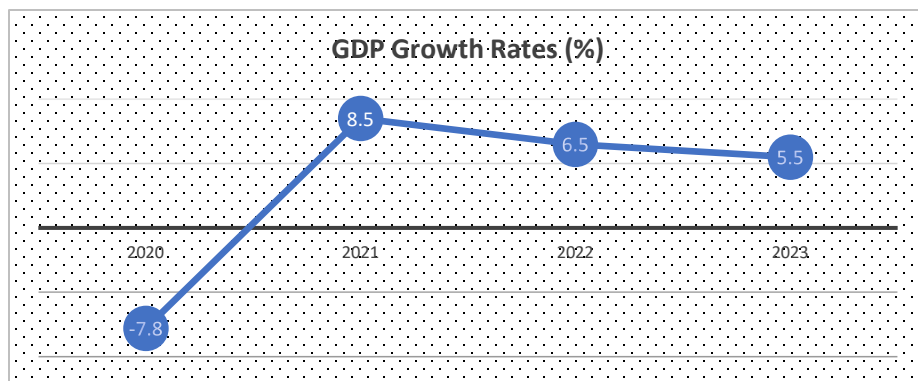


Figure 4: GDP Growth Rates (%)

⁸⁹ CERD Concluding Observations - CERD/C/ZWE/CO/5-11 (CERD 2022)

⁹⁰ Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. 2022. Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census. Available at: https://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/phc2022/2022_PHC_Report_27012023_Final.pdf

⁹¹ reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/impact-covid-19-socio-economic-rights

Zimbabwe#:~:text=COVID19%20affected%20millions%20of,sources%20of%20livelihoods%20and%20incomes. Accessed on 27/11/2023

⁹² ibid

The NDS projects at-least 5% real GDP growth throughout the 5-year period 2021 – 2025. The economy grew by 6.5% in 2022 and the major contributing sectors to GDP were the Wholesale and Retail Trade (18.7%), Mining (13.2%), Agriculture (12%), Manufacturing (11.2%) and Finance and Insurance (8.2%). In 2023, the economy grew by 5.5% and in 2024, the economy is projected to register a modest growth rate of 2% due to El Nino.

6.2 Inflation and Exchange Rates

Zimbabwe experienced high inflation rates in 2022, peaking at 175.8% annually and 74.5% monthly by June 2023. The depreciation of the Zimbabwe dollar against the US dollar, high cost of borrowing, power deficits, commodity price fluctuations and geopolitical factors like the Russia-Ukraine war, led to price increases. Despite a projected 3.5% growth in 2024, these challenges threaten the growth trajectory. This severely impacted poor and vulnerable groups, forcing them to adopt coping mechanisms like reducing food purchases and spending less on education and healthcare.

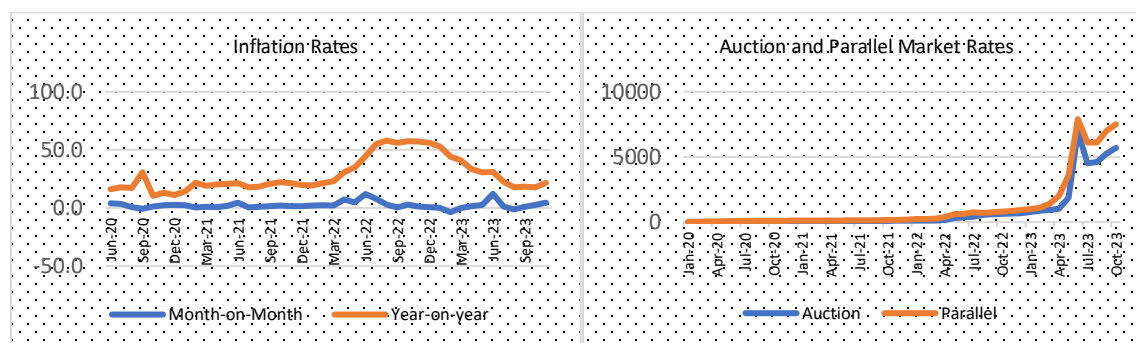


Figure 5: Inflation and Exchange Rates

Source ZimStat, RBZ, Other sources

Authorities implemented measures such as tight monetary policy, gold coin sales, interest rate hikes, and fiscal policies to support the local currency. The local currency has rapidly depreciated, losing 74% of its value in the first three months of 2024 with inflation reaching 55.3% in March 2024 and 57.5% in April 2024, up from 26.5% in December 2023.

6.3 Key Sectors of the Economy

The services sector which is dominated by the Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sector dominates Zimbabwe's GDP, contributing 51%. The mining sector's contribution has been increasing since 2017, driven by new mineral discoveries, high global commodity prices, and expanded projects. In contrast, the Manufacturing sector's contribution has declined due to challenges such as high production costs stemming from US dollar dependence and macroeconomic instability, hefty regulatory charges (averaging 17.9% of overheads⁹³), limited access to foreign currency for raw material and capital imports, inadequate infrastructure, and electricity shortages. The agriculture sector faces challenges such as lack of security of tenure, climate change, and limited access to finance, leading to underperformance and reliance on imports.

⁹³ The CZI 2023 Annual Manufacturing Sector Survey Results (2024)

Table 2 Percentage Contribution of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Industries to GDP (Constant Prices (2019=100))

Industry	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Industry	20.2	21.8	21.8	24.2	24.8	25.3
Secondary Industry	22.1	21.3	20	18.9	18.4	17.7
Tertiary Industry	52	51.1	52.8	51.8	51.2	51.5

However, challenges such as illicit financial flows, environmental degradation, and inclusiveness for mining communities need to be addressed. Government initiatives, including the Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy and the National Venture Fund, aim to support the development of manufacturing and address these challenges.

6.4 The Informal Sector

Zimbabwe's economy struggles with high informality, macroeconomic challenges, and market pressures, leading to limited job creation and perpetuating informality. Factors like foreign exchange market distortions, lack of confidence in banking, and tax evasion contribute to this cycle. De-industrialization has reduced formal sector jobs, increased poverty, and eroded wages due to inflation and currency volatility. With over 50% of youths not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), the economy is losing its demographic dividend. The regulatory framework also makes it expensive to run formal businesses. The government aims to address this by creating an enabling environment for SMEs to participate in productive value chains across various sectors, allocating funds for recapitalizing financial institutions and constructing infrastructure such as Vendor Marts and Market Stalls to support SMEs. A Comprehensive National Strategy on Formalization to coordinate integrated measures towards formalisation of enterprises and the workers they employ has been developed but is yet to be fully adopted for implementation. An Action Plan to operationalise the Strategy was adopted following national wide consultations with social partners, considering the need for coherence and coordination across a broad range of policy areas in facilitating the transition to a formal economy. The Strategy integrates pro-employment macroeconomic frameworks, promoting job-rich inclusive growth; review the regulatory frameworks, strengthening of public institutions and enforcement mechanisms; enterprise development (including MSME); addressing micro level determinants of informality; access to market, finances, infrastructure/workspaces, technology; strengthening voice and representation of workers; youth employment, including women and people with disabilities; and Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation in view of building policy coherence.

Measures were announced in the 2024 budget to formalize the informal sector, to promote a more inclusive and structured economy. A participatory approach based on dialogue and implementation of the Formalisation Strategy could help bring stability, improve productivity, create new jobs and better working conditions and incomes for many workers and households dependent on the sector.

6.5 Introduction of a Structured Currency

In view of high inflation and exchange rate depreciation, the central bank introduced the Zimbabwe Gold in April 2024, a new structured currency which is pegged to a specific exchange rate or currency basket and exchange reserves and gold. The Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) has replaced the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL) as legal tender for transactional purposes and all obligations were converted to ZiG. The multi-currency system which includes the ZiG remains in place until 2030 to build confidence in the economy. Authorities will implement measures to create demand for ZiG and support

its use. The success of the new currency hinges on responsible currency management, widespread acceptance of the ZiG in most local transactions, access to US dollars through banks when needed particularly for importing goods and tackling illicit gold trade.

6.6 Employment

The labour market is characterized by gaps in the quality and the quantity of jobs, especially for young people and women. Almost 50% of youths are not in employment education or training (NEETs). Working conditions have deteriorated over the years as informal employment has grown. The country is experiencing high levels of underemployment and vulnerable employment, with a declining quality of employment. The labour force participation rate is 43.9%, with women's participation being lower than men's respectively at 60.7% and 71.9% with a large share of workers relying on the informal sector. Unemployment rates are high, especially for women and the youth, with a national strict rate of 21% and an expanded rate of 47.8%. Gender disparities persist, with women facing a gender wage gap and experiencing sexual harassment at work. Sexual and gender minority populations also face discrimination, unemployment, and financial difficulties. The informal economy is large, with decent work deficits and safety concerns. There is growing inequality in terms of wages as the wage ratio has reached sixty (60) and the average wage income is below the equivalent of US\$50. There is a need for strengthened social dialogue for decent work, wage employment, and a supportive environment for formalization to address these challenges and achieve sustainable development and gender equality.

6.7 Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF)

Social dialogue presents an opportunity to leverage broader confidence building in the economy and political governance. Social partners are weak due to loss of membership and fragmentation; they are making progress consolidating their voice and engagement through the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) with hopes for building a new Social Contract. The Government has provided funding for the operations of the TNF Secretariat through the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Further, policy and legislative reforms are needed to strengthen the effectiveness of the TNF decisions and their adoption and implementation through Government. Both workers and businesses have committed to engagement with government but have expressed displeasure with Government's unilateral actions on economic policy including the recent currency reforms. The government has started national consultations on the crafting of a new National Employment Policy that is expected to drive the coordination and promotion of employment and job creation at the centre of macro-economic and sectoral policies.

6.8 Financial Inclusion and Fiscal Policy

There has been a remarkable improvement in financial inclusion with the overall financial exclusion gap for consumers reducing from 23% in 2014 to 12% in 2022. ⁹⁴Those in rural areas are far more likely to be excluded although financial inclusion for the rural communities improved from 62% in 2014 to 79% in 2022. Financial inclusion of women improved from 68% in 2014 to 83% in 2022, while inclusion of men on the access strand improved from 70% in 2014 to 85% in 2022, largely driven by uptake of banking products. In 2022, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe launched the **National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) II (2022-2026), which reinforces Zimbabwe's commitment to the Maya Declaration⁹⁵ and Denarau Action Plan on gender inclusive finance.**

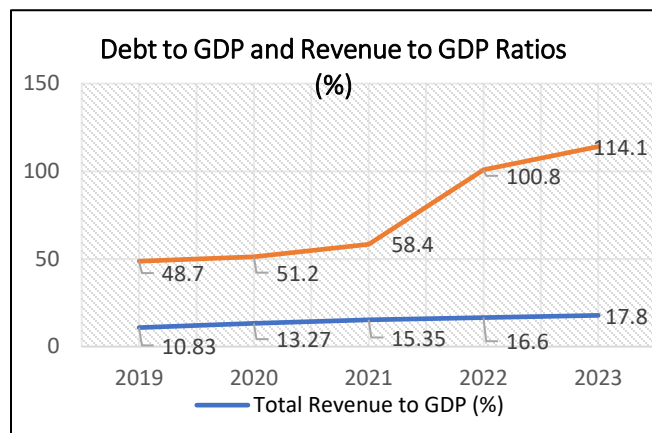
The government publishes the Budget Strategy Paper, outlining proposed budget priorities considering the macroeconomic conditions in the country. This document forms the basis of government consultations with

⁹⁴ Zimbabwe National Financial Inclusion Strategy II 2022-2026

⁹⁵ https://www.afi-global.org/sites/default/files/publications/afi_maya_quick_guide_withoutannex_i_and_ii.pdf

stakeholders, including the United Nations, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) invites stakeholders to submit policy proposals for the national budget, making it an inclusive process. The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) submits UNCT consolidated policy proposals to the government which enables the UN country team to influence the policy process.

Zimbabwe's fiscal policy is inward looking because of lack of access to credit from international financial institutions. Owing to this, the fiscal policy has introduced several new policy measures notably the wealth tax, sugar tax and surcharge on luxury vehicles to enhance revenue generation.



The widening gap between Zimbabwe's Debt-to-GDP ratio and Revenue-to-GDP ratio raises concerns about the sustainability of its debt. This disparity indicates that the country's revenue generation is insufficient to service its debt, posing significant risks to its fiscal stability and economic viability. The growing debt burden and insufficient revenue generation pose significant risks to Zimbabwe's achievement of Vision 2030, as they threaten to undermine the country's ability to invest in key development priorities, such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare, crucial for sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Figure 6: Comparison of Debt to GDP and Revenue to GDP Ratios⁹⁶

Zimbabwe's macroeconomic challenges are partly because of the dominant use of the USD as the preferred transactional currency, unsustainable levels of recurrent expenditures driven by social sectors spending, employment costs, subsidies including for agriculture input support schemes and grain procurement programs.

6.9 Recurrent versus Capital Expenditure as a Percentage of GDP

A balanced allocation between recurrent and capital expenditure enables governments to maintain essential services and operations, invest in growth enhancing infrastructure and projects and promote economic development and improve living standards.

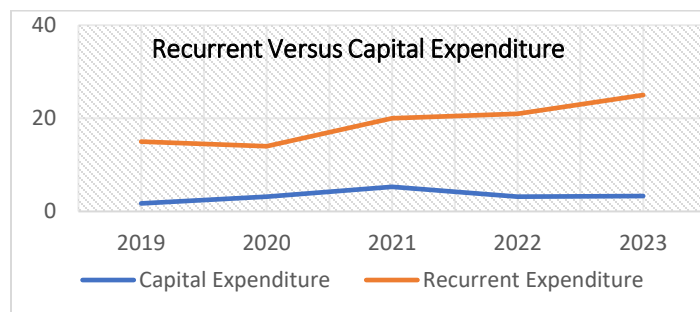


Figure 7: Recurrent versus Capital Expenditure as a Percentage of GDP
Source: MOFEDIP

⁹⁶ Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Investment Promotion (MoFEDIP).

In 2023, employment costs as a percentage of total revenue rose to 51.3% and in 2024, the statistic is projected to decline to 47.8%.⁹⁷ The Public Wage Bill as a percentage of revenue was 39.5% and 48.9% respectively in 2021 and 2022. In 2024, fiscal authorities are targeting a budget deficit of 1.5% of GDP which is within the SADC macroeconomic convergence benchmark of less than 5% within a band of 1% of GDP.⁹⁸ However, the review of 2024 revenue measures are likely to cause a financing gap which may be financed by borrowing, expenditure cuts, and taxation.

Though there are no international/regional binding benchmarks for social sector spending, the current social spending in Zimbabwe is below the recommended minimum social spending levels at the international and regional level for the health sector,⁹⁹ education¹⁰⁰ and social protection.¹⁰¹ The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2020) estimates that low and middle-income countries such as Zimbabwe need to invest 3.3% of GDP in order to provide a universal package of social protection. This covers the following benefits: children, maternity, disability, old age, and administrative costs. This benchmark refers to basic social protection measures only and does not represent the full cost of social security coverage. The low investment in social sectors has implications for poverty reduction and addressing inequalities. This in turn has implications on the realization of the Agenda 2030 and progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly rights to education, health and social protection, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups. In 2022, Zimbabwe received Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations to increase investment in social sectors to reduce poverty and inequality. Budgetary allocation towards social protection coverage remains very low despite high poverty levels. At 3.98% budget allocation the social protection sector, a key tool in the quest to leave no one behind, is underfunded. In light of high unemployment, high poverty, a highly informal economy and climate change effects on food security, it is critical that adequate social safety nets are in place to protect the most vulnerable.

7 Environment and Climate Change Analysis and Progress on Global Commitments

Zimbabwe faces significant environmental challenges, including land degradation and deforestation, with 45% of the country's land area covered in forests, but experiencing a high rate of deforestation (327,000 hectares per year). Wetlands degradation is also a concern, with 61% moderately degraded and 18% severely degraded wetlands impacting ecological health. Habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity through poaching, veld fires, pollution and waste management threaten unique ecosystems and endangered species. Inadequate water resources, both in terms of quantity and quality, and waste management issues, including toxic waste, further exacerbate the situation. These challenges have far-reaching consequences, including compromised ecosystem services (water purification, pollination, climate regulation), impacts on human well-being and rural livelihoods, and loss of biodiversity and ecological health. Urgent and strategic conservation and restoration efforts are necessary to address these environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in Zimbabwe as more than 60% of the population in Zimbabwe still rely on solid biomass fuel for thermal needs and have no access to clean energy sources.¹⁰²

Zimbabwe has established various policy frameworks and institutional arrangements to address environmental challenges, including:

- a) Carbon Credit Trading Regulations (2023) to control and manage carbon credit trading projects.
- b) Forest Act (1975) and Forest Amendment Act (2021) to update offences and penalties for illegal activities.

⁹⁷ Government of Zimbabwe 2023, The 2024 National Budget Statement, Harare, Zimbabwe.

⁹⁸ <https://archive.uneca.org/oria/pages/sadc-macroeconomic-policy-convergence>, accessed on 01/12/23

⁹⁹ The Abuja Declaration and the World Health Organisation (WHO) stipulate investments of 15% of the national budget and 5% of GDP

¹⁰⁰ The Incheon Declaration stipulates an investment of 20% of the total budget and/or an investment of 6% of GDP.

¹⁰¹ The ILO (2020) estimates that low and middle income countries such as Zimbabwe need to invest 3.3% of GDP to provide a universal package of social protection.

¹⁰² https://www.zera.co.zw/National_Renewable_Energy_Policy_Final.pdf

- c) Parks and Wildlife Act (1975) under review, with efforts to strengthen laws against poaching and illegal trafficking.
- d) Fisheries Bill (under consideration) to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture management.
- e) Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Bill (2022) to establish a National Coordinating Committee for disaster risk management.



Government and UN hold second national climate conference in Zimbabwe. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

Despite these efforts, opportunities and gaps remain, including establishing robust forest emission reference levels, developing a REDD+ policy to regulate implementation of the REDD+ policy, creating safeguards for forest and biodiversity protection, developing an Access and Benefit Sharing framework for fair sharing of forest resource benefits, establishing a comprehensive legal and governance framework for the climate sector, including carbon governance and updating forest monitoring systems to align with modern carbon accounting trends.

The country also needs to make the national climate response more inclusive by focusing on employment friendly adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure just transitions towards an environmentally sustainable economy and society. Climate change and environmental degradation pose significant challenges to economic growth and employment today, and risks will be greater in the medium-to long-term. By contrast, if properly managed, climate change action can lead to more and better jobs. A transition to a low-carbon, greener economy will imply the creation of new jobs in environmentally friendly production processes and outputs, whereas other jobs will be at risk, particularly in those sectors with fewer options for a transition towards a more sustainable ways of production.

Addressing these gaps, in a participatory manner to ensure fair sharing of benefits amongst all stakeholders will help strengthen Zimbabwe's environmental management and promote sustainable development. Macroeconomic policies can provide significant support to achieve carbon emission reduction goals. Enhancing the policy toolbox with green instruments can induce the investment in green energy, clean transport and cleaner production practices alongside investments into human capital and worker skills needed for the transition. Systems for identifying and anticipating skills needs for green jobs can benefit from improved labour market information and institutionalized social dialogue.

This will lead to the provision of comprehensive data and information on supply and demand related to skills for green jobs and better match skills needs. Mainstreaming the green transition through the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and lifelong learning systems will increase the chance of advancing a just transition.

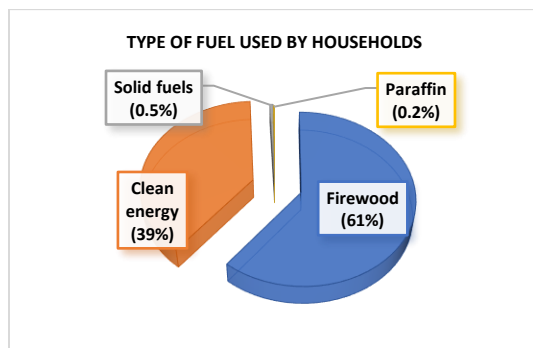
7.1 Life on Land

Land degradation neutrality (LDN) in Zimbabwe is aimed at achieving a balance between ongoing land degradation and future efforts to improve degraded lands¹⁰³. Zimbabwe envisions to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030 compared to 2008 and an additional 10% of the country's total land area will be improved (net gain). This target will be achieved through the restoration of forests, both local and exotic species, avoiding further forest decline, improving SFM and SLM practices, controlling/reducing the spread of alien species by 2030. The national UNCCD committee has been established to oversee the implementation of actions that ensure Zimbabwe meets its LDN targets.

Zimbabwe has no robust natural resource valuation framework, therefore, the economic contribution of biodiversity in the country is yet to be adequately valued and accounted for. Zimbabwe has developed its first Biodiversity Economy Report (2022-2023) which seeks to value its natural resources with the support of Africa Wildlife Foundation. The report indicates several data gaps and recommends the establishment of a framework for the Natural Capital Accounting System to value natural resources.¹⁰⁴ A second important framework was developed by the World Bank (2023) to value ecosystem services developed for the Mazowe Catchment and can be applied to other catchment areas¹⁰⁵.

7.2 Affordable Clean Energy

More than 60% of the population in Zimbabwe still rely on solid biomass fuel for thermal needs and have no access to clean energy sources.¹⁰⁶ The use of firewood for cooking/ heating and curing of tobacco has resulted in Zimbabwe losing millions of hectares of natural forest annually. There is a high disparity between rural and urban access to electricity with access in rural areas being as little as 13% compared with 83% access in urban areas.¹⁰⁷ Of the households that indicated use of grid electricity, 76.6 percent were in urban areas compared to 23.4 percent in rural areas¹⁰⁸. For off-grid electricity, 87.4 percent were in rural areas while 12.6 percent were in urban areas.¹⁰⁹ For households that did not have electricity, 91.1 percent were in rural areas compared to 9.9 percent in urban areas.¹¹⁰



¹⁰³ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/Zimbabwe%20LDN%20Country%20Commitments.pdf

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.awf.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ZBE%20Report%20Final%20Copy%20-%20080923.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099802207282338687/pdf/IDU00e9f4c00082cf043e9083030e681ced2ea3b.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ National Renewable Energy Policy (2019)

¹⁰⁷ National Renewable Energy Policy 2019

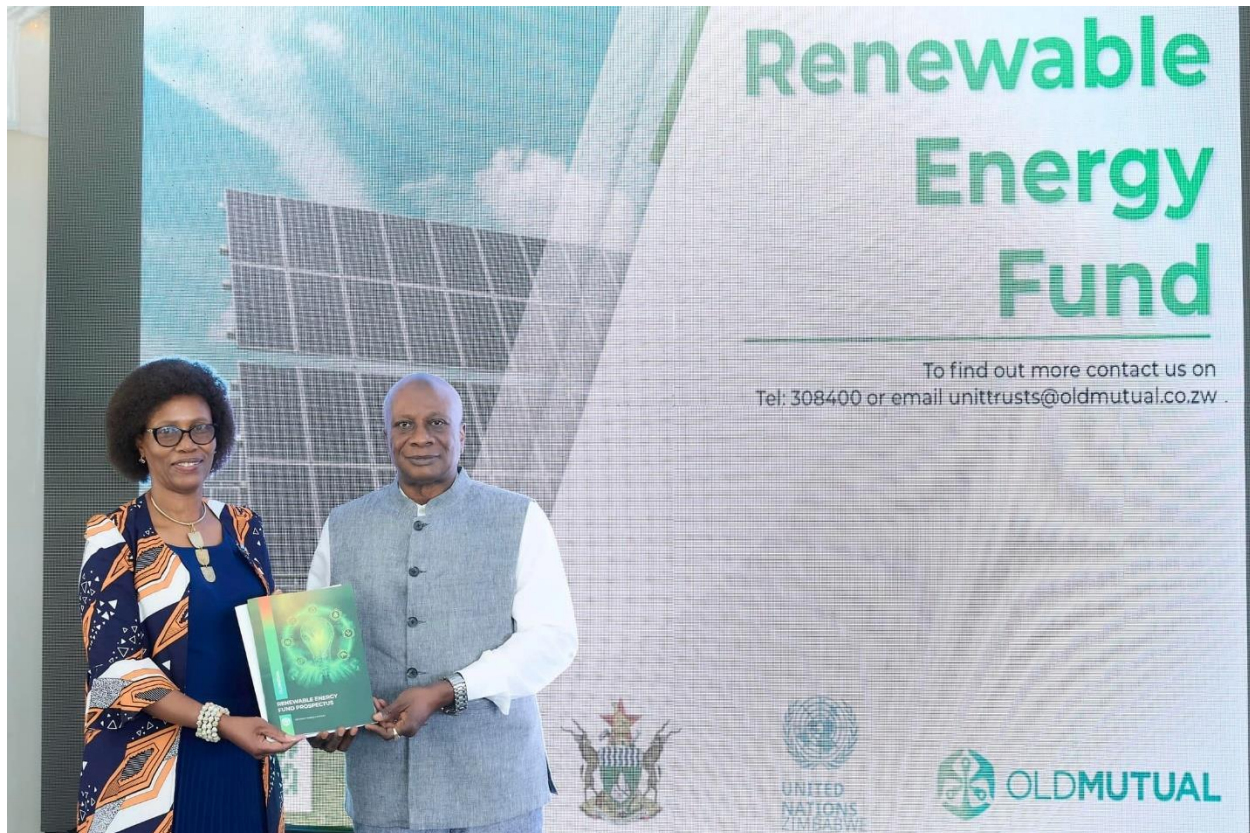
¹⁰⁸ *ibid*

¹⁰⁹ *ibid*

¹¹⁰ *ibid*

Figure 8: Types of Fuel Used by Households¹¹¹

Access to electricity and clean cooking fuels and technology can bring many benefits, including better health. The transition to modern cooking stoves could result in fewer deaths from indoor air pollution, with many benefits for women who are older, poorer and less literate, who are more likely to suffer from the adverse health effects of exposure to biomass fuels. In addition, access to electricity can open more channels to obtain information, including online and ensure no one is left behind in the digital space.



Government, UN and Old Mutual established in 2024 a National Renewable Energy Fund in Zimbabwe. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

The country continues to invest in fossil fuels. However, this will exacerbate the climate change challenges, and the country will likely miss its climate change mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement through the NDCs. Currently, energy use is the country's largest source of GHG emissions. The sector's emissions are expected to increase to 26.5 MtCO_{2e} in 2030 and 37.5 MtCO_{2e} in 2050 with increasing demand for power generation, transport and other uses of fossil fuels.¹¹² Zimbabwe's National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP) seeks to ensure energy access to all in a sustainable manner by increasing the mix of renewable energy sources. The Biofuels Policy of Zimbabwe is an offshoot from the NREP. The policy's primary goal is to concentrate on liquid biofuels for the transportation industry, emphasising sugar cane ethanol and other plant-based biofuel sources. While the policy is in place, the primary impediment to the

¹¹¹ ZimStat Population and Housing Census 2022

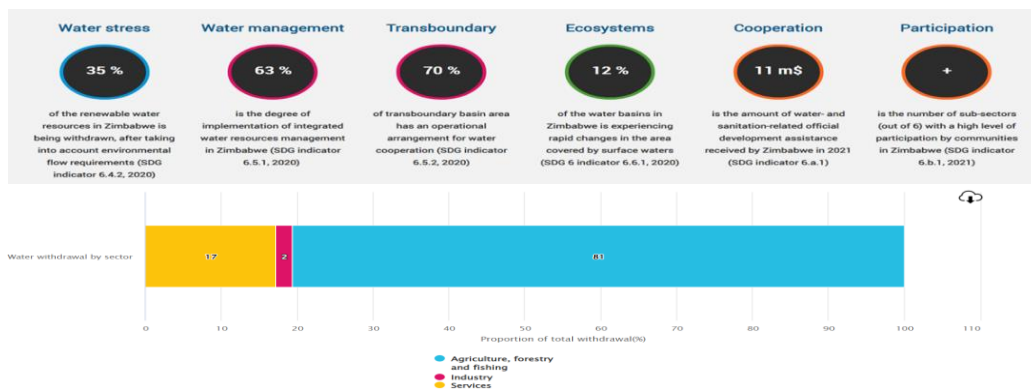
¹¹² LEDS 2020

policy's implementation has been the lack of sustainable sector investment. The government should priorities investigating promoting and funding solar and hydropower projects, such as modernising the Kariba system and funding projects at the Batoka, Mupata, and Katambora gorges, as well as on perennial rivers in the eastern highlands. In addition, in 2022, Zimbabwe set a revised target to generate 1,100 MW from renewable energy by 2025 through providing incentives to Independent Power Producers¹¹³

7.3 Integrated Water Resources Management

Biophysical factors, encompassing climate change and human activities like land use, pose significant threats to Zimbabwe's freshwater resources. The Zambezi River Basin, central to challenges in food security, economic development, and energy generation for several riparian states, is experiencing declining water levels¹¹⁴, evident in alerts issued by the Zambezi River Authority¹¹⁵. Climate change projections forecast severe water shortages exceeding a third of per capita needs by 2050, exacerbated by demographic shifts. Unsustainable agriculture, industrial pollution, resource extraction, and veld fires contribute to major threats to wetlands and water ecosystems¹¹⁶, causing water pollution. In response, Zimbabwe has shown commitment to water conservation, joining the Ramsar Convention and designating seven wetlands as Ramsar sites. The country actively engages in transboundary water resource management through institutions like the Zambezi River Authority and the Environmental Management Agency, fostering wetland protection and involving local communities in conservation efforts.

Sustainable water resource management is crucial for Zimbabwe's socio-economic and environmental well-being, considering the country's heavy reliance on variable rainfall. With over 10,000 dams in seven catchments, meeting 90% of water needs¹¹⁷, the nation faces challenges in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), ranking at 63% for SDG target 6.5¹¹⁸. Improvement opportunities lie in enhancing the enabling environment, institutions, participation, management instruments, and financing. Collaborative efforts, particularly through partnerships with the UN Country Team, are essential to address these shortcomings and ensure the sustainability of Zimbabwe's water resources and ecosystems.



¹¹³ [https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/zimbabwe-proposes-incentives-1-bln-solar-projects-2022-12-20/#:~:text=HARARE%2C%20Dec%2019%20\(Reuters\),to%20compound%20its%20economic%20woes.](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/zimbabwe-proposes-incentives-1-bln-solar-projects-2022-12-20/#:~:text=HARARE%2C%20Dec%2019%20(Reuters),to%20compound%20its%20economic%20woes.)

¹¹⁴

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Zimbabwe%20First/Zimbabwe%20Revised%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%202021%20Final.pdf>

¹¹⁵ <https://www.zambezi.org/media-centre/press-release/press-statementupdate-water-levels-lake-kariba>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.zw.undp.org/content/zimbabwe/en/home/library/-zimbabwe-s-second-voluntary-national-review---2021.html>

¹¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/zwenc3.pdf>

¹¹⁸ https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Zimbabwe#anchor_6.5.1

Figure 9:SDG 6 snapshot of Zimbabwe ¹¹⁹

7.4 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SDG 6)

The Zimbabwe United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022 -2026 prioritizes strengthening the enabling environment for planning, financing, implementing and monitoring WASH services. There is an increasing risk of cholera and typhoid in Zimbabwe, c.f. to the current outbreak in selected districts and risk of spreading to other areas. The country is yet to achieve the targets set under the Ngor Commitment and needs to increase its expenditure on WASH from 4.5% to at least 7%.

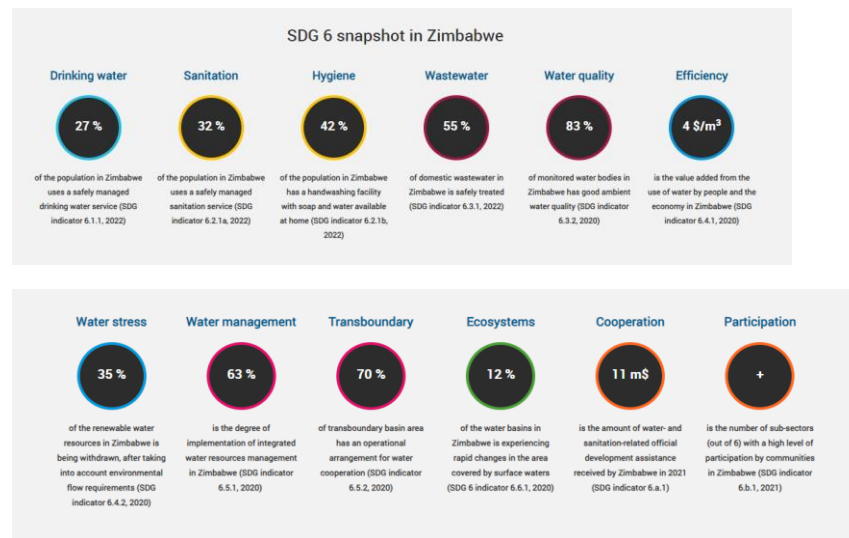


Figure 10: Snapshot of WASH indicators¹²⁰

7.5 Climate Change and Variability

In Zimbabwe, notable shifts have been registered in its long-term patterns of temperature and rainfall. Its overall mean annual temperatures have risen by about 0.03°C per year in the period 1970 to 2016 with projections showing levels of up to 1-1.5°C rise by 2040, and potentially exceeding 3°C by 2050, from 1986-2005 baselines, in the business-as-usual scenarios.¹²¹ These shifts are set to be accompanied by surges in the frequency and intensity of drought¹²². At the same time, its mean annual precipitation displays a falling trend, with substantial differences in the country's regions and seasons. Climate change is believed to be increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, leading to intensifying droughts and worsening floods which leave a trail of destruction and poverty.¹²³ The 2023-2024 season was forecasted as an El Nino year and Zimbabwe experienced prolonged dry spells which affect several other sectors such as agriculture, health, forestry, and biodiversity as well as the infrastructure, human settlements, and tourism. The El Nino drought resulted in a 70% decline in cereal production, constraining food security outcomes prompting the Government to declare a state of disaster. Climate change is expected to worsen hardship and poverty, particularly among the most vulnerable, especially those living in rural areas. Women are disproportionately affected by the adverse

¹¹⁹ https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Zimbabwe#anchor_6.5.1

¹²⁰ <https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Zimbabwe>

¹²¹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Zimbabwe%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%201.pdf>

¹²² <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

¹²³ Yale Environment 360 (2019). Climate Change is Making El Niños More Intense. <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/climate-change-is-making-el-ninos-more-intense-study-finds>. (Accessed on 29 January 2021)

effects of droughts, cyclones and floods, increasing women's vulnerability to poverty, hunger and food insecurity, as well as their risk of gender-based violence.¹²⁴

In 2021, the Government of Zimbabwe submitted its revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)¹²⁵ to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the NDC, Zimbabwe has strengthened its mitigation contribution to include 40% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions below the projected business as usual scenario, a significant 7% increase from the 33% reduction in per capita emissions targeted in its earlier commitments of 2015. To achieve these set targets, complimentary investments are required in the sectors of Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), Waste, and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors. Some of the notable progress in this regard includes created incentives for the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to contribute about 4.5% of Zimbabwe's total energy production¹²⁶ as well as attracting private financial flows (48% more) compared to counterparts in the region.¹²⁷

The effects of climate change will also alter the structure of employment; new jobs and new job families will emerge, others will disappear or become unsustainable, and enterprises must find ways to organize work and production differently. The greening of the economy can enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably, increase energy efficiency and reduce waste, while also promoting social justice and addressing poverty, inequality, and gender gaps. A Just Transition presents many opportunities to achieve social objectives. It can be a net generator of decent green jobs that can contribute significantly to poverty eradication and social inclusion. Key entry points for policies and programmes can include macroeconomic and growth policies; industrial and sectoral policies; enterprise development policies; Skills development policies; occupational safety and health; social protection; active labour market policies; and rights; and social dialogue especially in the context of the labour market.

7.6 Finance and Investment

Zimbabwe's climate change sector is heavily dependent on external funding (54% over 2017-2022), which raises concerns about sustainability. Efforts are needed to address this imbalance, particularly in the Green Industry Program. Meeting Zimbabwe's NDC targets requires \$4.8 billion annually, with both public and private sector funding needed. Potential private sector funding sources include Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). Independent Power Producers (IPPs) contributed 4.5% of Zimbabwe's total energy production in 2022. The National Climate Change Fund and Climate Finance Facility aim to secure private financing through blended finance to de-risk the sector.

The Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) is an Accredited Entity (AE) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), approved to provide loans. Zimbabwe received \$45 million from the UN SDG-Fund in 2022 to stimulate investments in renewable energy. The program aims to increase private investments in renewable energy initiatives to help Zimbabwe achieve the SDGs. African leaders made pledges and financial commitments at CoP 28 in Dubai in 2023 to accelerate sustainable energy projects. Exploring financing options for a Just Transition is crucial, including public-private partnerships and innovative solutions like carbon credits. Zimbabwe's \$5 million groundwater project proposal to the Adaptation Fund was approved in 2021 and is being implemented in Binga and Buhera districts to increase local communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.

¹²⁴ CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6.

¹²⁵ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Zimbabwe%20Revised%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%202021%20Final.pdf>

¹²⁶ <https://www.zera.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ZERA-Annual-Report-2022-1.pdf>

¹²⁷ <https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook>

Collaboration with the financial sector needs to also look at how we can ensure a just transition including through the [Climate Action for Jobs Initiative](#). The financial sector plays a crucial role in enabling the transition to a net-zero economy and has a major influence on both climate-related and social outcomes, which goes far beyond the sector's own operational footprint. This impact comes both from the sector's business practices, but also from the activities it facilitates by providing capital and access to financial services in a broader sense.

8 Governance and Political Analysis

The Harmonized Elections of August 2023, structured dialogue on debt resolution and arrears clearance to advance the rule of law and the digitalization of the justice system constitute the major developments in sustaining peace in Zimbabwe.

8.1 Key Updates Under Policy, Legislative and Governance Structures

The ZHRC continued to provide services to citizens through implementing its administrative justice/public protector mandate and devolving its offices in Bulawayo, Masvingo, and Manicaland. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) has strengthened its investigation and monitoring functions and conducted several strategic investigations into gender violations and research on gender and social justice issues through consultations and public forums convened nationwide.

The country continues through the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on the Alignment of Legislation to the Constitution (IMT), aligned several laws that are similar and had overlapping issues in line with the Constitution. Since 2021, 19 bills have been promulgated as Acts of Parliament of Zimbabwe. In terms of bills under review for constitutional alignment, the May 2023 Bill tracker highlights that, out of 59 bills on the tracker, 31 have been signed into Law, 6 Bills are before Parliament, while 22 bills are still to be aligned with the Constitution.¹²⁸ Progress towards full alignment of all laws to the Constitution has been regrettably slow, considering that the Constitution came into force in 2013. However, there has been progress in alignment of laws on gender equality and the rights of women to the constitution, for example the enactment of the Marriages Act in 2022, which aligns the age of marriage to the constitution (18 years) and criminalises the act of, as well as the promotion of, child and early marriage.

8.2 Human Rights, Elections, Peace, and Social Cohesion

The country continues to engage with the UN and African Regional Human Rights systems. In January 2022, Zimbabwe was reviewed by the UPR Working Group during the 3rd cycle and supported 168 (63.68%) out of 264 recommendations received, representing an increment of 11.3% from the 2nd cycle. The supported recommendations related to legal and general framework of implementation, international humanitarian law, universal and crosscutting issues, civil and political rights, economic and social rights, women's rights, children rights and rights of other vulnerable groups and persons. The recommendations relate to all SDGs except SDGs 7, 9, 14 and 15 whilst the highest number of recommendations relate to SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. Most notably, Zimbabwe accepted recommendations "to strengthen efforts to address violence against women, children and against all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity"¹²⁹ as well as "to protect intersex minors from non-consensual surgeries and violation of bodily integrity".¹³⁰

¹²⁸ May 2023 Bill Tracker

¹²⁹ UPR Recommendation 140.90 - A/HRC/50/9 (UPR 2022)

¹³⁰ UPR Recommendation 140.58 - A/HRC/50/9 (UPR 2022)

Of the nine UN human rights core treaties, Zimbabwe has ratified six and at the Human Rights 75 High Level Event in December 2023, pledged to ratify the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.¹³¹



UN Zimbabwe adopts global campaign on human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at national and local level. Photo: Sirak Gebrehiwot/UNRCO Zimbabwe

The country has registered some improvement with respect to its treaty reporting obligations in respect of the six core ratified treaties— see table below on status of UN treaty reporting. Most notably, Zimbabwe accepted recommendations “to strengthen efforts to address violence against women, children and against all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity” as well as “to protect intersex minors from non-consensual surgeries and violation of bodily integrity”.

Table 3: Zimbabwe’s UN Treaty Reporting Status

Treaty	Reporting Status
International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR)	2 nd Periodic Report overdue since 2002/LoIPR due
International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights	2 nd report submitted on 17 November 2022
Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination	6 th Periodic Report considered in February 2020 (next
Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC)	Combined 3 rd to 7 th Periodic Reports overdue since
Op Protocol to CRC on involvement of children in armed conflict	Initial Report submitted on 26 July 2023

¹³¹ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/Zimbabwe_EN.pdf; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_70_DU7BNM

Op Protocol to CRC on sale of children, child prostitution & child	Initial Report overdue since 2014
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Initial Report submitted on 8 June 2022

Zimbabwe has not issued a standing invitation to Human Rights Council Special Procedure mechanisms but has extended formal invitations to six (6) mandate holders of which three (3) have visited.¹³² The visits of the Special Rapporteurs on: independence of judges and lawyers; violence against women; and on cultural rights are still outstanding. The Government has agreed for the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls to conduct a visit to the country in August 2025. The following mechanisms have been requested to visit the country: Special Rapporteurs on: torture; right to water and sanitation; human rights defenders as well as the Working Group on Disappearances. The Government and social partners have managed to continue to report and make submissions on the application of ratified and unratified international labour standards and provide responses to observations and comments of the Committees on Freedom of Association (CFA), Application of Standards (CAS) and the Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR).

In 2023, Zimbabwe submitted its 16th periodic report in respect of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the 2nd Periodic Report in respect of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women. The country continues to face allegations around restrictions to democratic and civic space as well as violations by security forces which include intimidation, harassment, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions. The independent Complaints Mechanism which is key to ensuring accountability of security forces has since been established and a public call for Commissioners was issued by Parliament though interviews are pending¹³³.

In June 2023, the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Amendment Act was enacted and contains 'patriot provisions' that may pose a risk to the full enjoyment of the constitutional right to freedom of expression and of association. The Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill which drew concerns from various quarters including four UN Special Rapporteurs regarding its likelihood to severely restrict civic space and the right to freedom of association was not signed into law by the President of the Country. The Bill has now been returned to Parliament and is going through revisions which are likely to see softening of some of the provisions that were of concern. In September 2022, state actors intervening in the labour market, including the police, judiciary (NPA & AG's Office) and labour officers were supported to interact with social partners (employers and workers) on the application of international labour standards specifically with regards to the application of the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act (MOPA). Labour law reforms are being undertaken by Government to reflect the recommendations of ILO supervisory bodies on the application of international labour standards, specifically those relating to the rights on freedom of association and collective bargaining. In August 2023, the Government Gazetted the 2023 Labour Amendment to align the law and practice with labour standards related to the right to organize and strike, and with provisions strengthen gender equality (equal pay), reduce discrimination and end violence and harassment in the world of work. There are still some gaps to be filled in terms of harmonization of labour legislation especially bringing closer the Health Services Act and Public Services Act to the fundamental principles and rights at work on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

In 2019, Zimbabwe legislated the Tripartite Negotiating Forum (TNF) bringing together government, business, and workers through the enactment of the TNF Act. An independent Secretariat for the TNF was operationalized in 2023 with the appointment of an Executive Director. Technical and advisory support has been extended to the Secretariat

¹³² Special Rapporteurs on: Freedom of Association and of Assembly; Right to Food; and impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.

¹³³ Commissions Watch 1/2024 (www.veritaszim.net)

to develop its Strategic Plan for 2024-2025 and the annual workplan for 2024. There are strong sentiments to negotiate for a social contract to manage key labour market and economy-wide matters affecting business operations including an enabling environment, investment and trade promotion, currency stability, wages, and collective bargaining. A re-invigorated social contract is essential to building trust, confidence and a shared and human-centered national vision that promotes sustainable enterprises, creation of decent jobs, strengthens respect for human rights and provides more space for actors to hold each other accountable.

In 2023, Zimbabwe held its harmonised elections, which are held every five years in an environment that had been preceded by reports of incidents of political violence, harassment and arrests of political actors and activists. International Election observer missions were permitted into the country to observe the election. All observer mission reports were released and some of them noted several challenges including State media bias, allegations of intimidation, and an uneven playing field.¹³⁴ Violence against women participating in politics remains a problem and is characterised by destruction of property belonging to women involved in politics and assault, bullying and shaming of women through abusive language and harassment particularly on social media platforms. One of the stated outcomes of the National Strategy on Women in Leadership and Decision-Making Strategy (2023-2030)¹³⁵ is that all political parties are expected to implement gender-responsive frameworks by 2025 and one of the key outputs is the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated against female candidates within and across political parties.

Most observers noted and commended Zimbabwe for the largely peaceful conduct of the 2023 elections on polling day. However, arrests of some observers were recorded as well as reports of voter intimidation, threats of violence, harassment and coercion, following which, the UN Secretary-General called on political leaders and their supporters to reject any and all forms of violence, threats of violence, or incitement to violence, and to ensure that human rights and the rule of law are fully respected.¹³⁶

The independence of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission remains a lingering concern among some electoral stakeholders who also aver that some of the provisions of the current electoral laws are not fully aligned to the Constitution. The period post the elections saw the recalls of mainly opposition members of parliament and the subsequent by-elections saw the ruling party attaining the absolute majority in the legislature with the attendant implications. The subsequent split in the opposition ranks further exposed the inherent weakness in the political party culture in the country.

Following the 2018 post-election reviews, freedom of the media and access to information were identified as key challenges impacting on accountability and transparency in electoral systems and processes. This included unfair and unbalanced media coverage of elections and political players, propaganda, hate speech, mis-disinformation in media, unprofessional conduct by media personnel and the unavailability of licensed community broadcasters in Zimbabwe. To address these challenges, the UN collaborated with Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) to strengthen media capacity for independent, inclusive and responsible election reporting through the development of a media code of conduct¹³⁷, training of media professionals and online content creators, providing safety jackets to journalists and institutional capacity strengthening. ZMC coordinated the compilation of the Harmonized Elections Media Code of Conduct Pledge, voluntarily signed by state-owned, private and community media, media advocacy groups, academia and other media stakeholders committing to self-regulation and to upholding the highest professional standards of

¹³⁴ ZESN Report

¹³⁵ <https://zgc.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/National-Women-in-Leadership-and-Decision-Making-Strategy.pdf>

¹³⁶ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2023-08-27/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-elections-zimbabwe%C2%A0>

¹³⁷ The Election Reporting and Peace Journalism Manual, 2022: spells out principles, values, processes, systems necessary to strengthen democracy through responsible media practice in preparation of the 2023 elections. 6,000 copies were distributed to Journalists, media professionals and media stakeholders.

impartiality, credibility, and integrity in election coverage. The Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) strengthened the capacity of community radios on elections reporting in collaboration with Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC).

To break the cycle of mistrust and tensions, the political and peacebuilding dimension must be addressed alongside all sectors, and with equal urgency, through genuine dialogue amongst the key stakeholders, especially the political actors/parties. One of the recommendations of the 2020 interagency mission to Zimbabwe was the development of a multi-faceted prevention strategy, aimed at reducing the risk of political violence, and violence against women in elections in collaboration with Chapter 12 Commissions. While political considerations and remedies retain their primacy, it is equally important to address the challenges posed by the political economy that underlies the peculiar Zimbabwean conundrum. Regrettably, the mandate of one of the key institutions responsible for driving a peace agenda in the country, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) is set to end with the coming into effect of the sunset clause. Accompanying the country in filling the gap likely to be left behind by the absence of the NPRC is crucial, including for the implementation of the UNCT Prevention Strategy.

8.3 Regional Context

Transboundary threats to peace, security and stability in the region include transnational crimes, extremism, terrorism, youth unemployment, and drug and substance use, poverty and climate change, which require tackling through continued efforts and a systematic and sustainable regional approach¹³⁸. Historically, Zimbabwe was and is a country of origin for migrant workers, where tens of thousands of Zimbabweans migrate every year to neighbouring countries including South Africa to work in sectors such as mining, agriculture, small businesses, domestic and construction work. These movements are characterized as circular migration movements. Migration within the region comes with additional risks related to the migrant status and their well-being, as many work in the informal economy and therefore have limited access to services and social protection. Some Zimbabwean migrants abroad face hardships such as xenophobic attacks, labour exploitation, poor living conditions, and limited access to health services which limit their sexual and reproductive health rights, amongst others. Some migrants travel irregularly or overstay. However, migrants in irregular situations are often exposed to significant risks in terms of violence, abuse and exploitation, including trafficking in persons giving rise to protection needs.

The endorsement by SADC of the 2023 elections despite the criticisms by the various elections' observer missions (EOMs) while seen as a diplomatic victory for the Government of Zimbabwe, the deep-rooted issues between the Government and the opposition go beyond the disputed elections. The post-elections tension between the ruling party and the opposition is partly a manifestation of a protracted rivalry between the liberation struggle linked entitlement ideology versus the regime-change propelled ideology of the post-liberation generation that is common within the Southern African region.

Zimbabwe's foreign policy position has often been based on pan African values and most recently characterized by the desire to engage and re-engage with the West with a view to securing the removal of sanctions, secure arrears clearance and debt resolution to attract investment. While it is complicated to identify the exact impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the situation in the country, as it is affected by a vast number of elements, the unilateral sanctions, secondary sanctions, de-risking policies and overcompliance in their complexity have exacerbated the pre-existing economic and humanitarian situation in the country and affected a broad scope of human rights and impeded the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹³⁹ The country has received the backing of the AU and SADC

¹³⁸ SADC Executive Secretary briefs Chair of the Organ on political and security situation in the region <https://www.sadc.int/newsevents/news/sadc-executive-secretary-briefs-chair-organ-political-and-security-situation-region/> [Accessed 30 March 2020]

¹³⁹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, A/HRC/51/33/Add. 2 (SR Unilateral coercive measures 2022) at para 74

States in voicing concerns in respect of the continued imposition of unilateral coercive measures. In this regard, in December 2022, the Government established a Structured Dialogue Platform in pursuit of the re-engagement process.

Zimbabwe hosted the SADC Summit in August 2024 and she assumed the Chairmanship of the regional body. The UN through UNIDO, managed to upscale the role of SADC Industrialization Week under the auspices of the SADC Summit of 2024. An investment conference was undertaken to identify potential entry points of SADC firms into the AfCFTA. A UNIDO delegation of technical project managers from various UNIDO departments led by Fatou Haidara participated in the SADC Industrialization Week.

The targets which are going to be pursued in the SADC annual year from 2024 to 2025 under Zimbabwe's Chairmanship include:

- a) Revision of SADC Industrialisation Policy and Road Map to incorporate the AfCFTA and global political developments.
- b) Explore the feasibility of establishing an Industrialization Fund for SADC to support the following:
 - i. Agro-industrial value chains
 - ii. Production of pharmaceutical products by local firms
 - iii. Mineral beneficiation
 - iv. Energy

The hosting of the SADC Summit is seen as major diplomatic score and will be used to consolidate the country's engagement and mobilization for the lifting of the unilateral coercive measures (targeted sanctions) that the country perceives to be the impediment towards the country's sustainable development strides. The country is also hopeful of possible readmission to the Commonwealth of Nations before the end of 2024.

8.4 Rule of Law, Access and Administration of Justice

An efficient and effective justice delivery system is the cornerstone of democracy. Zimbabwe ranked 123 out of 142 globally under the Rule of Law Index¹⁴⁰ implying that the country still needs to take significant steps to enhance rule of law and administration of justice. Zimbabwe has agreed to implement measures to strengthen the system of justice administration in order to ensure equal access and due process and to fight impunity and to facilitate continuous training of public officials in human rights to enhance their capacity to implement human rights and respect for the rule of law.¹⁴¹ There are on-going efforts to decentralize services across the judiciary. The number of courts at district and provincial level has increased over the last decade with notable further investment in courts infrastructure in Harare's Epworth suburb, Mutawatawa in Chiredzi among other areas. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) decentralized High Courts to every province and Magistrate's Courts to every district. The Victim Friendly Courts have increased in number to 23, with the focus of bringing survivor friendly justice to women and children.

Where it is not possible to have a resident court, a circuit court has been established. However, the provision of legal aid remains a challenge although the Directorate has now decentralized to every Province. Legal aid centers established by the Legal Aid Directorate need to meet minimum standards of service delivery and decentralize services

¹⁴⁰ World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (2023) - <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/WJPIndex2023.pdf>

¹⁴¹ UPR Recommendations (2022) A/HRC/50/9 at paras: 131.81; 131.87; 139.27; and 139.61.

for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to the district level. The Legal Aid Act is currently under review to align it to international standards. At the December 2023 Human Rights 75 High Level Event, Zimbabwe pledged to decentralise and expand provision of legal aid services for indigent persons in particular women, children and persons with disabilities through the establishment of at least one legal aid office in each of the 72 administrative districts of the country at a rate of three (3) new district offices each year, and ensuring that the requisite legislation for the provision of legal aid service is revised and aligned to the provisions of the constitution and international human rights standards.¹⁴²

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operation of courts led to the introduction of virtual courts which were legally mandated through an amendment to Section 10 of the Constitutional Court Act. The 2023 Judicial Laws Amendment Act provides for virtual court sittings in both civil and criminal proceedings subject to the consent of the parties involved. As such, the JSC, has established virtual courts in every province and conducted a feasibility study on the establishment of virtual Victim Friendly Courts to improve access to justice for survivors of violence and abuse by removing the physical barrier.

The country's judicial system continues to face challenges, including undue delays in the completion of the hearing of cases, delivery of judgements, and growing perceptions of corruption and patronage, which have a bearing on the independence of the judiciary. Delays in clearing backlogs of labour dispute cases for instance are due to the inherent dual jurisdiction of both the Labour Court and the High Court on such matters. With regard to digitalization of the judicial system, there are real concerns around the disjointed nature of the process with key institutions such as the National Prosecuting Authority and the Zimbabwe Republic Police amongst others limited by infrastructure constraints. In the past four years however, there has been a massive system and capacity strengthening of the judiciary. Particular reference is made to the development of the Judicial Training Institute of Zimbabwe which focuses on capacitation of judicial and non-judicial officers, the introduction of an electronic-learning management system for the JSC and the judiciary as well as on child friendly justice, including the equipping and decentralization of the Victim Friendly Courts, the investment in a Forensic Laboratory to improve DNA analysis and the training of various justice stakeholders on emerging issues, including DNA Evidence and analysis, crime scene management and protection of children from online violence.

The pre-trial diversion programme for juvenile offenders, which was introduced in 2013 has been rolled out in 45 out of 65 districts. In 2023, a total of 823 cases of juvenile offenders were diverted under this programme. The Child Justice Bill which proposes to raise the criminal age of responsibility from 7 to 12 years is still going through legislative processes. There is a need for an integrated case management system, as well as continuous training of judicial officers to handle cases involving children. This includes using the existing laws such as the Children's Amendment Act, Guardianship of Minors Act, the Cyber and Data Protection Act, the Marriage Act and the amendments to the Criminal Code (which raised the age of consent to sex from 16 to 18 years) to ensure their protection.

Overcrowding in prisons and poor prison conditions remains a concern. However, presidential amnesty has helped ease congestion in prisons as 4270 and 4000 convicts were granted amnesty in 2023 and 2024 respectively.¹⁴³ Punitive criminal policies and a shortage of social protection services in the community continue to contribute to the prison population's growth. Numerous international instruments recommend a rationalization in sentencing policy, including the wider use of alternatives to prison, aiming to reduce the number of people being isolated from society for long

¹⁴² https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/Zimbabwe_EN.pdf; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y70_DU7BNM; UPR Recommendations (2022) at para 139.63

¹⁴³ <https://www.chronicle.co.zw/president-pardons-over-4-000-prisoners/>

periods. It is encouraging that the JSC has crafted Sentencing Guidelines, which prescribe presumptive penalties for a range of commonly occurring crimes including crimes against women, children, the elderly and the environment.

The Government is also exploring modalities and options for alternatives to detention for stranded migrants, unaccompanied minors such as the Community Assessment and Placement (CAP) model in line with regional and international best practices. In particular, the growing feminisation of migration which is mentioned in the National Migration Policy and the welfare of women migrants affected by detention (especially mothers of young children) leads us to consider women as a group of migrants who may be vulnerable. However, without the regulatory policy framework and resources, migrants in prison will remain exposed to maltreatment or continue to find ways to detention homes, because so far that appears to be the easy way out of the situation, save for minors who are treated in accordance with their rights.

8.5 Public Administration and Devolution

The Constitution enshrines values and principles for public administration and devolution of governance. The public sector comprises of central, provincial and/or metropolitan and local government, state enterprises and parastatals. In 2021, the Government re-affirmed its commitment towards the Implementation of the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda in Zimbabwe as stipulated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe Chapter 14. In this regard, the GoZ focused efforts in setting up the Provincial and Devolution institutional structures by appointing the leadership and secretariat to support the processes.

In 2021, the Tripartite (Office of the President and Cabinet, Public Service Commission and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development) developed a strategic plan for public sector modernisation and transformation. The Tripartite was constituted to provide systematic and collaborative programming across the public sector and reinvigorate Zimbabwe's public administration system for good governance, sustainable economic growth and betterment of the lives of the citizens.¹⁴⁴ Through the Tripartite, the Performance Management system continued to be implemented. Ministers and Permanent Secretaries signed contracts at the beginning of the year and their performance was assessed at the end of 2022. Directors and Chief Directors also signed performance contracts. Policy was reviewed to ensure that bonuses for these levels are performance based in line with the NDS 1 requirement for a high-performance culture within the Public Service.

In 2022, the Public Service Academy made a significant impact across government human capital development following the expansion of training programmes rolled out across the public service. These include Pensions Awareness, Personnel Performance Tracking; Work Culture transformation, sensitization and capacity building of Monitoring and Evaluation personnel service-wide. The Academy continues to roll out mandatory courses and tailor-made programmes including the development and review of strategic plans in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).¹⁴⁵ Sixteen modules were developed in 2022 (public service orientation, dispute resolution mechanisms in the public service, gender and sexual harassment, asset and inventory management, conflict management, management and leadership skills, public service project management, anti-corruption, Shona and Ndebele language course). The Performance Appraisal System was successfully rolled out and training provided for 38,489 public servants.

The Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) was decentralized albeit with a few challenges which include a lack of tools of trade service wide. The PSC will continue to review structures to ensure fit for purpose recruitment and deployment of service personnel. A job evaluation exercise began in 2022 to ensure that structures in

¹⁴⁴ Dr. M.J Sibanda, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Office of the President and Cabinet 2021 Foreword Strategic Plan for the Tripartite 2021-2023

¹⁴⁵ 2022 Public Service Commission Annual Report

line ministries are in sync with their mandates. Standardization of conditions of service for Constitutional appointees began in 2020 and continued. A remuneration framework for Constitutional appointees was developed and implemented. To promote greater focus on citizen centric service delivery, the PSC conducted a baseline Citizen Satisfaction and Work Culture Transformation survey whose findings will be used to inform policy for the improvement of service delivery.¹⁴⁶ Despite reforms being implemented, there remain substantial governance vulnerabilities in public administration including in the procurement of public goods and services.

Decision making worldwide remains male dominated at all levels, with a total representation of 84 women in the National Assembly, including those in the quota, constituting only 30% of the total seats. In civil service, women are also often overrepresented at lower levels, the less prestigious and lower paid positions in what is considered as 'soft' areas of public policies. Local governments are well placed to promote gender equality, as they can best gauge community needs and contexts and are the main bodies responsible for providing services to citizens. Digitization, digital transformation, upgrading of the e-recruitment system remain at the core of promoting transparency and accountability across the service.

The absence of a single web portal for publishing procurement plans and notices, absence of standard sector-specific procurement documents and contracts, lack of data collection system on procurement activities, prevalent use of direct contracting and limited competition undermine governance in public procurement. This negatively impacts value for money, transparency, accountability, and integrity. Key Public Finance Management (PFM) functions need improvement, particularly in accounting and financial reporting systems, processes, and capacities, as identified by the recent 2017–18 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability report.¹⁴⁷ Local governments have experienced considerable capacity erosion, skills flight, deteriorated infrastructure, outdated billing and accounting packages, and non-compliant internal planning and monitoring systems.

One of the key challenges of public sector transformation remains around the issue of the wage bill. Between December 2021 and December 2022, the overall establishment of line ministries and departments grew by 5594 posts due to the creation of posts mostly at the sub-national level in support of the Devolution and Decentralisation Agenda. By December 2022, out of the total service wide establishment of 191,499, there were 168,999 staff members in post with 20,133 vacancies. In terms of gender representation, women represent 51% across all grades and levels. The operating environment was characterised by high levels of inflation and volatile exchange rates which eroded the value of salaries, manifesting in a discontented work force and sporadic job actions.¹⁴⁸ One of the premises in theory of decentralization is the improvement in local service provision, however this can come with privatisation which often goes hand in hand with an increase of fees to access local services impacting women and men directly with specific negative impacts for the most poor and marginalised people, including women.

8.6 Corruption

Corruption, both in the public and private sectors, has slowed down development in the country. In October 2023, the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) launched Zimbabwe's electronic government (e-government) procurement system, meant to enhance the State procurement process as well as plug loopholes and eliminate corruption bedeviling the country's public procurement system. The legacy of persistent corruption harms the country's institutions and state-society relations. Corruption undermines public confidence in government, fair access to social services and attendant human rights, delivery of public services and viable economic activity. The poor and the most

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ PEFA. 2018. 2017–18 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability report. PEFA. [Online] Available at <https://www.pefa.org/node/356>. [Accessed 18 November 2020]

¹⁴⁸ 2022 Annual Report Public Service Commission

vulnerable remain disproportionately impacted through poor public and social service delivery. Transparency International Zimbabwe has called on Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the Government to mainstream gender dynamics into the broader anti-corruption agenda and to measure and assess the gendered forms of corruption. Since corruption can have a direct impact on the lives of women at the community levels.

8.7 Impact of Pandemics and Natural Disasters on Governance and Human Security

The COVID-19 pandemic posed serious risks for effective governance although public health response measures have prompted innovations in the judiciary, including the introduction of digital courts to remove the physical barrier to accessing justice. Migration is classified as a social determinant to health, as it increases the health vulnerabilities and risk behavior of migrant population. The movement of people across borders exposes them to various communicable diseases such as COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis among others. There is need to strengthen Government capacity to respond to health challenges, provision of adequate and affordable health services and facilities to migrants, refugees' other mobile populations by setting up health facilities at all ports of entry including access to basic health care to all vulnerable groups among migrants such as the people with disability, women, and children.

8.8 Data for Development

Zimbabwe faces data gaps due to a lack of timely, open, complete, and disaggregated data, limiting the country's ability to monitor progress on the National Development Strategy and SDGs, particularly for marginalized populations. Data gaps exist in geographic coverage, timeliness, and disaggregation by ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, gender, location, and disability. Challenges include:

- a. Legislative environment: The Census and Statistics Act needs review to facilitate data sharing between Ministries and ZIMSTAT.
- b. Capacity gaps in MDAs: Ministries require capacitation in data collection and analysis methodologies including on the human rights-based approach to data.
- c. Coordination challenges: The National Statistical System needs better coordination to support data production, accessibility, and utilization.
- d. Lack of consideration of new data sources: ZIMSTAT needs support to explore alternative data sources like big data and citizen-generated data.

The UN has continued to support work on updating key data series including through thematic analysis of the 2022 Census Results. Support has also been extended to ZIMSTAT to strengthen its capacities strengthen the labour market information system (LMIS) and to update its methodologies for measuring employment and work; statistics on the informal economy, child labour and skills mismatches through the Quarterly Labour Force Survey including ensuring integration of SDG indicators. The UN can help address these challenges by supporting the review of the Census and Statistics Act, strengthening MDAs' capacities through ZIMSTAT, prioritizing support for ZIMSTAT to coordinate the National Statistical System and developing a roadmap for exploiting alternative data sources.

9 Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis

The risks that are outlined in the table below were present when the last CCA was published.

Table 4: Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis

Risk	Description/ Analysis of Risk	Assessment	Impact
Economic Instability	High levels of dollarization and high levels of exchange rate depreciation and inflation, constitute a significant risk on economic and social stability. A substantial informal economy along with de-industrialization continues to threaten jobs in the wake of a youth bulge and increasing poverty levels. Economic instability is causing loss of human capital as skilled professionals are migrating to other countries in search of greener pastures. The macroeconomic challenges may also cause the heighten the pace of full dollarization as labour is demanding US dollar salaries due to exchange rate depreciation and inflation.	High	Extensive
Limited Fiscal Space	Lack of access to finance from International Financial Institutions has resulted in enhanced domestic resource mobilization, which is causing a couple macroeconomic challenges including inflation, erosion of household incomes and possible poor outcomes on health and education.	High	Extensive
Debt Overhang	The country is in debt distress and there is a threat of redirecting resources that could otherwise be used to achieve SDGs towards debt servicing. The problem of underfunded social sectors and indebtedness are mutually reinforcing as the country cannot access concessional financing to fund social services provision. This potentially results in a vicious cycle of debt overhang and inefficient social service provision.	High	Extensive
Climate change and environment	<p>The El Nino Phenomenon is affecting food security through drought conditions and reduced yields in the agriculture sector. Drought threatens food security in two ways. First, it risks reducing agricultural production; climate change and weather variability and low yields, with a knock- on effect on food prices threatening a precarious supply-demand balance that will make markets more prone to volatility. Secondly, it increasingly disrupts food systems destabilizing tighter markets and exacerbating volatility, imperiling transport infrastructure, and triggering local food crises. The fierce competition for water, on the back of a shift in production towards intensive systems that rely on groundwater sources for irrigation, along with the current growth in demand for water-intensive animal products, agriculture becomes even thirstier. Unresolved land issues particularly security of tenure, hinders investment resulting in low production on farmland.</p> <p>Floods, cyclones and the increased frequency and scale of drought accompanied by rising deforestation and variability risks environmental sustainability. The environment is under</p>	High	Extensive

	threat from habitat destruction, poaching, unsustainable resource extraction especially water through boreholes, wetlands degradation, veld fires, pollution, and poaching.		
Energy Deficits	Climate change and infrastructure deficiencies are affecting the generation of energy from traditional sources hence there is need to explore clean energy supplies. The energy deficits result in low production in industries resulting in job loss and increase in importation of basic products.	High	Extensive
Elections	Continuation of election activities which have extended into 2024 after the general elections were held in August 2023. These Post Election contestations hold-up government responses to emerging challenges and the country continues to hold by-elections.	High	Extensive
Health	Climate change and weather variability resulting in waterborne diseases such as cholera which has extended to all the 10 provinces of the country. The sector is also suffering from loss of skilled manpower.	High	Extensive
Sexual and Gender Minority Populations.	As result of existing criminalisation that increases social disapproval, stigma and discrimination of sexual and gender minorities there is a great risk of politicalisation of this issue, thus, further increasing the vulnerability of this population. There is a risk of leaving these key populations behind.	High	Extensive

10 Prevention and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Linkages

Zimbabwe's humanitarian context remains fragile and complex, chronically grappling with climate induced shocks including floods and drought, exacerbated by economic instability, and public health emergencies of cholera and polio¹⁴⁹. Zimbabwe does not have a standing Humanitarian Planning Cycle, however emergencies are managed through ad hoc tools such as the Lean Season Plans and Flash Appeal as is the case currently. The El Nino Drought Flash Appeal covers immediate lifesaving and livelihood protection for 3.1 million people for the period May 2024 to April 2025. There is therefore need to support sustainable development and peacebuilding initiatives that promote resilience, self-reliance, and human rights through the Cooperation Framework. Strengthening of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is critical in the UN programmatic engagement with the government in the Cooperation Framework. The El Nino induced drought is a stark reminder of the repeated climate related emergencies affecting the country and hence a wakeup call for more investment in ensuring that the country successfully recovers and transitions towards sustainable livelihoods and full recovery.

11 National vision and development plan vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda

The Zimbabwe National Vision 2030 is a long-term plan to transform Zimbabwe into a middle-income economy by 2030. The vision is built around five pillars: (i) A prosperous economy (ii) A fair society (iii) A strong and resilient state

¹⁴⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/unicef-zimbabwe-humanitarian-situation-report-no-1-january-february-2024#:~:text=Zimbabwe's%20humanitarian%20context%20remains%20fragile,emergencies%20of%20cholera%20and%20polio.>

(iii) A clean and healthy environment (iv) A peaceful and united nation. The national vision is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). The National Development Plan (NDS) 2021-2025 is a medium-term plan that outlines the strategies and policies for achieving the national vision. The plan is focused on three main themes: (i) Economic Transformation (ii) Social Transformation (iii) Governance and Institutional Development. The NDS has several key objectives, including: Improving economic growth and competitiveness; Enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequalities, Promoting good governance and institutional development, Alignment with the 2030 Agenda/SDGs.

The national vision and national development plan in Zimbabwe are aligned with the 2030 Agenda/SDGs, particularly in the following areas: SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): The NDS aims to promote economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship, which aligns with this goal, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): The NDS seeks to reduce poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, which aligns with this goal. SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): The NDS promotes sustainable consumption patterns, waste management, and environmental protection, which aligns with this goal. SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions): The NDS emphasizes the importance of good governance, accountability, and rule of law, which aligns with this goal.

The national vision and national development plan in Zimbabwe also align with other regional/global frameworks, including: Africa's Agenda 2063: The NDS shares similar objectives with Agenda 2063, such as promoting economic growth, social development, and good governance. The NDS aligns with the African Union's Sustainable Development Goals (AU-SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, and human rights.

11.1 Financial Landscape Analysis

The financing landscape in Zimbabwe is severely constrained due to debt distress, making it difficult to access fresh funding despite international support. To accelerate progress towards SDGs, enhanced domestic resource mobilization, transparency, and accountability, and leveraging private sector support are crucial. Partnerships and development finance analysis highlights opportunities for resource mobilization, including a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach, UN agencies' efforts to reach untapped donors, and private sector engagement. However, challenges persist, including macroeconomic instability, unsettled debts owed to international creditors, political context and geopolitical conflicts leading to dwindling donor interest.

The health sector has attracted the largest share of Official Development Assistance to Zimbabwe, followed by humanitarian aid and other social and infrastructure services¹⁵⁰. For 2019-20, the United States of America was the leading source of ODA to Zimbabwe, followed by the Global Fund, the United Kingdom, and the EU institutions¹⁵¹. More recently SIDA has contributed 8 million euros (2022), FCDO has put in 15.9 million pounds (2022/223), European Union 46 million euros (2022), SDC 3.8 million euros and GCF 3.5 million dollars.¹⁵²

¹⁵⁰ OECD –DAC : <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/aid-at-a-glance.htm>

¹⁵¹ OECD –DAC : <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/aid-at-a-glance.htm>

¹⁵² FLA development partners online survey

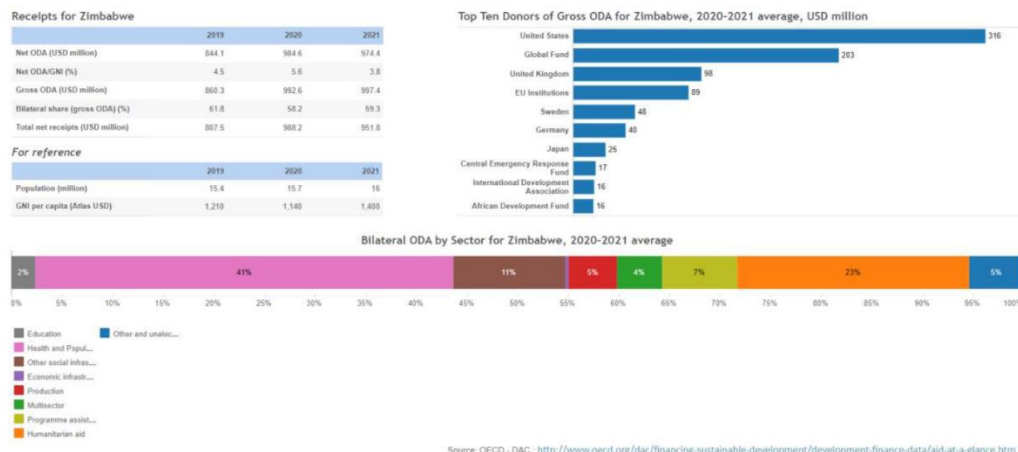


Figure 11: Official Development Assistance to Zimbabwe

Private sector contribution to development financing has been hampered by macroeconomic challenges, worsened by energy challenges which have negatively affected capacity utilization in industry. Foundations which include Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, and Aga Khan Foundation contribute significantly to development financing.

The UN in Zimbabwe and its entities have experienced mixed fortunes in raising funds for development¹⁵³, nonetheless Agencies channel over 60% of ODA to Zimbabwe. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) were the most frequently cited (77%) development areas targeted for funding in the last five years by development partners who completed the online survey administered as part of this study. SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) was the least cited development objective, having been mentioned by 8% of development partners. Food security was the most funded sector, having been targeted by 85% of development partners. This was followed by health, mentioned by 77% of the online survey respondents, then agriculture, gender, and climate change, each having been mentioned in 54 percent of respondents. Wildlife and Industry and Commerce were the least funded sectors over the last five years.

Innovative financing mechanisms include joint resource mobilization, core funding, and public-private partnerships. The 2023 FLA survey for UN Agencies and donor agencies suggested the following funding methods as ones that should be considered more into the future: co-funding (in-order to create synergies in technical expertise and funding from different Agencies; the recipient is expected to contribute a certain amount of resources themselves for more ownership and leverage); direct budget support to Government (to use and strengthen existing systems for public financial management); and joint funding and pooled funding, including multi-donor trust funds. The respondents encouraged the UN Agencies to continue with joint assessments of the donor landscape; joint resources mobilisation; public-private partnerships; using more of the SDG funding mechanism; working with IFIs to allocate resources in rescue packages, to do debt restructuring, and align policy support to development financing and programmes. They also encouraged

¹⁵³ The FLA did not dig deeper into the types of requirements that UN Agencies could not meet. But RM Strategy documents of UN Agencies do reveal some of the common challenges (e.g., see [UNICEF Resource Mobilization Strategy : 2022-2025.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/resources/files/2022-2025.pdf))

engagement with government for sustainable solutions and joint resource mobilisation; reaching back into UN own multilateral funds; and global partnerships for education, peacebuilding, among others.

To achieve its goals, UNCT Zimbabwe needs to take immediate action on, improving program functionality and operations, prioritizing SDGs, enhancing publicity and accessibility, addressing barriers to SDG financing, staff capacitation, strengthening partnerships and joint funding efforts, improving cooperation and collaboration among UN agencies and development partners, following up on pledges.

Development partners recommend strategic partnerships with the private sector, including establishing a UN system for partnership engagement, implementing value-added activities, coordinating development partners, effective engagement with government institutions, jointly implementing multi-dimensional projects, incorporating donors in program management and seeking joint funding for cross-cutting areas. These joint programs have not been fully explored, particularly in the SDG8/Prosperity Pillar, which has received low funding.

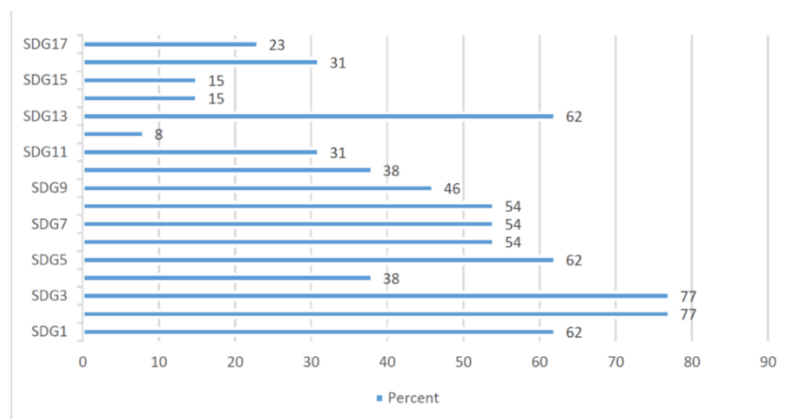


Figure 12: Donor Funding By SDGs in Zimbabwe¹⁵⁴

Zimbabwe’s external position is affected by debt as the country continues to be in debt distress. Total consolidated debt of the country stands at US\$21 billion in June 2024 from US\$17.7 billion in 2023. External debt arrears continue to block access to cheaper international financing which is critical to support the development agenda as the country aspires to be an upper middle-income economy by 2030.

Through the engagement and reengagement policy, Zimbabwean authorities have launched the Arrears Clearance, Debt Relief and Restructuring Strategy (ACDRRS) in April 2022. To this effect, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, AfDB president, was appointed by Zimbabwean President Mnangagwa in 2022 to act as the country's champion on arrears clearance and debt resolution process, while former Mozambican President, H.E, Joachim Chissano accepted to serve at the facilitator of the process. The AfDB is providing technical support to Zimbabwe's arrears clearance and debt resolution process through a grant of US\$4.1 million. Stakeholder engagements are taking place at High Level Debt Dialogues, with the first one held on 1 December 2022. Consultations are taking place under the Economic Growth and Stability, Governance and Land Tenure Reforms, Compensation for Former Farm Owners and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPAs) Sector Working Groups. During the High-Level Debt Dialogues, the government was advised to conduct free and fair elections, implementing the Staff Monitored Program (SMP), resolving security of land tenure, compensating

¹⁵⁴ UN Zimbabwe Financial Landscape Analysis Report, 2023

former commercial farmers, and resolving the BIPPAs impasse. The UN role in this regard is to push for a wet SMP for social protection and avoid redirecting resources away from social and public services (education, health, water and sanitation).

The recently held disputed elections may have negative implications for the reengagement efforts under the Structured Debt Dialogue Platforms given the preconditions by bilateral and multilateral partners that the General Elections were a low hanging fruit that Zimbabwe could capitalise on to gain trust from stakeholders to mark the clearance of arrears. Already, the European Union and USA have indicated intentions to withdraw their support for Zimbabwe's Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution process following the country's disputed polls.¹⁵⁵

Remittances from the diaspora population have become a significant source of foreign currency earnings for Zimbabwe, with \$1.4 billion in 2021 and \$1.7 billion in 2022, accounting for 15% and 14% of total foreign exchange earnings, respectively. However, most of these remittances are used for consumption and are sent through informal channels to avoid high transaction fees and foreign currency restrictions. The challenge is to encourage more remittances to be sent through formal channels and to harness this resource for development purposes.

To strengthen domestic financing, efforts are being made to improve revenue generation through progressive measures. This can be achieved by enhancing fiscal transparency and accountability in revenue generation and the budget cycle, reducing tax expenditures, combating tax evasion and eliminating illicit financial flows. By addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities, Zimbabwe can accelerate progress towards SDGs and achieve sustainable development.

12 Stakeholder/ Partnership Analysis

The United Nations Country Team in Zimbabwe collaborates with various stakeholders to achieve Agenda 2030. The Government of Zimbabwe has launched several policies to achieve this vision, which include among others, National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) 2020-2025, Trade policy, Industrialization policy, Devolution and decentralization policy, National budgets and Monetary policies. Local Government Authorities are also implementing various infrastructure policies to achieve Vision 2030. International Aid Agencies and International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, and International Monetary Fund provide financial and technical assistance to support Zimbabwe's development aspirations. The private sector, through business membership organizations, invests and creates jobs to contribute to an Upper Middle-Income economy by 2030. The Academia plays a crucial role in national development through human capital development and innovation. Civil Society Organizations advocate for policies and programs aligned with the goals of Vision 2030. These stakeholders work together to ensure Zimbabwe achieves its development aspirations of becoming an Upper Middle Income economy by 2030. These partnerships have enabled the UN to deliver on average US\$500 million per year towards various development programmes and projects under the Cooperation Framework. The UN remains strong to play a convening role by bringing together the partnerships outlined in the above figure in support of national development and in responding to emergencies such as cholera, measles, food insecurity, floods, cyclones and drug and substance use among others.

¹⁵⁵ <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200017828/eu-drops-bombshell>



Figure 13: UN Stakeholders

The United Nations stakeholders in Zimbabwe include the Government (Ministries, Departments, and Agencies), Civil Society Organizations under the umbrella body of National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) which include NGOs and community-based organizations. The Private sector represented by Business Membership Organizations, such as Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, Zimbabwe Chamber of Mines and others. International Financial Institutions and International Aid Agencies also form part of stakeholders for the United Nations in Zimbabwe. The Academia (universities, research institutions) also collaborate with the UN in Zimbabwe. These stakeholders collaborate to advance sustainable development goals, promote policy dialogue, and support program implementation in areas such as poverty reduction, education, health, economic growth among others.

13 Conclusion

Key development challenges that are weighing down on SDGs include macroeconomic stability as Zimbabwe's economy faces chronic challenges. Exchange rate depreciation and high inflation have negative implications on achievement of SDGs. Limited fiscal space affects investment in the social sector especially health and education and social protection. The debt overhang of US\$21 billion coupled with unilateral coercive measures affect the economy's ability to access credit at International Financial Institutions to fund SDG investments. Political uncertainty, tensions and instability hinder development progress and domestic and foreign investor confidence, as most election outcomes are contentious. Corruption and illicit financial flows hinder sustainable development in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is vulnerable to climate change effects such as droughts, floods, and other climate-related disasters, impacting agriculture and food security, access to energy and disease outbreaks. The healthcare system faces challenges, including cholera and measles outbreaks, inadequate infrastructure, and brain drain anti-microbial resistance, drug and substance use and mental health challenges. Gender inequalities which cause gender-based violence, discrimination in decision and policy making, and limited access to economic opportunities persist for women and young girls.

Opportunities exist in the agricultural transformation and food systems and Zimbabwe has potential for agricultural growth, leveraging irrigation, technology, and value addition. Support towards climate change mitigation, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution present opportunities for cooperation. Opportunities exist in efforts to reduce poaching, the occurrence of veld fires and reducing pollution and solid waste management. This also includes energy access, affordability and investment in renewable sources of energy. Development partners may support Zimbabwe to leverage on technology and digital solutions to enhance access to services, improve efficiency, and drive economic growth. Creation of decent jobs, social protection and youth empowerment create opportunities for investing in education, skills development, and entrepreneurship can unlock youth potential and drive innovation. Responsible mining can drive economic growth, enhance revenue generation and job creation. Zimbabwe's natural beauty, wildlife,

and cultural heritage offer opportunities for sustainable tourism development. The UNCT has revived the Data and Innovation group which has been reconstituted into clusters and has prioritized data for SDGs.

By addressing these challenges and seizing these opportunities, Zimbabwe can make significant progress towards achieving the SDGs and achieving sustainable development.

13.1 Acronyms

ACDRRS	Arrears Clearance, Debt Relief and Restructuring Strategy	MSME	Micro and Small to Medium Enterprises
AE	Accredited Entity	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	MtCO _{2e}	Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
AfDB	African Development Bank	MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use	NAP	National Action Plan
AG	Attorney General	NASA	South African National AIDS and TB Assessment Report
AGYW	Adolescents Girls and Young Women	NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
AIPPA	Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act	NEET	Not In Education, Employment or Training
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance	NFE	Non-Formal Education
ANC	Ante Natal Care	NFIS	National Financial Inclusion Strategy
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining	NFIS	National Financial Inclusion Strategy
AU	African Union	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
BAZ	Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe	NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
CAP	Community Assessment and Placement	NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
CCA	Common Country Analysis	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	ODA	Official development Assistance
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	PHC	Primary Health Care
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019	PICES	Poverty Income Consumption Expenditure Survey
CRC	Committees on the Rights of the Child	PM _{2.5}	Particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter
DFIs	Development Financial Institutions	PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid	PSC	Public Service Commission
ECD	Early Childhood Development	REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
EMERGE	Measures of Empowerment for Research on Gender Equality	REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
EMIS	Education Management Information Systems	SADC	Southern African Development Community
EOMS	Elections, most final reports of Election Observer Missions	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FCS	Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity	SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	SGBV	Sexual and gender Based Violence
		SI	Statutory Instrument

FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SMEs	Small to Medium Enterprises
GCF	Green Climate Fund	TB	Tuberculosis
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	TFR	Total Fertility Rate
GERPMI	Gender Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative	TNF	Tripartite negotiating Forum
GII	Gender Inequality Index	TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe	UHC	Universal Health Coverage
HCF	Health Care Facilities	UN	United Nations
HDI	Human Development Index	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ICT	Information Communication Technology	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IDBZ	Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe	UNFCCC	United Nations Convention on Climate Change UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
IFF	Illicit Financial Flows	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
ILO	International Labour Organisation	UNRPD	United Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
IMT	Inter- Ministerial Taskforce	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IMTT	Intermediated Money Transfer Tax	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
IOM	International Organization for Migration		
IPPs	Independent Power Producers	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence	VAWP	Violence Against Women in Politics
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management	WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
JNA	Joint Needs Assessment	WASH FIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality	WHO	World Health Organisation
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality	WVS	World Value Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey	ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
SGMP	Sexual and Gender Minority Populations	ZEC	Zimbabwe Election Commission
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies	ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
MFIs	Monetary Financial Institutions	ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychological Support	ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	ZimStat	Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Childcare	ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MOPA	Maintenance of Peace and Order	ZMC	Zimbabwe Media Commission
MSM	Men Who Have Sex with Men	ZMC	Zimbabwe Media Commission

14 Annexes

Annex 1: List of Entities on the Team of Policy Advisors

Agency
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Children's Fund
World Bank
International Monetary Fund
International Labour Organization
African Development Bank
Resident Coordinators Office
International Organization for Migration
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
World Food Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization
World health Organization
United Nations Population Fund
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Annex 2: HIV/AIDS, Mental Health and Anti-Microbial Resistance

Zimbabwe has scored some successes in the fight against HIV/AIDS as there has been a 78% reduction in new HIV infections from 78000 in 2010 to 17000 in 2022. Zimbabwe had the highest decline followed by Lesotho and Eritrea in the Eastern and Southern Africa region. The country is on track to achieve the target (90% reduction between 2010 and 2030) of ending AIDS by 2030.

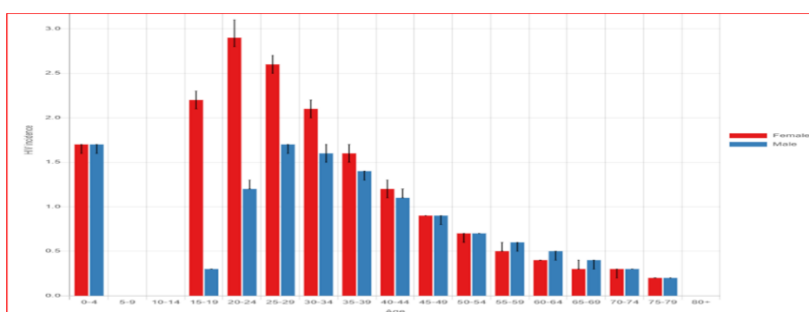


Figure 1: HIV Incidence by Age and Sex

Zimbabwe met the 95–95–95¹⁵⁶ fast track targets overall (with 95-98-95 all ages) and for both adult men

¹⁵⁶ The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has established the 95-95-95 targets, whereby 95% of PL-HIV should be diagnosed, 95% of those diagnosed with HIV should be receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95% of all those receiving ART should achieve viral suppression (VLS).

and women. Targets were met for adults at 97-98-95 while for children it was missed at 65-100-86. There was a 64% decrease in AIDS related deaths from 57000 in 2010 to 20000 in 2022.¹⁵⁷

The national coverage for prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services still falls below the 95% coverage threshold needed to eliminate Mother-To- Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV with a resultant MTCT rate of 8.1% in 2019 that is greater than the desired target of 5%. HIV prevalence among key populations remains disproportionately higher a 42% among female sex workers and 21% among MSM, Transgender 20% and PUID 29%) than among the general population (11%)¹⁵⁸. Further, there is a lack of harm reduction services available in Zimbabwe despite the National Drug Master Plan (2020-2025) noting the provision of quality harm reduction services to be available and accessible by late 2020. Amongst people living with HIV, MSM, transgender or sex workers experience the highest levels of group-related stigma and discrimination.¹⁵⁹ The sustainability of the AIDS Response Strategy remains a major concern as it is predominantly supported through external funding (accounting for 80% of the expenditure on HIV response) with domestic financing chipping in with 20%.¹⁶⁰ The National Health Strategy 2021-2025 seeks to improve the Health Financing approach, enhancing the quality of services provided as well as investing in Primary Health Care (PHC) with focus on Community-Based Primary Health Care systems.

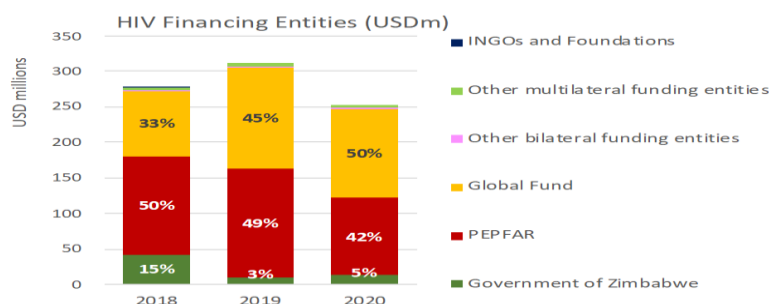


Figure 2: HIV Financing Entities

With large component of the national HIV response being supported by external partners (80%, NASA 2020), the country is developing a National HIV Sustainability Roadmap to define the specific set of milestones to transition national HIV/AIDS response towards sustainability through integrating HIV programming into the health system and strengthening the core capacities and capabilities of Government of Zimbabwe to autonomously lead, manage and monitor the HIV response and sustain the HIV impact with reduced reliance on external partners. Zimbabwe hosted the 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) from 4th to the 9th of December 2023. The ICASA was an opportunity for the country to show its progress towards ending AIDS, celebrate achievements realized so far and seek high level government commitment to HIV response. The government committed to;

- i. Ending AIDS by 2030;
 - a) Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), and First Lady committed to Ending AIDS in children.
 - b) National AIDS Council and MOHCC committed to lead in HIV prevention monitoring.
- ii. Addressing vulnerabilities of young women and girls. Government interested in scaleup of addressing vulnerabilities in AGYW through pushing Zimbabwe to be one of the education plus countries.

157 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10402226/#:~:text=The%20Republic%20of%20Zimbabwe%20has,95%25%20viral%20suppression%20by%202030.>

158 HIV Estimates report 2022 MOHCC; HIV and STI Biobehavioural Survey among Men Who Have Sex with Men, Transgender Women, and Genderqueer Individuals in Zimbabwe

159 Zimbabwe People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0 (2022)

160 https://www.nac.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ZIMBABWE-NATIONAL-HIV-STRATEGIC-PLAN_2021-2025-1.pdf

- iii. Leading the HIV response with committed Political leadership. Committed to providing an enabling environment for HIV response.
- iv. Sustainability of the HIV response in view of current limited budget allocation challenges.
- v. Local production and pooled procurement are currently being implemented under sustainability agenda.

Zimbabwe's mental health care system has several apparent strengths and challenges. There is estimated to be no more than 18 psychiatrists, 13 psychologists and 13 clinical social workers in Zimbabwe to support a population of 15.2 million people. Most mental health services are supported by Zimbabwe's 917 psychiatric nurses.¹⁶¹ NGO's and Civil Society Organisations augment the work done by the health institutions and Government through an array of activities that include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) related social work. Because of successes in attaining international research funding, Zimbabwe has witnessed a growth in innovative mental health services research and research capacity-building¹⁶². Despite these positive developments, ongoing socioeconomic and political instability remain primary challenges in triggering mental health issues. Psychiatric units outside of Harare need refurbishment and more robust staffing. Additionally, there is a lack of funding for medication, human resources, and mental health promotion in both psychiatric hospitals and community-based care. The prevalence of drug use in communities and schools has also exacerbated the situation. Due to economic hardships that have exacerbated financial deprivation in many homes, children are left exposed to negative influences while parents are busy or are engaged in livelihoods away from home.

It is encouraging to note that the Ministry of Health and Childcare (MOHCC) launched a Mental Health strategy to cover the period 2019- 2023. This comes at a time when the Ministry moving with the global thrust to promote early identification, treatment, rehabilitative and palliative services in non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The strategy is a culmination of the effort of many stakeholders in mental health and WHO provided technical assistance. The strategy was launched at a time when the country is facing a potential big demand for mental health services in terms of need for counseling of clients suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders as a result of cyclone Idai which devastated the eastern provinces of the country, the Covid-19 pandemic and the proliferation of drug and subsistence use. Despite the country having a clear mental health blueprint, it still faces many challenges in the strategy's implementation. The key challenges are human resources with the country having only 15 practicing psychiatrists. The government has created a provincial mental health post, which will allow the Ministry to beef up manpower to implement the strategy. The Ministry of Health has also set up the Mental Health Training School for nurses at Parirenyatwa Hospital to train more nurses in mental health at primary care level.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) remains a looming threat in Africa and is projected to claim about 4.1 million lives yearly, resulting in 2 to 3.5% loss of GDP unless its mitigated. Zimbabwe is no exception. A study following the 2018 cholera outbreak identified high incidence of drug resistance, which made it difficult to contain the disease using standard antibiotics. The Government's National Action Plan of 2017-2022 will be a critical vehicle to effectively respond to AMR. The country has also experienced increased occupational injuries and fatalities emanating from limited investments towards safety and health, especially in the expanding informal economy and emerging risks in mental health and wellness challenges. In 2023, 1%

¹⁶¹ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/mental-health/special-initiative/zimbabwe-simh-design-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=7032f037_8#: accessed on 18/01/2024

¹⁶² WHO

of the employed population reported having been injured at work or had suffered work-related illness.¹⁶³

Annex 3. Education Sector

Seventy one percent of the 6,882,684 persons of school going age (4 to 24 years), were attending school in 2022¹⁶⁴. A higher proportion (72.7%) of males was attending school, than females. Reasons for not attending school included financial constraints for rural and urban areas and marriage/pregnancy-related reasons. A total of 662,975 persons had a tertiary qualification, with 51.7 percent of them being male. There were more females in the Diploma/Skilled Worker Class 1, (53.6%), Higher National Diploma, (51.1%) and Postgraduate Diploma and Certificates, (51.8%). Major fields of specialisation, as indicated by the number of persons specialising in the respective disciplines, were Business, Administration and Law (155,647), Education (141,689) and Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction (109,499). Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics were the least, with 14,800 persons. The main areas of specialisation for males were the Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction fields with 25 percent while for females Education topped the list at 27.6%. Literacy rate was 95.1 percent for males and 92.3 percent for females, highlighting gender disparities.

Women's access to education is rising in Zimbabwe as they constitute a higher proportion of persons who ever attended school in both rural and urban areas. However, institutional barriers, including workplace discrimination, an unequal division of unpaid care and domestic responsibilities, and an undersupply of decent job opportunities, are among the variables disrupting the transition from school to work for young women. Moreover, scholarships and other support opportunities to pursue higher education are limited. It is important to note that women and girls are less likely to select STEM subjects compared to other non-technical (humanities and arts) because of discriminatory barriers as opposed to preference. Cultural gender stereotypes in and outside the education system dictate subject choice for students and subject specialization. Women are often advised to take non-technical courses as that is what suits their gender. These factors all act as a disincentive for women to participate in technical subjects. It is important to address structural barriers at the education level to ensure women and girls effectively participate in technical courses to close the digital gender divide in the education and labour market.

Only 26% of urban children access pre-primary education, indicating the need to increase access of pre-primary education in urban areas. There is also a lack of awareness about the importance of pre-primary education as almost 20% of children in ECD age do not enroll for pre-primary education, which could be a result of lack of awareness of the importance of early childhood education. At ECD level, completion rates at 85.52% indicate an increase from the decline that was seen between 2020-2021¹⁶⁵. In February 2024, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education launched the Zimbabwe early learning policy. The policy provides for 4 years of the Infant school module that comprise 2 years of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and 2 years at grades 1 and 2 in primary school. The four years at Infant module make it mandatory for all schools in Zimbabwe to introduce

¹⁶³ Zimstat, 2019. Labour Force Survey (LFS)

¹⁶⁴ ZimStat Population and Housing Census 2022

¹⁶⁵ Government of Zimbabwe, 2022 Annual Education Statistics Report

Early Childhood Development learning. Despite this, at primary school level, the completion rate remained generally stable over the period 2014-2019 but has gradually picked up to 90.98% in 2022. The completion rate at the upper secondary level declined from 14.9% in 2018 to 12.75% in 2022 which is an issue of concern as almost 35% of learners do not complete lower secondary, (see Table 2.3). This disparity is attributed to a high dropout rate for girls, owing to early marriages, teenage pregnancy, discriminatory cultural practices, poverty, and the policy on re-entry of adolescent mothers into school after delivery not being implemented.¹⁶⁶ Males dropped out of primary school due to abscondment, death, child labour, expulsion, financial constraints, special learning needs and other reasons¹⁶⁷.

Table 5: ECD, Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Completion Rates 2014-2022

Year	Completion Rate (%)											
	ECD			Primary			Lower Secondary			Upper Secondary		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
2014	75.67	75.06	75.36	76.73	77.78	77.25	66.08	62.28	64.19	12.54	9.44	10.96
2015	84.45	83.61	84.03	78.71	80.78	79.73	67.27	64.08	65.68	14.33	10.83	12.54
2016	90.17	89.82	90.00	78.88	80.24	79.56	66.79	64.53	65.67	14.53	11.18	12.82
2017	94.12	93.25	93.68	77.74	79.83	78.78	68.06	66.65	67.35	16.61	13.29	14.92
2018	92.68	91.91	92.29	76.20	78.96	77.57	64.76	61.47	63.12	16.04	13.88	14.94
2019	95.00	93.96	94.54	74.50	76.75	75.65	74.50	70.06	71.80	16.98	14.81	15.87
2020	77.33	75.39	76.36	86.49	87.07	86.78	86.49	63.34	64.05	14.67	14.05	14.36
2021	74.67	72.85	73.76	82.71	83.97	83.34	82.71	54.30	54.73	13.27	13.38	13.32
2022	86.57	84.48	85.52	89.58	90.98	90.98	65.98	65.93	65.95	12.87	12.64	12.75

Source: 2022 Annual Education Statistics Report

Children with disabilities had lower school completion rates due to limited teacher capacity to respond to the needs of children with disabilities to a misalignment between the learning modalities available and the needs of children with disabilities, and limited mechanisms and facilities to integrate learners with disabilities. The ICT divide contributes to the widening disparity in the education sector with a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable children. The number of pupils with disabilities enrolled at different levels increased from 2020 to 2021.¹⁶⁸ It is important to have human rights strategy to the education system which is inclusive of children with disabilities.

In respect of school going, while the Education Act of Zimbabwe guarantees the right to education without discrimination, sexual and gender minority populations face significant discrimination in accessing education with 67% of sexual and gender minority populations reporting that they would be unlikely to attend school or other educational institutions without discrimination from teachers and students.¹⁶⁹ This

¹⁶⁶ CEDAW, Concluding Observations on the Sixth Periodic Report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6

¹⁶⁷ Government of Zimbabwe, 2022 Annual Education Statistics Report

¹⁶⁸ EMIS Report (2020 and 2021)

¹⁶⁹ Müller, A., & Judge, M. 2022. "From the Inside Out: Social Exclusion Linked to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics in Eswatini, Malawi and Zimbabwe." Research Report. Out & Proud LGBTI Equality and Rights in Southern Africa

discrimination and stigma in education results in high levels of depression, feelings of isolation, poor attention span and performance in schools, drug use, violent and defensive behavior, and suicidal thoughts.¹⁷⁰ Intersex people are often left out based on their unrecognized identities and sex characteristics which makes them vulnerable to many layers of discrimination within the workplace which only caters for man and women. In one unpublished desktop survey which is currently being developed into research, it was evident that 6 out of every 10-intersex people did not finish school due to stigma and discrimination in learning institutions coming directly from both the teachers and students.

Non-formal education provides a second chance to children, youth and adults who have not been able to start school or who have not been able to complete their education. The total number of learners enrolled in non-formal education (NFE) in 2022 at both primary and secondary levels of education was 91 386 (40 181 males, 51 205 females).

Table 6: Enrolment in NFE Programmes (Primary and Secondary Education Level) by, Sex and Province, Number and Percentage, in 2022

Province	NFE Enrolment (Primary Levels)			NFE Percentage of Total			% Female
	Number			Percentage			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bulawayo	495	897	1 392	2.65	3.15	2.95	64.44
Harare	2 814	2 696	5 510	15.06	9.47	11.69	48.93
Manicaland	4 921	9 679	14 600	26.34	34.00	30.96	66.29
Mashonaland Central	1 346	2 074	3 420	7.20	7.28	7.25	60.64
Mashonaland East	1 822	2 396	4 218	9.75	8.42	8.95	56.80
Mashonaland West	1 112	1 408	2 520	5.95	4.95	5.34	55.87
Masvingo	1 789	2 586	4 375	9.58	9.08	9.28	59.11
Matabeleland North	2 105	2 860	4 965	11.27	10.05	10.53	57.60
Matabeleland South	1 407	2 717	4 124	7.53	9.54	8.75	65.88
Midlands	871	1 157	2 028	4.66	4.06	4.30	57.05
Grand Total	18 682	28 470	47 152	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.38

Province	NFE Enrolment (Secondary) and Education Level, No.						
	Number			% of Total			% Female
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bulawayo	1 669	2 457	4 126	7.76	10.81	9.33	59.55
Harare	6 963	4 813	11 776	32.39	21.17	26.62	40.87
Manicaland	2 187	2 754	4 941	10.17	12.11	11.17	55.74
Mashonaland Central	897	1 112	2 009	4.17	4.89	4.54	55.35
Mashonaland East	2 767	2 895	5 662	12.87	12.73	12.8	51.13
Mashonaland West	1 933	1 902	3 835	8.99	8.37	8.67	49.6
Masvingo	2 061	2 181	4 242	9.59	9.59	9.59	51.41
Matabeleland North	1 168	1 428	2 596	5.43	6.28	5.87	55.01
Matabeleland South	522	1 547	2 069	2.43	6.8	4.68	74.77
Midlands	1 332	1 646	2 978	6.2	7.24	6.73	55.27
Grand Total	21 499	22 735	44 234	100.	100.	100.	51.4

Source: Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

Despite the availability of non-formal education, a total of 1,039,728 children between the ages of 4 and 18 years were out of school in 2022.¹⁷¹ Lack of opportunities after secondary education completion sets youths for a challenging transition from school-to-work with many facing huge barriers to accessing employment. The combined economic, social, and environmental crises are causing greater jobs, skills and aspirations mismatches and inequalities leaving many discouraged especially among the youths at close to 70% unemployment. There is need to develop and adapt skills and lifelong learning to help youths and workers to become active members in the labour market and society, develop their careers, transition, and adjust to new jobs and tasks, enterprises to boost productivity and resilience and to achieve inclusive structural transformation and sustainable development. Barriers to students' access to education and training should be eliminated through the improvement of access to quality education for all children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups and allocation of sufficient resources to increase the quality of education and provision of training

¹⁷⁰ TransSmart

¹⁷¹ EMIS, 2022

including TVET, cultural and creative industries training apprenticeships and e-learning platforms as well as improvement of school infrastructure especially in the rural areas.¹⁷²

Annex 4: Water Sanitation and Hygiene

The right to safe, clean, and portable water is enshrined in the Zimbabwean Constitution¹⁷³. The right to water entails access to sufficient, safe and acceptable water within, or in the immediate vicinity, of each household, educational institution or workplace.¹⁷⁴ Moreover, the cost, including in terms of time, of accessing water should not compromise the exercise of other rights, which is often the case when such activity requires more than 30 minutes per day of household's time. The right to WASH is essential for the realization of other rights such as health, food, adequate standard of living, and are vital to ensuring resilient communities living in healthy environments.¹⁷⁵ The right to water and sanitation is indispensable to sustaining healthy livelihoods and maintaining people's dignity. It is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that 'no one is left behind' on the sustainable development path. The country has progressively increased its public investment allocation to enhance WASH outcomes after years of deterioration.

A total of 1,033,439 households, constituting 27.1 percent accessed piped water for drinking, while 990,055 households (26%) accessed drinking water from boreholes and 973,734 households (26%), accounting for 25.5 percent, accessed drinking water from protected dug wells/springs¹⁷⁶. Sources of drinking water categorized as non-improved sources such as unprotected wells/springs, rivers, dams and rainwater accounted for 597,593 or 15.6 percent of the households¹⁷⁷. A total of 189,551 households accessed drinking water from public taps, which accounted for 5 percent.¹⁷⁸ The remaining 34,362 households constituting 0.9 percent accessed drinking water from other improved sources such as tanker trucks, carts, and bottled water.¹⁷⁹ Rural areas have seen very low levels of investment, receiving the lowest allocation of public funds for the WASH sector. Consequently, women bear the burden of fetching water for drinking and cooking thus diverting their time and attention from productive work. Women and girls in rural areas travel long distances to access water as 7 percent of the households took more than 60 minutes to and fro the water source. Travel and waiting time to access water has adverse implications on school attendance and increases their exposure to protection-related risks including threats to their physical safety and exposing them to the risk of contracting infectious diseases due to overcrowding at most water points. The situation is particularly difficult for women and girls with disabilities who may not be able to easily move around in search for water. Meanwhile, in the urban and peri-urban areas, rising urbanisation and the expansion of informal settlements have given rise to informal, un-sanitary and un-hygienic conditions that increase the risk of diarrheal diseases and contamination of water sources. Poor access to WASH in urban areas resulted in the country experiencing a cholera outbreak in February 2023. As of 5 November 2023, suspected and confirmed cases have been reported in all 10 provinces of the country and in 41 out of 62 districts, with the most alarming spikes in the south-eastern provinces of Masvingo and Manicaland¹⁸⁰. A total of 6,686 suspected and 1,127 confirmed cases were reported by early November and more than 6,200 people had recovered while the total number of suspected or confirmed cholera-related deaths had exceeded 175.¹⁸¹ The drivers of the outbreak are linked to low

172 Recommendations 139.74, 139.97, 139.99, 139.100, 139.101 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, fiftieth session, A/HRC/50/9

173 Section 77(a), Constitution of Zimbabwe

174 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No.15 (2002) on the right to water, E/C.12/2002/11 at para. 12.

175 World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-WASH>

176 ZimStat Population and Housing census, 2022

177 ZimStat Population and Housing census, 2022

178 *ibid*

179 ZimStat Population and Housing census, 2022

180 <https://www.ifrc.org/emergency/zimbabwe-cholera-outbreak#:~:text=As%20of%205%20November%202023,were%20reported%20by%20early%20November>

181 *ibid*

water and sanitation coverage in the affected districts, which hampers the ability of communities to adequately practice the required hygiene practices.

WASH in Schools

Currently, it is estimated that over 600 schools do not have water because of broken water sources or non-existent infrastructure and 938 schools do not have water sources of their own¹⁸². This has presented challenges to the functionality of schools as well as challenges in guaranteeing school health safety, including a conducive teaching and learning environment. The Competency Based Curriculum has also faced challenges as the non-availability of water makes it difficult for schools to be at their premium in delivering the requirements of the curriculum. Other initiatives such as the Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes have taken a knock where schools do not have water to generate food of their own. On the other hand, the Government's efforts towards "bluewing and greening" schools would be affected in the absence of sustainable water in schools.

WASH in Healthcare Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing cholera outbreak highlighted the importance of WASH service availability for infection prevention and control. The Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT) methodology was first implemented in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 response, and it has been implemented in 100 healthcare facilities. Zimbabwe is planning to roll out WASH FIT in more healthcare facilities to ensure continuous WASH improvements are made in healthcare facilities.

WASH for Households

At national level, 755,791 households practiced open defecation.¹⁸³ At total of 1,455,985 households accounting for 38.1 percent were using flush toilets, while 19.8 percent or 755,791 households did not use any toilet facility. Eighteen percent or 688,357 households were using pit latrines with slab, as 15.6 percent or 595,807 households were using ventilated improved pit latrines. Households with handwashing facilities were 2,795,386, which constituted 73.2 percent of the total while 1,023,348 households, constituting the remaining 26.8 percent had no handwashing facilities. Open defecation remains a key issue in Zimbabwe despite some improvements over the past decade. The 2022 Population and Housing Census estimated a national open defecation rate of 19.8%, a 4.3 percentage point reduction from the 2012 Population Census. However, stark disparities persist at sub-national levels.¹⁸⁴ The prevalence of open defecation ranged from 0.4% in Harare to 50% in Matabeleland North Province. Of those households without any sanitation facility, 2.5% were from urban areas while 97.5% were from rural areas¹⁸⁵. Accordingly, rural areas still bear a disproportionate burden from poor WASH services.

Annex 5: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

The GoZ has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality through the accession to and ratification of frameworks that promote women's human rights such as the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

¹⁸² EMIS 2022

¹⁸³ Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. 2022. Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census. Available at: https://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/phc2022/2022_PHC_Report_27012023_Final.pdf

¹⁸⁴ ibid

¹⁸⁵ ibid

Women, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the Constitutive Act of the African Union Article 4, Dakar Platform for Action (1994), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), United Nations Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) and the Sustainable Development Goals (in this instance particularly SDG 5 on Gender Equality), among others. The NDS1 acknowledges that the inclusion of women in all political, economic, and social activities is key for the attainment of Vision 2030 and government is making efforts to address gender inequalities.

While some progress has been made in women's representation in politics¹⁸⁶ this has largely been the result of a prescribed quota of seats reserved for women to ensure proportional representation. Despite the gender equality commitments being made by the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure women's participation in politics, women are still underrepresented as shown by the results from the 2023 Harmonized Election results. The nomination process revealed a significant decline in women's political participation. The data from this process indicated a regression across all levels of candidature when compared to statistics recorded in 2018. Specifically, in the National Assembly elections, only 70 women candidates were nominated, constituting only 11% of the prospective candidates. In Local Authority elections, only 14% of the candidates were women, a decrease from the 17% in the previous election. There was a sole female candidate among a field of 11 presidential aspirants. Election results further emphasize the challenges faced by women in politics, as only 21 women out of 210 National Assembly constituency seats were successfully elected, representing a mere 10% of the constituency seats. Including the women's quota, and the three young women in the youth quota (out of a total of ten seats) there is a total representation of 84 women in the National Assembly, constituting 30% of the total seats. It is essential that the Government continues its efforts to improve gender equality and women's empowerment including by strengthening policy measures. Furthermore, women in politics do not directly benefit from campaign funding through the Political Parties Finance Act. Similarly, women are underrepresented in key decision-making positions. For instance, few women are appointed as ministers or on boards of public and private companies. A total of 6 women were appointed as Cabinet minister out of 26, 6 women as deputy ministers while 50% were appointed as Ministers of State for Provinces¹⁸⁷. The CEDAW Committee recently considered the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe at its 1753rd and 1754th meetings held on 13 February 2020 and a seventh report will be considered in 2024. Globally, the 2023 SDG summit revealed that no SDG 5 indicator was at the "target met or almost met" level. Deeply rooted biases against women, manifesting in unequal access to sexual and reproductive health, unequal political representation, economic disparities, and a lack of legal protection, among other issues, prevent tangible progress. Insufficient data and evidence to monitor advances and incentivize policy actions were other major impediments to tracking SDG 5.

It is critical that legislative measures and actions to eliminate the marginalization of women from socio-economic and political spheres are adopted and mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence strengthened.¹⁸⁸ The recently gazetted Labour Amendment Act of August 2023 integrates many issues of interest particularly on strengthening gender equality outcomes in the world of work. The amendment integrates a new provision that provides for equal remuneration for work which is of equal value in line with the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100): 'Every Employer shall pay equal remuneration to male and female employees for work to which equal value is attributed without discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender'. Sections 2 and 5 of the Amendment have defined gender-based violence and harassment to include sexual harassment and violence and harassment in the world of work. It also provides an outline of a broad interpretation of the workplace in line with ILO C190 on elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work and stipulates a penalty of a fine or 10 years' imprisonment. This is complementary to

186 Technical note 20. 2020. Joint Needs Assessment - Updated Sector Note 20: Gender and Youth

187 <https://www.herald.co.zw/more-women-in-cabinet-way-to-go/> accessed on 4.01.2024.

188 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/ HRC/34/2

the work of the UN under the Spotlight Initiative that has raised awareness on the issue in the public and private sectors and has led to increased reporting of cases of sexual violence and harassment. The new provisions are expected to lead to the development of a framework for reporting, investigating, and addressing of cases of violations. Sections 6 and 8 contain provisions to guard against unfair labour practices by employers through termination of employment on notice in addition to offering clear terms and conditions for retrenchments- to guard against a repeat of the 2015 situation that led to the infamous Zuva Judgement. It also sought to address the long-standing discrimination on enjoyment of maternity benefits for all workers by doing away with the element of length of service as a qualifying condition.

It is vital for Zimbabwe to link the full implementation of the different normative frameworks such as CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, Convention 190 on eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa to its development efforts. It is also key for the country to make the necessary investments to strengthen its national gender machinery, including the production and use of gender statistics for decision-making. Addressing institutional barriers, including through removing discriminatory laws, expanding women's participation in leadership and decision-making are among the concrete actions needed to substantially accelerate progress by 2030. Involving different stakeholders, including men and boys, is imperative. A continued failure to prioritize SDG 5 will put the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in peril.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), unanimously adopted in October 2000, stressed the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. Zimbabwe is committed to gender equality in all initiatives towards the achievement of women empowerment and sustainable peace and security. In 2023, the Government adopted domestic legislation of the core pillars of UNSCR1325 on protection, prevention, participation, relief and recovery, embracing the provisions of the Resolution, recognising women as a powerful force for peace and essential partners in advancing international security. A National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 has been developed as a functional mechanism to foster peaceful prevention and resolution of conflict at all levels and a culture of peace and tolerance nurtured in Zimbabwe through peace education. The United Nations continues to support the Government to promote the essential role of women in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, and their contributions to stabilization efforts, peacekeeping, and post-conflict relief and recovery through¹⁸⁹ the implementation of the NAP.

Although efforts are being made to address gender inequalities and other gender-related challenges in Zimbabwe, the pace of economic advancement and empowerment is slow. The MSME sector continues to be a key pillar for economic growth (GDP) and employment creation and absorbs more female adults. According to the 2022 FinScope, 60 percent of MSMEs operating in Zimbabwe are run by women. In looking at financial inclusion and access strand by MSME owners by sex, 42% of women were excluded. This has led to the implementation of various measures by the Government to achieve more financially inclusive economic growth. These measures include economic empowerment strategies, the Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Framework, the Gender-Responsive Economic Policy Management Initiative and the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), which have a special focus on women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion. Government has spearheaded the realignment of laws that affect women's empowerment, to address gender discrimination and ensure the full participation of women is promoted in all spheres of economic and social life, in accordance with the Constitution. Family laws that tackle issues of inheritance, marriage and children's rights, among other issues, have been addressed, and proposals have been put forward to address barriers and impediments to women's participation in mining, tourism and agriculture. Additional opportunities

189

for the inclusion of women in the economic sphere can be explored through capitalisation of the Women's Bank, guarantee schemes for women, affordable credit for women, capitalisation of women SMEs, creating safe workspaces for women, facilitation of market access amongst others.

To achieve lasting results, it is critical that gender priorities are adequately financed including the national gender machinery. This implies effective implementation of the government's national gender budgeting policy including a comprehensive system to track resources allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment, stronger international cooperation to finance GEWE, in order to achieve transformative changes for women and girls in Zimbabwe.

Annex 6: Biodiversity and Nature Loss

a) Poaching

The nation is contending with a surge in wildlife poaching and illegal trade, illegal mining in national parks, (including in World Heritage Sites), posing a significant threat to various large mammalian species such as elephants, rhinos, cheetahs, lions, and hippos and in some instances to the integrity of the country's World Heritage Sites. These species face survival challenges stemming from water shortages, insufficient grazing, and heat stress.¹⁹⁰ Projections for Hwange National Park indicate a potential 40% reduction in elephant habitat by 2050, accompanied by changes in population distribution due to climate change unless effective interventions are implemented.¹⁹¹ Additional factors contributing to wildlife vulnerability include the heightened risk of zoonotic diseases, declining genetic diversity, and slow reproductive rates.

Zimbabwe has experienced a decline in wildlife poaching over the last 3 years as the country intensifies anti-poaching activities. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) introduced high-technology anti-poaching surveillance methods such as drones to counter poaching, a move which has been yielding positive results¹⁹². The decline in poaching was more evident in 2020 when only 8 rhinos were killed compared to 39 in 2019. A total of 36 key wildlife animals were poached in 2022, down from 42 in 2021.¹⁹³ Of the 42 animals killed in 2021, 31 were elephants and the other 11 were rhinos (6 white rhinos and 5 black rhinos). As of 2022, 25 were elephants while seven were rhinos and four lions.

b) Veld fires

Veld fires pose a significant threat to Zimbabwe's biodiversity, and heritage sites, especially during the dry season. The Environmental Management Act (CAP 20:27), coupled with S.I. 7 of 2007 (Environmental Management – Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecosystems Protection Regulations), explicitly prohibits the initiation of fires outside residential and commercial premises from July 31 to October 31 each year. Recent news articles show that

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.zw.undp.org/content/zimbabwe/en/home/library/-zimbabwe-s-second-voluntary-national-review--2021.html>

¹⁹¹

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Zimbabwe%20First/Zimbabwe%20Revised%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%2021%20Final.pdf>

¹⁹² <https://cite.org.zw/zim-sees-decline-in-rhino-and-elephant-poaching/>

¹⁹³ <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-01-31/Wildlife-poaching-declines-in-Zimbabwe-in-2022-1h2fthECX8Q/index.html>

there are increased incidences of veld fire due to lack proper fire management on most of the farms. In 2022, about 85% of the veld fires are reported on new resettlement areas and farms, while 15% occur in protected areas.¹⁹⁴ In 2021, 1 075 206,54 hectares of forest and grasslands were destroyed by veldfires in 3948 fire incidents, compared to 2022 which saw a 60% increase in veld fire cases (7511) accounting for the loss of 1 753 055 hectares due to veld fires. Veld fires present a significant threat to Zimbabwe's biodiversity, and heritage sites exacerbated by inadequate fire management, particularly on farms. Recent reports indicate a surge in veld fire incidents, with approximately 85% occurring in new resettlement areas and farms. Veld fires due to illegal settlements exacerbate human and wildlife conflict as humans encroach into wildlife corridors and space.

c) Pollution and Solid Waste Management

Linked to SDG 3, this section highlights pollution and waste management challenges in Zimbabwe, with a focus on the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector. Despite employing over 500,000 people informally and contributing significantly to the country's economy, the ASGM sector poses concerns such as mercury emissions and exceeding World Health Organization limits for particulate matter (PM2.5) in certain segments, including urban areas. These air quality issues pose a substantial threat to human health, particularly among Zimbabwean women and children.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in urban areas like Harare, contribute to escalating waste management issues in Zimbabwe. The country faces a rising volume of municipal solid waste (MSW), with Harare alone generating 371,697 tons in 2016, of which 90% was potentially recyclable. However, only 49% is formally collected for disposal, 13.6% is recycled, and a significant portion is either discarded indiscriminately or burnt. E-waste is also a growing concern due to increasing levels of technology use, posing challenges in hazardous substance disposal. Chemical residues in water sources, illegal dumpsites, and poorly designed landfills further exacerbate environmental and health risks. Despite these challenges, responses to pollution remain a key focus in Zimbabwe.¹⁹⁵ One of the key investment in the sector includes the commission of the Pomona Waste To Energy Power Station which will generate 22MW¹⁹⁶ and also the closure of the Golden Quarry Dumpsite to reclaim the area into upmarket properties.

Annex 7: Refugees and Stateless Persons

As of 31 May 2024 (UNHCR monthly statistical report, May 2024), Zimbabwe hosts 16,770 biometrically registered refugees and asylum seekers with 15,835 residing in Tongogara Refugee Settlement with 7,377 (47%) females and 8,458 (53%) males comprising of 7,644 (49%) children (0-17 years), 7,920 (50%) adults (18-59 years) and 271 individuals of over 59 years. The settlement hosts the forcibly displaced from over 20 countries with the majority of the population at the settlement originating from DRC at 77% followed by Mozambique (12%), Burundi (5%), Rwanda (4%) and the rest of the population at 2% are from other countries including Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia, etc.

The protracted refugee situation necessitates the need to mainstream development as a priority enabler for achieving protection and solutions for the forcibly displaced persons. In addition to international protection and multi-sectoral life-saving assistance the protracted situation demands increased access to livelihood opportunities to allow them to achieve self-reliance to enable them to live in safety and dignity. There are no urban refugee programmes, thus urban based refugees engage in informal livelihood activities, to sustain themselves. The government provides protection assistance in the form of access to health, refugee status determination, refugee identity documents, birth certificates

¹⁹⁴ <https://www.zimbabweforestrymagazine.com/article/landowners-must-take-up-more-responsibility-in-veld-fire-management/>

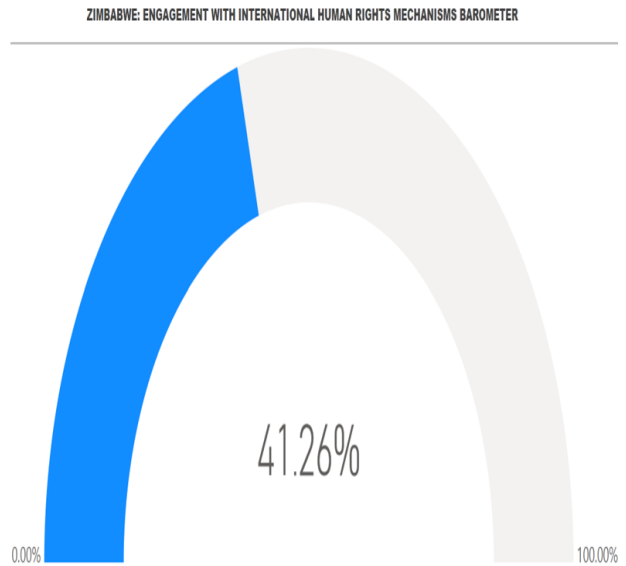
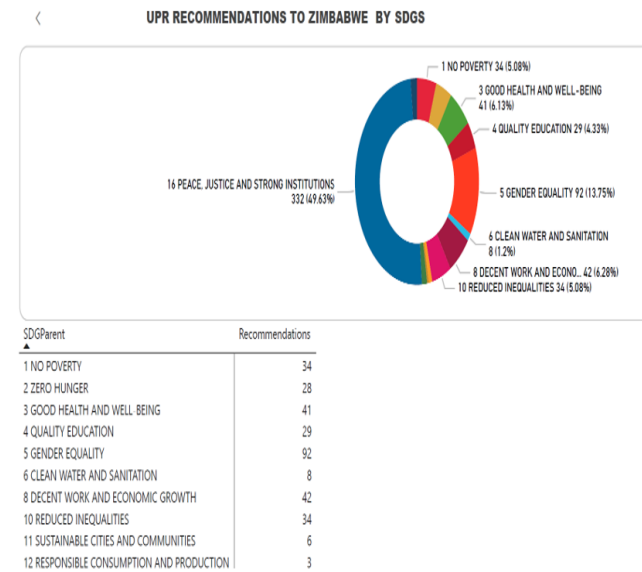
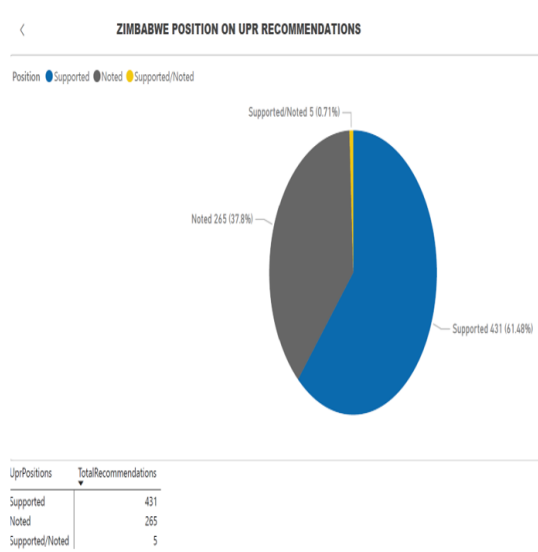
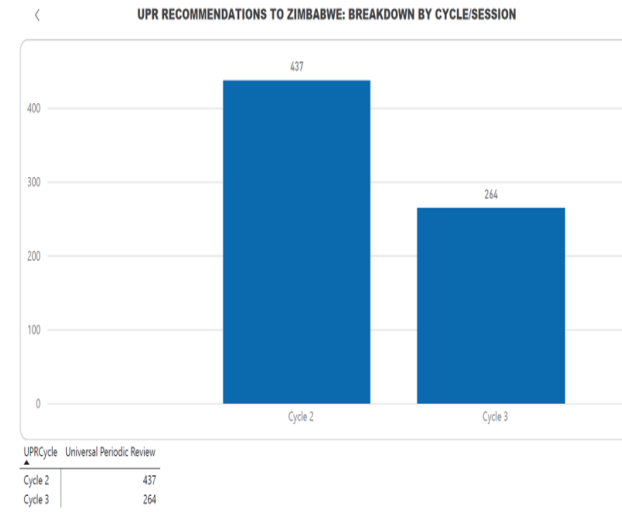
¹⁹⁵ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/zwenc3.pdf>

¹⁹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomona_Waste_To_Energy_Power_Station

and United Nations Convention Travel Documents. The Civil Registry Department conducts mobile registration exercises in Tongogara Refugee Camp biannually to issue identity documents and birth certificates.

There is still need to invest in forward looking policies targeting service delivery, inclusion of refugees in national policies and systems, better anti-discrimination laws and legal reforms – including more inclusive institutions—that are most likely to deliver better outcomes for the poorest and most socially excluded refugees. Existing legislation needs to be amended to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe regardless of their parents' origin are issued with birth certificates and efforts to issue all children with birth certificates need to be scaled up. The government has already shown commitment to determining whether the risk of statelessness exists in Zimbabwe through the inclusion of proxy questions in the 2022 National Population Census and by committing to conduct a qualitative and quantitative study on statelessness.

Annex 8 : Human Rights



REFERENCES

1. Benhura B and Mhariwa F, (2021), Multidimensional Poverty in Zimbabwe: A Gender Perspective. ZEPARU Working Paper Series
2. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (2022), Concluding Observations - CERD/C/ZWE/CO/5-11 (CERD 2022), Available on chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g22/464/14/pdf/g2246414.pdf? token=TStJtknvUan0vWerKE&fe=true
3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, (2022) Concluding Observations on the Combined fifth to eleventh reports of Zimbabwe, CERD/C/ZWE/CO/5-11, Geneva.
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), (2020), Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Zimbabwe, CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/6. Available on <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/cedawczweco6-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women>
5. Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, (2022) Zimbabwe National Financial Inclusion Strategy II 2022-2026.
6. Global Cancer Observatory (2021), <https://gco.iarc.fr/en>
7. Government of Zimbabwe (2013) Constitution of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
8. Government of Zimbabwe (2023), The 2024 National Budget Statement, Harare, Zimbabwe.
9. Government of Zimbabwe, (2020) National development Strategy 1 (2020-2025), Harare, Zimbabwe.
10. Government of Zimbabwe, (2022) Zimbabwe Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy (2020-2050), Harare, Zimbabwe
11. Government of Zimbabwe, (August 2023), Zimbabwe National Development Strategy 1 - Mid Term Review, Harare
12. Government of Zimbabwe, 2022 Annual Education Statistics Report, Harare, Zimbabwe
13. International Labour Organization, (2021). "ILO modelled estimates database" ILOSTAT. Data from January 2021
14. Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, (2020 -2021) Education Management Information System (EMIS) Reports. Available at https://moe.gov.na/?page_id=2781
15. Ministry of Energy and Power Development (2019) National Renewable Energy Policy 2019, Harare, Zimbabwe
16. Government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Investment Promotion (MoFEDIP), National Budget Reports.
17. Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) (2022), HIV Estimates report 2022 MOHCC; HIV and STI Biobehavioural Survey among Men Who Have Sex with Men, Transgender Women, and Genderqueer Individuals in Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
18. Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (2019), 2019 Primary And Secondary Education Statistics Report, Harare
19. Müller, A., & Judge, M. (2022). "From the Inside Out: Social Exclusion Linked to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics in Eswatini, Malawi and Zimbabwe." Research Report. Out & Proud LGBTI Equality and Rights in Southern Africa
20. OECD –DAC : <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/aid-at-a-glance.htm>

21. Oxford Policy Management, JF KAPNEK Trust-Zimbabwe, June 2022: 'Study on establishing a common disability assessment and determination framework and social protection referral mechanism for persons with disabilities, and an assessment of disability inclusion in social protection'
22. PEFA. 2018. 2017–18 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability report. PEFA. [Online] Available at <https://www.pefa.org/node/356>. [Accessed 18 November 2020]
23. UNESCO, Persons with Disabilities Consultation Report 2024
24. PLOS Global Public Health, (September 2022) Systematic review of food insecurity and violence against women and girls: Mixed methods findings from low- and middle-income settings, Available at <https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article/peerReview?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0000479>
25. Public Service Commission of Zimbabwe, (2022) Public Service Commission Annual Report 2022., Harare.
26. Reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/impact-covid-19-socio-economic-rights-zimbabwe#:~:text=COVID-19%20affected%20millions%20of, sources%20of%20livelihoods%20and%20incomes. Accessed on 27/11/2023
27. SADC Executive Secretary briefs Chair of the Organ on political and security situation in the region, Available at, <https://www.sadc.int/newsevents/news/sadc-executive-secretary-briefs-chair-organ-political-and-security-situation-region/> [Accessed 30 March 2020]
28. Sibanda, M.J, Dr. (2021) Foreword - Strategic Plan for the Tripartite 2021-2023, Government of Zimbabwe, Harare.
29. Technical note 20. 2020. Joint Needs Assessment - Updated Sector Note 20: Gender and Youth
30. World Health Organisation (WHO), (2010), The Abuja Declaration and the World Health Organisation (WHO) stipulate investments of 15% of the national budget and 5% of GDP
31. The Election Reporting and Peace Journalism Manual, 2022:
32. The General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water (Arts. 11 and 12 of the Covenant) Adopted at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 20 January 2003.
33. United Nations Education Fund (UNICEF), (September 2019) The State of WASH financing in Eastern and Southern Africa: Zimbabwe Country Level Assessment., Harare, Zimbabwe
34. The WHO/UNICEF (2023). Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). Available at: <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/>.
35. Tonderai Marekwa, (2022) Zimbabwe People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0U, Harare, Zimbabwe
36. UN Economic and Social Council (2002) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No.15 (2002) on the right to water, E/C.12/2002/11 at para. 12, Geneva.
37. UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council (2022), Universal periodic review A/HRC/50/9 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Zimbabwe, Harare
38. UNDP (2022) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty, Available at <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2022-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>
39. UNHRC, (2022). Universal Periodic Review: 3rd Cycle, 40th Session, A/HRC/50/9 para 139
40. UNICEF Resource Mobilization Strategy : 2022-2025.pdf)
41. United Nations (2023) Zimbabwe Financial Landscape Analysis Report, 2023
42. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2023) SADC Economic Convergence. Available at <https://archive.uneca.org/oria/pages/sadc-macroeconomic-policy-convergence>, accessed on 01/12/23
43. United Nations Human Rights (2020) Visit to Zimbabwe, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, A/HRC/43/44/Add.2 A/HRC/43/44/Add.2:
44. United Nations: High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteurs on: Freedom of Association and of Assembly; Right to Food; and impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.
45. United Nations: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)(January 2022), Universal Periodic Review - Zimbabwe

46. United Nations: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2022) Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council Fiftieth Session A/HRC/50/9
47. United Nations: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2022) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, A/HRC/51/33/Add. 2 (SR Unilateral coercive measures 2022)
48. United Nations: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2022) Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zimbabwe, Human Rights Council, thirty fourth session, A/ HRC/34/2
49. United Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Link, (2023) Situation Analysis Country Brief - Zimbabwe. Pdf. Available at https://www.unprpd.org/sites/default/files/library/2023-09/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Zimbabwe.pdf
50. Veritas, (2023) May 2023 Bill Tracker, Available at <https://www.veritaszim.net/billwatch>
51. Veritas, (October 2023) Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (2023-2025), Available at <https://www.veritaszim.net/node/667>
52. World Bank (2024), Zimbabwe Gender Based Violence Assessment, Harare, Zimbabwe
53. World Bank. (2016). Zimbabwe Public expenditure review 2016: volume 5: Social protection. GoZ and World Bank. [Online] Available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27903/116350-WP-v5-PUBLIC-JUNE21-6am-ZIMPER-Volume-5.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=The%20National%20Social%20Protection%20Strategy,and%20>
54. World Food Programme, (2023), Zimbabwe - Food Security and Markets Monitoring Report, July 2023. Available at [ReliefWeb, https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe-food-security-a...](https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe-food-security-a...)
55. World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-WASH>
56. World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (2023) - <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/downloads/WJPIIndex2023.pdf>
57. Yale Environment 360 (2019). Climate Change is Making El Niños More Intense. <https://e360.yale.edu/digest/climate-change-is-making-el-ninos-more-intense-study-finds>. (Accessed on 29 January 2021)
58. Zimbabwe Election Support Network | ZESN, (2013), Report on the 31 July 2013 Harmonised Elections, Harare, Zimbabwe.
59. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat), (2019) Labour Force and Child Labour Survey Report Zimstat, 2019. Labour Force Survey (LFS), Harare
60. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat), (2022) 2022 Population and Housing Census, Harare
61. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat), (2022) ZimStat Rapid PICES 2022, Harare
62. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. (2022), Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census. Available at: https://www.zimstat.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/publications/Population/population/phc2022/2022_PHC_Report_27012023_Final.pdf
63. Zimbabwe Rural Vulnerability Assessment Report, 2023
64. Zimbabwe Urban Vulnerability Assessment, 2023
65. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Report, (2023), National Food Security Rural and Urban assessment reports by overlaid with data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2019 Findings Report, ZimStat, Harare
66. ZIMSTAT and UNICEF (2019). Zimbabwe Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, Survey Findings Report. Harare, Zimbabwe: ZIMSTAT and UNICEF, Table TC.8.1).
67. Zimstat, Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS), 2019 Findings Report Findings. Harare, Zimbabwe

Websites

1. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/mental-health/special-initiative/zimbabwe-simh-design-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=7032f037_8#: accessed on 18/01/2024
2. <https://cite.org.zw/zim-sees-decline-in-rhino-and-elephant-poaching/>
3. <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/zimbabwe> , accessed on 22/11/2023
4. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099802207282338687/pdf/IDU00e9f4c00082cf043e9083030e681ced2ea3b.pdf>
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomona_Waste_To_Energy_Power_Station
6. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-01-31/Wildlife-poaching-declines-in-Zimbabwe-in-2022-1h2fthECX8Q/index.html>
7. <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/ unicef-zimbabwe-humanitarian-situation-report-no-1-january-february-2024#:~:text=Zimbabwe's%20humanitarian%20context%20remains%20fragile,emergencies%20of%20cholera%20and%20polio.>
8. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f2efc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-zwe.pdf>
9. <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>
10. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Zimbabwe%20Revised%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%202021%20Final.pdf>
11. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Zimbabwe%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%201.pdf>
12. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/zwenc3.pdf>
13. <https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook>
14. https://www.afi-global.org/sites/default/files/publications/afi_maya_quick_guide_withoutannex_i_and_ii.pdf
15. <https://www.awf.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ZBE%20Report%20Final%20Copy%20-%20080923.pdf>
16. <https://www.herald.co.zw/more-women-in-cabinet-way-to-go/> accessed on 4.01.2024.
17. <https://www.ifrc.org/emergency/zimbabwe-cholera-outbreak#:~:text=As%20of%205%20November%202023,were%20reported%20by%20early%20November>
18. https://www.nac.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ZIMBABWE-NATIONAL-HIV-STRATEGIC-PLAN_2021-2025-1.pdf
19. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10402226#:~:text=The%20Republic%20of%20Zimbabwe%20has,95%25%20viral%20suppression%20by%202030.>
20. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/local-news/article/200017828/eu-drops-bombshell>
21. https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/Zimbabwe_EN.pdf;
22. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_y70_DU7BNM; UPR Recommendations (2022) at para 139.63
23. [https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/zimbabwe-proposes-incentives-1-bln-solar-projects-2022-12-20/#:~:text=HARARE%2C%20Dec%202019%20\(Reuters\),to%20compound%20its%20economic%20woes.](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/zimbabwe-proposes-incentives-1-bln-solar-projects-2022-12-20/#:~:text=HARARE%2C%20Dec%202019%20(Reuters),to%20compound%20its%20economic%20woes.)
24. <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-launches-us55-billion-regional-humanitarian-appeal-support-people-affected-elnino#:~:text=The%20Humanitarian%20Appeal%2C%20which%20was,to%20the%20impact%20of%20EI>
25. https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Zimbabwe#anchor_6.5.1
26. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/zimbabwe/#:~:text=Zimbabwe%20is%20a%20transit%20country,forced%20labor%20and%20sex%20trafficking.>
27. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1321961/adult-literacy-rate-in-africa-by-country/> accessed on 18/01/2024
28. <https://www.trtafrika.com/insight/zimbabwes-unique-solutions-to-health-sector-brain-drain-13864592>
29. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2023-08-27/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-elections-zimbabwe%C2%A0>
30. https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/Zimbabwe%20LDN%20Country%20Commitments.pdf
31. <https://www.undp.org/zimbabwe/news/hdr-2023-2024-reimagining-cooperation-polarised-world-context-zimbabwe>

32. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-drought-flash-appeal-may-2024-april-2025-may-2024#:~:text=An%20estimated%20population%20of%206,overall%20quality%20of%20people%20s%20diets>. Accessed on 10 June 2024
33. <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-60-million-people-in-southern-africa-food-insecure/7655734.html>
34. <https://www.zambezira.org/media-centre/press-release/press-statementupdate-water-levels-lake-kariba>
35. https://www.zera.co.zw/National_Renewable_Energy_Policy_Final.pdf
36. <https://www.zera.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ZERA-Annual-Report-2022-1.pdf>
37. <https://www.zimbabweforestrymagazine.com/article/landowners-must-take-up-more-responsibility-in-veld-fire-management/>
38. <https://www.zw.undp.org/content/zimbabwe/en/home/library/-zimbabwe-s-second-voluntary-national-review---2021.html>
39. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Zimbabwe%20First/Zimbabwe%20Revised%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%202021%20Final.pdf>
40. <https://zgc.co.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/National-Women-in-Leadership-and-Decision-Making-Strategy.pdf>
41. <https://zimbabwe.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-assessment-adolescent-pregnancies-zimbabwe>



UNITED NATIONS
ZIMBABWE



UN Resident Coordinator's Office - Zimbabwe
Block 10. Arundel Office Park. Norfolk Rd. Harare

Zimbabwe.Un.Org | @UNZimbabwe | Facebook/UNZimbabwe